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**Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost
November 3, 2024**



The Greatest Commandments and the Greatest Love

As We Gather

When you were growing up, there was most likely a time where your parents said, “Do this.” You heard them say it. You knew they said it. Yet for whatever reason, you did not do the “this” they asked you to do. Were there consequences? If there were, you can probably recall those consequences even today. Even though there were consequences, did you still know they loved you? That’s what today is all about. God tells His children in the Old Testament Reading, “Do this”—the greatest commandment. Jesus also points out the second great commandment in our Gospel. None of us has kept those commandments perfectly. That is where the Epistle comes into the picture, reminding us of God’s greater love when He sent Jesus to the cross. Have we disobeyed Him? Yes. Has He ever stopped loving us? The cross answers that question. He never has stopped loving us; His love for us is so great.

PRELUDE AND WELCOME

HYMN "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" #790

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Joshua 1:7–8*

Pastor: Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses My servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go.

People: **This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth,**

Pastor: but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it.

People: **For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.**

Pastor: When Israel feared, loved, and trusted the Lord and kept the two great commandments, all was well with them.

People: **When they failed to fear, love, and trust in God and failed to keep His two great commandments, they suffered as a result. Yet God never stopped loving them.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Deuteronomy 6:5; Mark 12:31*

Pastor: We have been called by the Word of God: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart."

People: **Almighty God, we have not fulfilled this commandment. Too many times, we have put other people or things in Your place and loved them more than we have loved You. Forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor: We have been called by the Word of God: love the Lord your God "with all your soul."

People: **We confess that our mind, will, and emotions are often drawn away from You and to things that will not last. Forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor: We have been called by the Word of God: love the Lord "with all your might."

People: **Instead of loving You with all our might to build Your kingdom up, we use it to build things around us that will not last. Forgive us, Lord.**

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus reminds us that there is a second great commandment: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

People: Lord, we confess we turn a blind eye to our neighbors. There are those all around us struggling to get through the day, and we walk past them without even a second thought. Forgive us, Lord.

Pastor: Then I ask you before God, who searches the heart: do you confess that you have sinned against God and one another in thought, word, and deed?

People: I confess that we have failed to keep the two great commandments by what we have done and what we have failed to do. Heavenly Father, I do not deserve Your forgiveness, but ask for it because of the greatest love ever shown at the cross.

Pastor: Although we all have failed to keep these two great commandments, God was moved with compassion, and He sent His Son to die for you on the cross and rise again that you might be forgiven. Therefore, in the name and at the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Thank You, Lord, that Your love for us is greater than we can understand or deserve. Help us, by Your Holy Spirit, to amend our sinful ways and seek to walk in Your ways. Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy on us.

People: Lord, have mercy on us.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy on us.

People: Christ, have mercy on us.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy on us and grant us Your peace.

People: Lord, have mercy on us and grant us Your peace. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

pew hymnal 204

♪ To God on high be glory; And peace to all the earth;
Good-will from God in heaven; Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name, we sing;
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.

To You, O sole-be-gotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior; You take our sins a-way.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heart-felt cry,
Where You in Pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

**For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever; Be worshipped and adored.
You with the Holy Spirit; A-lone are Lord Most High;
In God the Father's glory; "A-men"! our glad re-ply.**

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, our great High Priest,

**People: cleanse us by the power of Your redeeming blood that in
purity and peace we may worship and adore Your holy
name;**

Pastor: for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,

People: one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Deuteronomy 6:1-9

(These verses were known by every Jewish person; they could be called the creed of the Old Testament.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Hebrews 9:11-22

(Jesus made a once-for-all sacrifice, and only His blood can forgive sins.)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

VERSE Mark 12:29b

Pastor: Alleluia. Hear, O Israel:

People: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Mark 12:28-37 *(Jesus affirms the two great commandments.)*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 12th chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED *(found on the last page of your pew hymnal)*

Please be seated.

HYMN "O Blessed, Holy Trinity" #876

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: We pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Heavenly Father, You gave Your people two great commandments.

People: **Your people in the past did not keep them, nor have we today, and we ask for Your forgiveness. We ask, Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, You showed mercy and compassion on those who were sick. We ask You to do the same today, especially Liz, Myron, Betty and Karla. Our great, heavenly Physician,

People: **hear our prayers on behalf of those You have created and redeemed by Your blood. According to Your will, bring healing to their bodies and peace to their hearts and minds. We ask, Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: As You bid us to do in the second great commandment, we pray for our neighbors all around us.

People: **For the homeless, for those caught up in addiction or dealing with great pain, and for the hungry and for the poor, we lift them up to You. Use us, according to Your will, to make a difference in their lives, that You might be glorified. We especially pray for all the clients who visit the Immanuel Food Pantry, all the volunteers that help each week and for the staff of LUMA who keep it running. We ask, Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: You ask us to remember those in authority everywhere.

People: **For all of our elected and appointed men and women serving in our government, we ask that You bestow favor upon them and guide them with Your Holy Spirit as they lead us. We ask, Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We lift up the forgotten all around us.

People: **We pray for those all around the world persecuted for the name of Jesus and for the widow and orphans, not just near us but far away, that they may know Your presence today. We ask, Lord, in Your mercy, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We remember with thanksgiving those who have gone before us with the sign of faith, for they were created by God to offer Him praise and thanksgiving forever. God gave new life to them through Holy Baptism, nourished them in the company of His people at His Holy Table and in His mercy summoned them to His eternal presence so that they may continue to serve Him forever.

Alice Vogt ✕ Don Kraft ✕ Alice Jean Jordan ✕

Pastor: In joyful anticipation of the resurrection to life eternal, we remember before You, O Lord, those relatives, friends, and fellow members of this congregation who have gone before us in faith. We offer thanksgiving for the gift of faith and hold fast to the certainty of Your promises that where You are, there Your servants shall be also. Bless the memories of the saints among us and keep us firm in the certain hope of the great reunion to come in Your gracious eternal kingdom. In Jesus' name we pray,

People: Amen.

Please be seated.

OFFERING AND OFFERTORY

Please stand as you are able.

✕ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✕

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS

pew hymnal #208

♪ **Ho-ly; ho-ly, ho-ly Lord God of Sab-a-oth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name
Sing hosanna in the highest sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24;
Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen

AGNUS DEI

pew hymnal #210

♪ **O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION

Please stand as you are able.

NUNC DIMITTIS

pew hymnal #211

♪ **O Lord, now let Your servant, depart in heav'nly peace.
For I have seen the glory of Your redeeming grace;
A light to lead the Gentiles unto Your holy hill;
The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.**

**All glory to the Father, all glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning, is now shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding through all eternity.**

POST COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that through this feast You have forgiven us all our sins and restored us into a right relationship with You through the blood of Jesus. By the aid of Your Holy Spirit, teach us every day to love You with all our heart, soul, and strength, and to love our neighbor as ourselves; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN "Savior, Again, to Thy Dear Name We Raise" #917

POSTLUDE