TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST/VETERAN’S DAY/MARTIN LUTHER’S BIRTHDAY

Who Am I?

AS WE GATHER

When God called Moses to tell Pharaoh to let His people go, Moses had an identity crisis. He was aware of his inability to take on the great task. But eventually he trusted in God, the great I AM, who was about to keep the promise He had made to the patriarchs. The Early Church was beset with conflicting teachings in the decades after Jesus’ ascension. But Paul reminded the faithful that God had chosen them to be saved. As they awaited Jesus’ return, he urged them to rely on God for the comfort and hope they needed. We, too, by ourselves are helpless, dead in sin, but, as Jesus told His detractors, God is not God of the dead, but of the living, and we shall live with Him forever.
GATHERING MUSIC

“America, the Beautiful”

Please sing along on this beloved national hymn.

1 Oh beautiful for spacious skies,
   For amber waves of grain,
2 Oh beautiful for heroes proved
   In liberating strife,
3 Oh beautiful for patriot dream
   That sees beyond the years

For purple mountain majesties,
Above the fruited plain!
Who more than self their country loved,
And mercy more than plain!
Thine alabaster cities gleam,
Un-dimmed by human tears!

America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,
America! America!
May God thy gold refine,
America! America!
God shed His grace on thee,

And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!
And crown thy good with brotherhood
From sea to shining sea!

※ PREPARATION ※

PASTORAL GREETING

OPENING SONG

LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH  Founds

Lord, I Lift Your name on high; Lord, I love to sing Your praises.
I’m so glad You’re in my life; I’m so glad You came to save us.
You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay.
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord, I lift Your name on high

INVOCATION  Based on Exodus 3:6–8, 14–15

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
People: the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob,
Pastor: who has surely seen the affliction of His people,
People: who has come down to deliver them,
Pastor: whose name is I AM WHO I AM,
People: who is to be remembered throughout all generations.
CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: When God called out to Moses from the burning bush, Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

People: We, having sinned against God in our thoughts, words, and deeds, cannot come into God’s presence as we are, helpless in our fallen sinful condition. Forgive us, almighty Creator.

Pastor: When God promised Moses that he would serve Him on Mount Horeb, Moses asked to know the name of God.

People: And we, who bear the name of God from our Baptism, have failed to reflect His grace, love, and mercy in our daily living. Forgive us, gracious Savior.

Pastor: When God told him to go Pharaoh, Moses could only say, “Who am I that I should go?”

People: We have put our personal desires ahead of God and the people around us. Forgive us, strengthening Spirit.

Silence for reflection on the Word of God and our sinful condition.

Pastor: God promised Moses that he and the Israelites, freed from slavery in Egypt, would worship on that mountain. Because of Jesus’ sacrifice, we have been freed from our sins. God now graciously invites us to worship Him here in time and hereafter in eternity. As a called and ordained servant of 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.

People: Amen.

WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Exodus 3:1–15
(God calls Moses to tell Pharaoh to free the Israelites in Egypt.)

Pastor: God called Moses to tell Pharaoh that He would free the Israelites from slavery in Egypt, and He has called us to spread the news that in Christ He has freed us from our sins. Our place between our gracious God and the people around us parallels that of Moses; therefore, we shall all speak the words of Moses in the Reading.

Lector: Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. And Moses said,

People: I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned.

Lector: When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush,

Pastor: Moses, Moses!
People: Here I am.
Pastor: Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground. I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.
Lector: And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. Then the LORD said,
Pastor: I have surely seen the affliction of My people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to Me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring My people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt.
Lector: But Moses said to God,
People: Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?
Pastor: But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain.
People: If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, “The God of your fathers has sent me to you,” and they ask me, “What is His name?” what shall I say to them?
Pastor: I AM WHO I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: “I AM has sent me to you.” Say this to the people of Israel: “The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.” This is My name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.
Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: 2 Thessalonians 2:1–8, 13–17
(Although evil will be a part of history until the Last Day, Jesus’ return and our salvation are certain.)

Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. Don’t let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God’s temple, proclaiming himself to be God. Don’t you remember that when I was with...
you I used to tell you these things? And now you know what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.

But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Congregation, please rise for The Holy Gospel.

(Those who die in faith remain alive in God’s presence.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twentieth chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Some of the Sadducees, who say there is no resurrection, came to Jesus with a question. "Teacher," they said, "Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies and leaves a wife but no children, the man must marry the widow and have children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers. The first one married a woman and died childless. The second and then the third married her, and in the same way the seven died, leaving no children. Finally, the woman died too. Now then, at the resurrection whose wife will she be, since the seven were married to her?"

Jesus replied, "The people of this age marry and are given in marriage. But those who are considered worthy of taking part in that age and in the resurrection from the dead will neither marry nor be given in marriage, and they can no longer die; for they are like the angels. They are God's children, since they are children of the resurrection. But in the account of the bush, even Moses showed that the dead rise, for he calls the Lord 'the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.' He is not the God of the dead, but of the living, for to him all are alive."

Some of the teachers of the law responded, "Well said, teacher!" And no one
dared to ask him any more questions.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Christa Kirschner

SONG OF THE DAY GRACE LIKE RAIN Todd Agnew

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I’m found
Was blind but now I see so clearly

CHORUS: Hallelujah grace like rain falls down on me
Hallelujah all my stains are washed away
(They’re washed away)

‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed CHORUS

When we’ve been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun
We’ve no less days to sing Your praise
Than when we’d first begun CHORUS X2

Hallelujah yeah Hallelujah yeah
Hallelujah yeah oh yeah
Hallelujah all my stains are washed away
They’re washed away

SERMON “The Most Important Verse in The Bible” Pastor John Larson
TEXT: Matthew 22:34-40

NICENE CREED Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: And also with you.
OFFERING

YOU NEVER LET GO

Redman

Even though I walk through the valley
Of the shadow of death
Your perfect love is casting out fear
And even when I'm caught in the middle
Of the storms of this life
I won't turn back I know You are near

CHORUS: And I will fear no evil—For my God is with me
And if my God is with me
Whom then shall I fear—Whom then shall I fear
Oh no You never let go
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no You never let go—In ev'ry high and ev'ry low
Oh no You never let go—Lord You never let go of me

And I can see a light that is coming
For the heart that holds on
A glorious light beyond all compare
And there will be an end to these troubles
But until that day comes
We'll live to know You here on the earth CHORUS

I can see a light
That is coming for the heart that holds on
And there will be an end to these troubles
But until that day comes
Still I will praise You—Still I will praise You

Oh no You never let go
Through the calm and
Through the storm
Oh no You never let go—In ev'ry high and ev'ry low
Oh no You never let go—Lord You never let go of me
HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with “Amen!”, a word of affirmation and belief.

Communing TOGETHER

* 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.

2 Timothy 4:22  
[Colossians 3:1]  
[Psalm 136]

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

LORD’S PRAYER Matthew 6:9–13 Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

COME TO JESUS Chris Rice

Weak and wounded sinner Lost and left to die
O, raise your head, for love is passing by
Come to Jesus Come to Jesus Come to Jesus and live!

And like a newborn baby Don't be afraid to crawl
And remember when you walk Sometimes we fall...so
Fall on Jesus Fall on Jesus Fall on Jesus and live!

Sometimes the way is lonely And steep and filled with pain
So if your sky is dark and pours the rain, then
Cry to Jesus Cry to Jesus Cry to Jesus and live!

And when the love spills over And music fills the night
And when you can't contain your joy inside, then
Dance for Jesus Dance for Jesus Dance for Jesus and live!

And with your final heartbeat Kiss the world goodbye
Then go in peace, and laugh on Glory's side, and
Fly to Jesus Fly to Jesus Fly to Jesus and live!

FATHER ME, AGAIN Zehnder

Verse: Lead me, Lord; guide me, Lord.
I'm stepping out, thought I don't know... how to walk, or where to walk. Just hold my hand and don't let go.

CHORUS: Father me, again. Father me, again.
Jesus, heal my wounded heart and love me; make me whole again
Father me, again. Father me, again.
In the tender arms of God, my Savior, I'm a child again.
THE WONDERFUL CROSS

When I survey the wondrous cross,
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

CHORUS: O, the wonderful cross,
       O, the wonderful cross,
      Bids me come and die and find
     That I may truly live.
       O, the wonderful cross,
       O, the wonderful cross,
     All who gather here by grace
    Draw near and bless Your name.

Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were an offering far too small?
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.  CHORUS

The body & the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

strengthen you and keep you
in His grace.

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the great I AM—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

People: Amen.
CLOSING SONG  “God Bless Our Native Land”  

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS  

DISMISSAL  

Pastor:  Go in peace! Serve the Lord!  
People:  Thanks be to God.
Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
Pastor John Larson
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
Michael Zehnder
ORGAN ASSISTANT & CHOIR ACCOMPANIST
Diana Gaide
AGAPE
Rose Berger, Eli Faulk, Bri Fort,
Lisa O’Neal, Ken Price, Bob Shiflet

ELDER
8:00
Bill Redden
10:30
Don Loptien
LECTOR
8:00
Lorraine Winckler
10:30
Jeanette Nelson
ACOLYTE
8:00
Jonas Tunheim
10:30
Espen Erling
USHERS
8:00
Clyde Wiggins, Gabe Gutierrez,
Members of the Congregation
10:30
Jason Dierking, Carly Calhoun,
Anna Wishon
SERVER
10:30
Flo Westra
ALTAR GUILD
Sally Atchison, Gloria Gaudreault,
Gloria Mielke, Laurel Shurtleff
FLOWERS
Dennis & Joyce Lord, in celebration of
Nonna Angelina Tacito’s 11st birthday.

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REMEMBERING THEIR SACRIFICE