

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 19

St John Lutheran Church, Ponca Hills

Never “If”

September 15, 2024



AS WE GATHER

In today's Gospel, the father of a possessed boy says, "If you can do anything . . ." As God in the flesh, Jesus can do anything—and He wants to! His concern is never an "if," but an "always." When our troubles increase, their resolution awaits not God's intention but our waffling faith in His concern. Few of us have the resolve and bravado of Isaiah in the Old Testament Reading. Seldom do we recognize how we use our tongues for both good and evil. Today the Scriptures encourage us to turn from relying on ourselves to putting our faith-borne trust in Him alone.

RINGING OF THE BELL

THE WELCOME

THE HYMN "I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus" *LSB* 729

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus
Trusting only Thee
Trusting Thee for full salvation
Great and free.

I am trusting Thee for pardon
At Thy feet I bow
For Thy grace and tender mercy
Trusting now.

I am trusting Thee for cleansing
In the crimson flood
Trusting Thee to make me holy
By Thy blood.

I am trusting Thee to guide me
Thou alone shalt lead
Every day and hour supplying
All my need.

I am trusting Thee for power
Thine can never fail
Words which Thou shalt give me
Must prevail.

I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus
Never let me fall
I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the
Lord,
People: **who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of
sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Pastor: Since we are gathered to have our faith strengthened by hearing God's Word and by receiving our Lord's body and blood in the fellowship of this altar, but cannot come before God in our sinful condition, let us seek His infinite mercy and ask our heavenly Father's forgiveness.

People: Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive the weakness of our faith and our many sins, and restore us to fellowship with You and one another, now and forever.

Pastor: In Holy Baptism our heavenly Father declared us to be His children and united us to His Son, by whose death and resurrection all our sins are forgiven. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

INTROIT *Psalm 31:14–16; antiphon: v. 24*

People: Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD!

Pastor: But I trust in You, O LORD; I say, "You are my God. rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors! Make Your face shine on Your servant; save me in Your steadfast love!

People: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. Be strong, and let your heart take courage, all you who wait for the LORD!

KYRIE KYRIE

Pastor: In peace let pray to the Lord

People: Lord, have mercy

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord

People: Lord, have mercy

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord

People: Lord, have mercy

Pastor For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord

People: Lord, have mercy

Pastor: Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: Amen

HYMN OF PRAISE

"This is the Feast"

LSB p 155

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, our support and defense in every need,

People: help us by Your strength to serve You in meeting people's needs and in spreading the Good News of the Gospel;

Pastor: 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 *Isaiah*

50:4–10 (Isaiah urges a bold faith.)

Reader: The Lord GOD has given Me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens My ear to hear as those who are taught. The Lord GOD has opened My ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. I gave My back to those who strike, and My cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not My face from disgrace and spitting. But the Lord GOD helps Me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set My face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. He who vindicates Me is near. Who will contend with Me? Let us stand up together. Who is My adversary? Let him come near to Me. Behold, the Lord GOD helps Me; who will declare Me guilty? Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up. Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the voice of His servant? Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *James 3:1–12* (James warns against an uncontrolled tongue.)

Reader: Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot

directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL *Psalm 34:9, 19, alt.*

Pastor: Fear the LORD, you His saints,

People: for those who fear Him lack nothing!

Pastor: Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

People: but the LORD delivers him out of them all.

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 9:14–29*

(Jesus exorcizes a spirit after the disciples are not able.)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

And when they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly

amazed and ran up to him and greeted him. And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day: Holy Is the Lord
[Chris Tomlin](#)

We stand and lift up our hands
For the joy of the Lord is our strength

We bow down and worship Him now
How great, how awesome is He
And together we sing
Holy is the Lord, God Almighty
The earth is filled with His glory
Holy is the Lord, God Almighty
The earth is filled with His glory
The earth is filled with His glory
We stand and lift up our hands
For the joy of the Lord is our strength
We bow down and worship Him now
How great, how awesome is He
And together we sing
And everyone sing
Holy is the Lord, God Almighty
The earth is filled with His glory
Holy is the Lord, God Almighty
The earth is filled with His glory
The earth is filled with His glory
Yeah, it's rising up all around
It's the anthem of the Lord's renown
It's rising up all around
It's the anthem of the Lord's renown
Together we sing
And everyone sing
Holy is the Lord, God Almighty
The earth is filled with His glory
Holy is the Lord, God Almighty
The earth is filled with His glory
The earth is filled with His glory
The earth is filled with His glory
Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty
Holy, Holy
Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty
Holy, Holy
Holy, Holy is the Lord Almighty
Holy Holy

SERMON

CREED *Nicene Creed*

People: **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and Earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus**

Christ, the only-begotten Son of God begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Psalm*
116:1–2, 5, 7–9

Pastor: Let us pray for ourselves, the church around the world, and all people in their various conditions. Today's Psalm is the response of a trusting person, confident that God has heard the prayer.

Be present, Lord our God,
wherever wars rage and governments fail,
where homelessness and disease are
rampant, and where the poor are forgotten.

People: I love the LORD, because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.

Pastor: Guard, defend, and give wisdom to all who go into harm's way to do

battle against foreign enemies and in emergencies here at home. Use medical personnel and caring neighbors to bring about health and healing.

People: Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.

Pastor: Provide faith-filled leaders and followers to proclaim the Gospel, serve You with the gifts You have given them, and care for the needs of people around the world.

People: Gracious is the LORD, and righteous; our God is merciful.

Pastor: Be with all who tend flocks, raise harvests, and distribute food so that many may be fed.

People: Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

Pastor: Visit, relieve, and console those who are sick or in mourning, [*including* . . .], according to Your gracious plans for them.

People: For You have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.

Pastor: These and any other things You see that we need, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: I will walk before the LORD in the land of the living. Amen.

OFFERING

HYMN "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart" *LSB* 806

Give thanks with a grateful heart

Give thanks to the Holy One

Give thanks because He's given

Jesus Christ His Son (2)

And now let the weak say 'I am strong'

Let the poor say 'I am rich'

Because of what the Lord has done for us (2)

Give thanks, Give thanks.

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*

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, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore we laud and magnify Your glorious name, always praising You.

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.**

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

People: **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.**

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

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 \times 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 \times blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

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

People: **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower"
LSB 694

Thee will I love, my strength, my tower
Thee will I love, my hope, my joy
Thee will I love with all my power
With ardor time shall ne'er destroy
Thee will I love, O Light divine
So long as life is mine.

Thee will I love my life, my Savior
Who art my best and truest friend
Thee will I love and praise forever
For ever shall Thy kindness end
Thee will I love with all my heart
Thou my Redeemer art!

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.
O God the Father, the fountain
and source of all goodness, who in loving-
kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into
the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You
have given us pardon and peace in this
Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake
Your children but always to rule our hearts
and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may
be enabled constantly to serve You; 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 *Numbers 6:24-26*

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 **Brent Chambers - Be Exalted, O God**

I will give thanks to Thee
O Lord, among the people
I will sing praises to Thee
Among the nations

For Thy steadfast love is great
Is great to the heavens
And Thy faithfulness
Thy faithfulness to the clouds

Be exalted, O God
Above the heavens
Let Thy glory be over all the earth
Be exalted, O God
Above the heavens
Let Thy glory be over all the earth

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the
Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

OUR MISSION:

We are St John Lutheran Church, forgiven
and united through faith in Jesus Christ. We
seek to grow in our relationship with Him
through worship, Bible study and Prayer and
reaching out with His love and message to
our neighbors.

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve our
living Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

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Our thanks to those who serve today:

Elder Tim Steyskal
Acolyte TBD
Usher Harold Hodges, Mark Swinarski
Greeter Clo Towers
Reader Sarah Murray
Altar Guild Terry Wilson

The Board of Directors meets on Tuesday at
5:00 pm.

Our Quarterly Voters' Meeting will be next
Sunday, September 22. Please help us
make decision on several important items.