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☩ Sunday Worship – 10:00 am ☩

Pastor Christopher Kruschel

Member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 13, 2020

Welcome to all!

Good morning! God and his Church are under attack on many fronts today, so we ask, “How can the Church remain strong?”

The soundest encouragement comes from God himself, who urges us to cling to his unfailing promises and devote ourselves to lives of service.

If you have any questions regarding our Sunday services, upcoming Bible classes or various programs, please speak with the pastor or call the church office. We look forward to meeting you. Please come again and worship with us very soon!

Some notes:

- ☞ **Restrooms** are in the sanctuary entry way just opposite the “Quiet Room.”
- ☞ **Quiet Room:** If you have a young child or nursing infant and need a Quiet Room, you will find it to the left as soon as you exit the sanctuary. A speaker there allows you to hear the service.
- ☞ **Cell Phones:** We ask that cell phones be turned off or silenced during the service. Thank you!

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Page 38 in *Christian Worship*

THOUGH THOUGHTLESS THOUSANDS CHOOSE

Christian Worship 466, vv. 1-2

Though thoughtless thousands choose the road
That leads the soul away from God,
This happiness, dear Lord, be mine:
To live and die entirely thine.

In Christ, by faith, I wish to live,
From him my life, my all, receive,
To him devote my fleeting hours,
Serve him alone with all my pow'rs.

Text: Joseph Hoskins, 1745–88, alt. Tune: William Knapp, 1698-1768, alt. Text and Tune: public domain.

M: The grace of our Lord (†) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

M: Let us pray.

O Lord, Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never—failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful; and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON...*JUDGES 16:22-31*

²² But the hair on his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

²³ Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to celebrate, saying, "Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands."

²⁴ When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying,

"Our god has delivered our enemy
into our hands,
the one who laid waste our land
and multiplied our slain."

²⁵ While they were in high spirits, they shouted, "Bring out Samson to entertain us." So, they called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them.

When they stood him among the pillars, ²⁶ Samson said to the servant who held his hand, “Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against them.” ²⁷ Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform. ²⁸ Then Samson prayed to the LORD, “Sovereign LORD, remember me. Please, God, strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.” ²⁹ Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood. Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other, ³⁰ Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” Then he pushed with all his might, and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus, he killed many more when he died than while he lived.

³¹ Then his brothers and his father’s whole family went down to get him. They brought him back and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had led Israel twenty years.

This is the Word of the Lord.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Your words became a joy to me, and the delight of my heart.
Alleluia.

—*Jeremiah 15:16*

HOLY GOSPEL...MATTHEW 16:21-26

²¹ From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²² Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

²³ Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

²⁴ Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶ What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

JESUS, I MY CROSS HAVE TAKEN

Christian Worship 465, vv. 1-2

Jesus, I my cross have taken,
All to leave and follow you.
Destitute, despised, forsaken,
You on earth once suffered, too.
Perish ev'ry fond ambition,
All I've ever hoped or known;
Yet how rich is my condition!
God and heav'n are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me;
They have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me;
You are not, like them, untrue.
And since you have smiled upon me,
God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate and friends may shun me—
Show your face, and all is bright.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, abr., alt. Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-87. Text and Tune: public domain.

SERMON TEXT

...*Sermon Text – Romans 12:1-8*

¹Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ²Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

³For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

“In View of God’s Mercy” – We Live...

APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father
almighty.**

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

O God, Lord of Hosts, by the great and living way of your Son Jesus Christ, we enter your gates with thanksgiving and your courts with praise. You have filled the earth with riches that mankind may harvest the fruit of its toil, find joy in the birth of each new day, and rest in the peace of each night.

Most especially we praise you for sending your one and only Son into this world that by his innocent sufferings and death, we might receive the forgiveness of sins, strength to overcome all evil, and the gift of eternal life.

Bless our homes and counsel our parents, that your teachings may not depart from our midst but be continued in the lives of all children. Guide our youth that their hearts may be kept faithful to you and their lives free from blame.

We pray for all who must walk along the hard and stony path of affliction with sickness, suffering or peril. Let their way be filled with that light which shines more and more brightly till the dawn of the perfect day in heaven.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

These and all the hidden yearnings of our souls, and any other thing we should have sought of your mercy, grant to us in our Lord Jesus, who ever lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.

C: Amen.

TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE

Christian Worship 469, vv. 1, 6

Take my life and let it be

Consecrated, Lord, to thee.

Take my moments and my days;

Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour

At thy feet its treasure store.

Take myself, and I will be

Ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79. Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870. Text and Tune: public domain.