



**Sunday, July 25, 2010**  
**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost – Lectionary 17**  
**Service of Holy Communion**

**INTRODUCTION**

*Persistence in prayer evoked the admiration of Jesus and wins the attention of the Lord when Abraham intercedes for Sodom. The life of the baptized—to be rooted and built up in Christ Jesus the Lord—is to be rooted in prayer. God hears and answers prayer and so strengthens God's own. "When I called, you answered me; you increased my strength within me."*

**GATHERING**

**WELCOME**

**PRELUDE:** *Lobe den Herren* J. Walther

**GATHERING HYMN:** *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty* **(ELW 858)**

**GREETING**

Sisters and brothers, called to freedom in Christ:  
Grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

Almighty and ever-living God, you are always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and you gladly give more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us your abundant mercy. Forgive us those things that weigh on our conscience, and give us those good things that come only through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

*After the prayer the assembly responds:*

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Genesis 18:20–32**

*In today's reading, Abraham undertakes the role of a mediator between God and sinful humanity. Appealing to God's justice, Abraham boldly asks for mercy for the city of Sodom, for the sake of the few righteous people who are in it, including Abraham's nephew, Lot.*

<sup>20</sup>Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! <sup>21</sup>I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me; and if not, I will know."

<sup>22</sup>So the men turned from there, and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. <sup>23</sup>Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked?" <sup>24</sup>Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? <sup>25</sup>Far be it from you to do such a thing, to

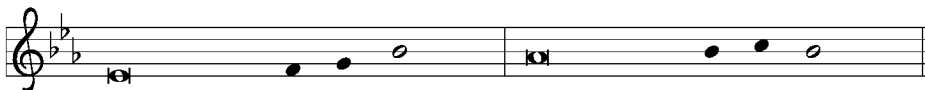
slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" <sup>26</sup>And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." <sup>27</sup>Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the LORD, I who am but dust and ashes. <sup>28</sup>Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." <sup>29</sup>Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." <sup>30</sup>Then he said, "Oh do not let the LORD be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." <sup>31</sup>He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to the LORD. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." <sup>32</sup>Then he said, "Oh do not let the LORD be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 138**

*The Psalm for the day is sung in unison.*



**<sup>1</sup>I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with | my whole heart;  
before the gods I will | sing your praise.**

**<sup>2</sup>I will bow down toward your holy temple and praise your name, because of  
your steadfast | love and faithfulness;  
for you have glorified your name and your word a- | bove all things.**

**<sup>3</sup>When I called, you | answered me;  
you increased my | strength within me.**

**<sup>4</sup>All the rulers of the earth will praise | you, O LORD,**

when they have heard the words | of your mouth.

<sup>5</sup>They will sing of the ways | of the LORD,  
that great is the glory | of the LORD.

<sup>6</sup>The LORD is high, yet cares | for the lowly,  
perceiving the haughty | from afar.

<sup>7</sup>Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you | keep me safe;  
you stretch forth your hand against the fury of my enemies; your right |  
hand shall save me.

<sup>8</sup>You will make good your pur- | pose for me;  
O LORD, your steadfast love endures forever; do not abandon the works |  
of your hands.

## **SECOND READING: Colossians 2:6–19**

*Paul warns his congregation in Colossae about "the empty lure" of philosophies and traditions that compromise faith. Through the gift of faith, the church is mystically connected with Christ in his death and resurrection, which is enacted in baptism.*

<sup>6</sup>As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

<sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. <sup>9</sup>For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, <sup>10</sup>and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. <sup>11</sup>In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; <sup>12</sup>when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. <sup>13</sup>And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made

you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup>erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

<sup>16</sup>Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. <sup>17</sup>These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. <sup>18</sup>Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, <sup>19</sup>and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*

Ask, and it will be given you; search and | you will find;\* knock, and the door will be o- | pened to you. (Luke 11:9)

**GOSPEL: Luke 11:1–13**

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*In teaching his disciples this prayer, Jesus also reminds them to focus on God's coming reign, God's mercy, and the strengthening of the community. Jesus encourages his disciples to child-like trust and persistence in prayer.*

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." <sup>2</sup>He said to them, "When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

<sup>3</sup>Give us each day our daily bread.

<sup>4</sup>And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial."

<sup>5</sup>And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; <sup>6</sup>for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' <sup>7</sup>And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' <sup>8</sup>I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

<sup>9</sup>So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. <sup>10</sup>For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. <sup>11</sup>Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup>Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

*The gospel concludes:*  
The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY: *Our Father, God in Heaven Above* (sung to the tune of ELW 756)**

1. Our Father, God in heav'n above,  
we pray, united in your love:  
our name be hallowed. Help us, Lord,  
in faithfulness to keep your word.  
Your kingdom come; your will be done  
On earth as there before your throne.
2. Give us today our daily bread;  
let ev'ryone be clothed and fed.  
Forgive our sins, as we forgive  
When others hurt us as we live.  
Help us to dwell in harmony  
and serve each other willingly.
3. In time of trial, rescue us.  
Let your word give success to us  
when, on our left and on our right,  
temptations challenge us to fight.  
Deliver us from evil's pow'r  
and comfort us in life's last hour.

4. Amen. Yes, yes, it shall be so!  
Build up our faith and make it grow;  
beset by doubt, help us believe  
what here we ask we shall receive.  
So, by your promise, in your name,  
with loud Amen your Yes we claim!

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

\*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Gathered together as God's people in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Faithful God, keep your church rooted in Christ. Through your word and sacraments make us instruments of your Spirit to call others to life in Christ. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Show your undying care to the smallest ones in your creation: to the young of every species who cannot survive on their own, and to seedlings that struggle to become fruit-yielding plants. Nourish them with all they need to thrive.

**Your mercy is great.**

Guide the leaders of nations by your Spirit of wisdom. Help them avoid the influence of those who seek only their own glory. Empower all leaders to place first the needs of those who have little or nothing. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Hear the persistent cries of those in great need: those facing crisis, those who despair, those with serious illness, and those who face death. Respond to them with your unfailing mercy and peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bless the ministries of local communities that serve people facing financial difficulty. Show your favor to organizations that provide food, clothing, shelter, and assistance for other basic necessities to those in need. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Giving thanks for all the saints and martyrs, strengthen us through their example to be faithful disciples. Give us wisdom in discernment and strength in time of trial. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words. The assembly is seated.*

## **MEAL**

## **OFFERING**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. During this time, the table is set.*



**OFFERTORY MUSIC:** *Day By Day* words by C. Berg, music by O. Ahnfelt (ELW 790)  
Quartet: Gwynne Hopko, Leana Gleicher, Terry Gustafson,  
Bob Herold

1. Day by day, your mercies, Lord, attend me,  
bringing comfort to my anxious soul.  
Day by day, the blessings, Lord, you send me  
draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.  
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure,  
brings to naught the burdens of my quest;  
Savior, lead me to the home I treasure,  
where at last I'll find eternal rest.
  
2. Day by day, I know you will provide me  
strength to serve and wisdom to obey;  
I will seek your loving will to guide me  
o'er the paths I struggle day by day.  
I will fear no evil of the morrow,  
I will trust in your enduring grace.  
Savior, help me bear life's pain and sorrow  
till in glory I behold your face.
  
3. Oh, what joy to know that you are near me  
when my burdens grow too great to bear;  
oh, what joy to know that you will hear me  
when I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.  
Day by day, no matter what betide me,  
you will hold me ever in your hand.  
Savior, with your presence here to guide me,  
I will reach at last the promised land.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Robert Leaf, 1936-2005  
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## OFFERTORY: *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here below;

praise him above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711  
Music: OLD HUNDREDDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

## OFFERING PRAYER

God of mercy and grace,  
the eyes of all wait upon you,  
and you open your hand in blessing.  
Fill us with good things at your table,  
that we may come to the help of all in need,  
through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.

**Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

*The presiding minister continues, using one of the following or another appropriate form.*

**P** Holy God,  
our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer,  
in the harmonious world of your creation,  
the plants and animals,  
the seas and stars  
were whole and well in your praise.

When sin had scarred the world,  
you sent your Son to heal our ills  
and to form us again into one.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,  
his acts of healing,  
his body given up,  
and his victory over death,  
we await that day when all the peoples of the earth  
will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life.

Send your Spirit upon us and this meal:  
as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread,  
so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth,  
that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church,  
both now and forever.

**C     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.**





done. Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es, O God, and lead us forth in



joy with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: *Bread of Life*, Jeremy Young, b. 1948

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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God our creator,  
at this table you have satisfied us  
with the good things of your grace.  
Fix our hearts on your mercy and truth,  
that our lives may reflect your love for all creation,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## SENDING

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING

**SENDING HYMN:**

*Lord of Light*

**(ELW 688)**

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE



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