NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Who Is the Wrestler?

AS WE GATHER

Jacob had a history of wrestling his way through things. From his father Isaac to his brother Esau to his uncle Laban to the angel of the Lord we hear about today, Jacob has contended against others and for the Lord. Perhaps you feel that way too. But God is the great contender who has wrestled for Israel of old and for you—with Jesus fighting in our place and on our behalf to win salvation for us. Therefore, do not fear, for the Lord fights for you and He who has done all things for your salvation will not abandon you to anyone or any power until you rest in His presence eternally. Though it seems we have great enemies, Christ is greater, and He will not allow them to snatch us from His hand.
PRELUDE
“Jig Fugue”  Dietrich Buxtehude

PASTORAL GREETING

TOLLING OF THE BELL

HYMN
“In Holy Conversation”  LSB 772

INVOCATION

Pastor:  In the name of the Father and of the ✞ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People:  Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor:  Remember Your people, which You have purchased of old,
People:  which You have redeemed to be the people of Your heritage.
Pastor:  Bless the Lord, O my soul,
People:  and all that is within me, bless His holy name.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor:  Holy and gracious God,
People:  I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I
know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ, I ask
forgiveness. Deliver me, O Lord, according to Your mercy and
steadfast love and restore me that I may rest in Your peace. Amen.
Pastor:  Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and given to
us His only Son to suffer and die for our salvation. 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.
Pastor:  May He who began this good work in you bring it to completion in the day
of our Lord Jesus Christ. Peace be with you.
People:  And also with you.

★ WORD ★

Kyrie (spoken)

Pastor  Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
People  Have mercy on us sinners.
Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
People: Have mercy on us sinners.
Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,
People: Have mercy on us sinners, and grant us Your peace. Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE
“Praise the Almighty”
Verses 1 and 5

SALUTATION
Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
Pastor: Let us pray.

O Lord, almighty and everlasting God, You have commanded us to pray and have promised to hear us. Mercifully grant that Your Holy Spirit may direct and govern our hearts in all things that we may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Genesis 32:22–30
(I will not let You go until You bless me.)

That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two maidservants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Then the man said, "Let me go, for it is daybreak." But Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." The man asked him, "What is your name?"
"Jacob," he answered. Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with men and have overcome." Jacob said, "Please tell me your name."
But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.
But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage--with great patience and careful instruction. For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. They will turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. But you, keep your head in all situations, endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, discharge all the duties of your ministry.

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

Congregation, please rise for the Alleluia verse and the Holy Gospel.

VERSE  Luke 18:8

Pastor: Alleluia. I tell you, He will give justice to them speedily.
People: Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth? Alleluia.

(Always pray and do not lose heart.)

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

Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: “In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, `Grant me justice against my adversary.’ “For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, `Even though I don’t fear God or care about men, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won’t eventually wear me out with her coming!’ “ And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting
them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?”

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

HYMN OF THE DAY “Eternal Spirit of the Living Christ” LSB 769


APOSTLES’ CREED Text found in the back of the Hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, the Lord has urged us to be persistent in prayer on behalf of ourselves and all people as they have need, and He has promised to answer, so let us pray.

Almighty God, Your Son encouraged us to be diligent in prayer, and Paul called on us to pray without ceasing. Hear the prayers of Your people for the sake of Your Son, and grant Your blessing to all who come before You on bended knee. Lord, in Your mercy.

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, You have promised to protect, defend, and prosper Your Church through Your Word. Give us wise and faithful pastors who will preach Your Word without constraint, and open our ears and hearts to hear and believe it. Bless us with faithful church workers, and bless those now preparing for Your service. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, You hold accountable all those who govern and lead Your people. Bless, guide, and instruct our president, Congress, governor, and all in authority that they govern according to Your will and purpose for the cause of peace among the nations, for the common good of all, for our protection against our enemies, and for the promotion of virtue and the punishment of evil. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, You carry the burdens of us all in Your Son, who was wounded for our transgressions. Deliver the sick from illness, the suffering from their pain, the troubled from their distress, and the dying from fear, [especially . . .]. Give us courage and strength in our afflictions that we trust in Your promise and await Your promised healing with patience. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Special intercessions may be added here… Lord, in Your mercy,
Almighty God, You have promised never to abandon Your children. Give us such confidence in Your gracious will that we not abandon You in times of test, grow weary when hope is tried, or listen with itching ears to the false voices who would entice us. Help us always and in all things to hold on to Your promises with joy and thanksgiving. Lord, in Your mercy,

Almighty God, You know our frailty and our weakness, that we do not always know how to pray or what to pray for, so grant us all things good and profitable for our salvation. Deliver from us all things harmful; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, through whom all glory, honor, and worship are Yours, holy Father, in the unity of the Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

“This is My Word”  
Pepper Choplin  
Ascension Chorale
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.

Holy Communion

* SACRAMENT *

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.  2 Timothy 4:22
People: And also with you.
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.  [Colossians 3:1]
People: We lift them to the Lord.
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  [Psalm 136]
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 saying:

SANCTUS


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.
AGNUS DEI

“Children of the Heavenly Father”
“In His Temple Now Behold Him”
“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

GENERAL COMMUNION BLESSING

The body & the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ

strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

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  “Holy, Holy, Holy”  

CONGREGATIONAL CONCERNS

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE  “Finale from the Fourth Concerto”  

J. S. Bach
Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
Pastor John Larson

PREACHER
Rev. James Carretto

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES
Michael Zehnder

ORGAN ASSISTANT
Diana Gaide

& CHOIR ACCOMPANIST
Ashley Boeding, Brooke Boeding, Larry Boeding, Lilly Brinkman, Kayden Erling, Will Kopriva

YOUTH BAND

ELDER
8:00
Scott Luethy
10:30
Roger Gaide

LECTOR
8:00
Anita Baresel
10:30
Carol Shepherd

ACOLYTE
8:00
Jonas Tunheim
10:30
Nolan Pierce

USHERS
8:00
Hank Peepgrass, Members of the Congregation
10:30
Jason Dierking, Members of the Congregation

SERVER
10:30
Les Young

ALTAR GUILD
Dawn Munson, Judy Peterson, Cathy Utecht, Barb Williams

FLOWERS
Janet Parrott, in thankfulness to God for the Ascension congregation and their prayers.

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