

# Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost- August 31, 2025 PAX

## Following in Humility

### As We Gather

Entering the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem, the traditional site of the birth of Jesus, is one of the most memorable experiences for any Christian pilgrim visiting the Holy Land. First constructed at the commission of Roman Emperor Constantine the Great in AD 326, the church is on the oldest site continually used for worship by Christians anywhere in the world. Although the basilica initially had a grand arched entrance in its first thousand years, it came into a period of disuse and neglect after the conquest of the Holy Land by the Islamic rulers of the Ottoman Empire in AD 1516. In an effort to prevent people from entering the church with horses and cattle, the Christians caring for the building at that time walled up the main entrance, leaving only a very small door. This opening has ever since been known as the "Door of Humility." It makes a most fitting way for those who come to worship at the site of the manger of the Christ Child to enter that sacred space. Where we worship here and now is also a sacred space. Although we may not have needed to bow down to enter the front door today, bringing an attitude of humility to our worship of our gracious Lord is truly fitting for us.

### *"Come Lord Jesus (Even So Come)"*

*Verse: All of creation, all of the earth, make straight a highway, a path for the Lord. Jesus is coming soon.*

*Call back the sinner, wake up the saint, let every nation shout of Your fame. Jesus is coming soon.*

*Chorus: Like a bride waiting for her groom, we'll be a church ready for You.  
Every heart longing for our King, we sing "Even so come, Lord Jesus, come. Even so come, Lord Jesus, come."*

*Verse: There will be justice, all will be new. Your name forever, faithful and true. Jesus is coming soon.*

*Chorus: Like a bride waiting for her groom, we'll be a church ready for You.  
Every heart longing for our King, we sing "Even so come, Lord Jesus, come.  
Even so come, Lord Jesus, come."*

*Bridge: So we wait, we wait for You. God, we wait; You're coming soon.  
So we wait, we wait for You. GOD, we wait; You're coming soon.*

*Chorus: Like a bride waiting for her groom, we'll be a church ready for You.  
Every heart longing for our King, we sing  
Like a bride waiting for her groom, we'll be a church ready for You.  
Every heart longing for our King, we sing  
Even so come, Lord Jesus, come. Even so come, Lord Jesus, come.  
Even so come, Lord Jesus, come. Even so come, Lord Jesus, come.*

## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Confession and Absolution

- P** It is good and right that we should make confession of our sins. The section on confession in Luther's catechism instructs us with these words: "Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven." Humble yourselves, then, before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.
- C** **O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your present and eternal punishment. By nature, I am a sinful creature. By thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all of my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.**
- P** God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.  
**C** Amen.
- P** As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Prayer of the Day

- P** Let us pray.  
O Lord of grace and mercy, teach us by Your Holy Spirit to follow the example of Your Son in true humility, that we may withstand the temptations of the devil and with pure hearts and minds avoid ungodly pride; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## Old Testament Reading

*Proverbs 25:2–10*

- <sup>2</sup>It is the glory of God to conceal things,  
but the glory of kings is to search things out.  
<sup>3</sup>As the heavens for height, and the earth for depth,  
so the heart of kings is unsearchable.  
<sup>4</sup>Take away the dross from the silver,  
and the smith has material for a vessel;  
<sup>5</sup>take away the wicked from the presence of the king,  
and his throne will be established in righteousness.

<sup>6</sup>Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence  
or stand in the place of the great,  
<sup>7</sup>for it is better to be told, "Come up here,"  
than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.  
What your eyes have seen  
<sup>8</sup>do not hastily bring into court,  
for what will you do in the end,  
when your neighbor puts you to shame?  
<sup>9</sup>Argue your case with your neighbor himself,  
and do not reveal another's secret,  
<sup>10</sup>lest he who hears you bring shame upon you,  
and your ill repute have no end.

## Epistle

*Hebrews 13:1–17*

<sup>1</sup>Let brotherly love continue. <sup>2</sup>Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. <sup>3</sup>Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. <sup>4</sup>Let marriage be held in honor among all, and let the marriage bed be undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterous. <sup>5</sup>Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." <sup>6</sup>So we can confidently say,

"The Lord is my helper;  
I will not fear;  
what can man do to me?"

<sup>7</sup>Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. <sup>8</sup>Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. <sup>9</sup>Do not be led away by diverse and strange teachings, for it is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace, not by foods, which have not benefited those devoted to them. <sup>10</sup>We have an altar from which those who serve the tent have no right to eat. <sup>11</sup>For the bodies of those animals whose blood is brought into the holy places by the high priest as a sacrifice for sin are burned outside the camp. <sup>12</sup>So Jesus also suffered outside the gate in order to sanctify the people through his own blood. <sup>13</sup>Therefore let us go to him outside the camp and bear the reproach he endured. <sup>14</sup>For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. <sup>15</sup>Through him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge his name. <sup>16</sup>Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

<sup>17</sup>Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.

## Holy Gospel

*Luke 14:1–14*

<sup>1</sup>One Sabbath, when [Jesus] went to dine at the house of a ruler of the Pharisees, they were watching him carefully. <sup>2</sup>And behold, there was a man before him who had dropsy. <sup>3</sup>And Jesus responded to the lawyers and Pharisees, saying, "Is it lawful to heal on the Sabbath, or not?" <sup>4</sup>But they remained silent. Then he took him and healed him and sent him away. <sup>5</sup>And he said to them, "Which of you, having a son or an ox that has fallen into a well on a Sabbath day, will not immediately pull him out?" <sup>6</sup>And they could not reply to these things.

<sup>7</sup>Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, <sup>8</sup>“When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, <sup>9</sup>and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this person,’ and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. <sup>10</sup>But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher.’ Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. <sup>11</sup>For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.” <sup>12</sup>He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return and you be repaid. <sup>13</sup>But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, <sup>14</sup>and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

## **Apostles' Creed**

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

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence 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.**

## **Children's Message**

### ***"A Thousand Hallelujahs"***

*Verse: Who else would rocks cry out to worship? Whose glory taught the stars to shine?  
Perhaps creation longs to have the words to sing, but this joy is mine.*

*Chorus: With a thousand hallelujahs, we magnify Your Name. You alone deserve the glory,  
the honor and the praise.  
Lord Jesus, this song is forever Yours; a a thousand hallelujahs and a thousand more.*

*Verse: Who else would die for our redemption? Whose resurrection means I'll rise?  
There isn't time enough to sing of all You've done, but I have eternity to try.*

*Chorus: With a thousand hallelujahs, we magnify Your Name. You alone deserve the glory,  
the honor and the praise.  
Lord Jesus, this song is forever Yours; a thousand hallelujahs and a thousand more.*

*Bridge: Praise to the Lord, to the Lamb, to the King of heaven.  
Praise, for He rose; now He reigns. We will sing forever.  
Praise to the Lord, to the Lamb, to the King of heaven.  
Praise, for He rose; now He reigns. We will sing forever.*

*Chorus: With a thousand hallelujahs, we magnify Your Name. You alone deserve the glory, the  
honor and the praise.  
Lord Jesus, this song is forever Yours; a thousand hallelujahs and a thousand more.*

*Bridge: Praise to the Lord, to the Lamb, to the King of heaven.  
Praise, for He rose; now He reigns. We will sing forever.*

*Chorus: With a thousand hallelujahs, we magnify Your Name. You alone deserve the glory, the  
honor and the praise.  
Lord Jesus, this song is forever Yours; a thousand hallelujahs and a thousand more.*

## **Sermon**

*Pastor Leon Rosenthal*

## **Offering**

### **"10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)"**

*Chorus: Bless the Lord, oh, my soul, oh, my soul. Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before, oh, my soul, I worship Your holy name.*

*Verse: The sun comes up. It's a new day dawning. It's time to sing Your song again.  
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me, let me be singing when the evening  
comes.*

*Chorus: Bless the Lord, oh, my soul, oh, my soul. Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before, oh, my soul. I worship Your holy name.*

*Verse: You're rich in love and You're slow to anger. Your name is great and Your heart is  
kind.  
For all Your goodness I will keep on singing ten thousand reasons for my heart to find.*

*Chorus: Bless the Lord, oh, my soul, oh, my soul. Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before, oh, my soul. I worship Your holy name.*

## **Instrumental**

*Verse: And on that day when my strength is failing, the end draws near and my time has  
come, still my soul will sing Your praise unending ten thousand years and then forever more.*

*Chorus: Bless the Lord, oh, my soul, oh, my soul. Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before, oh, my soul. I worship Your holy name.  
Bless the Lord, oh, my soul, oh, my soul. Worship His holy name.  
Sing like never before, oh, my soul. I worship Your holy name.  
Yes, I will worship Your holy name. Lord I worship Your holy name.*

*Tag: Sing like never before, oh, my soul. I worship Your holy name.  
Yes, I will worship Your holy name. Lord, I worship Your holy name.*

## Prayers of the Church

- P** Lord, in Your mercy,  
**C** hear our prayer.

## Lord's Prayer

- C** 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.

## Benediction

- P** 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.  
**C** Amen.

## "God So Loved"

*Verse: Come all you weary, come all you thirsty. Come to the well that never runs dry.  
Drink of the water, come and thirst no more.*

*Verse: Come all you sinners, come find His mercy. Come to the table; He will satisfy.  
Taste of His goodness, find what You're looking for.*

*Chorus: For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us.  
Whoever believes in Him will live forever.*

*Whoa, whoa. Whoa, whoa.*

*Verse: Bring all your failures, bring your addictions. Come lay them down at the foot of the  
cross.  
Jesus is waiting there with open arms.*

*Chorus: For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us.  
Whoever believes in Him will live forever.  
The power of hell forever defeated. Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom,  
for God so loved, God so loved the world.*

*Bridge: Praise God, praise God from Whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him, praise Him for the wonders of His love.  
Praise God, praise God from Whom all blessings flow.  
Praise Him, praise Him for the wonders of His love. His amazing love.*

*Chorus: For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save.  
For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us.  
Whoever believes in Him will live forever.  
The power of hell forever defeated. Now it is well, I'm walking in freedom,  
for God so loved, God so loved the world.*

*Tag: Bring all your failures, bring your addictions. Come lay them down at the foot of the  
cross.  
Jesus is waiting, God so loved the world.*

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 3.

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