

# Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

**August 17, 2025**

**9:00 am**

## **Prelude**

## **Announcements**

## **Introduction**

The word of God is a refining fire. Jesus is the great divide in human history. He invites our undivided attention and devotion. Today in worship we are surrounded by a great "cloud of witnesses." In the word and in holy communion we are invited yet again to look to Jesus, "the pioneer and perfecter of our faith."

## **Confession and Forgiveness**

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**  
Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God, **you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.**

You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ✝ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation. **Amen.**

## **Gathering Hymn: ELW #796 "How Firm a Foundation"**

- 1. How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord, is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word! What more can he say than to you he has said who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?**
- 2. "Fear not, I am with you, Oh, be not dismayed, for I am your God and will still give you aid; I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand, upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."**
- 3. "When through fi'ry trials your pathway shall lie, my grace, all sufficient, shall be your supply. The flames shall not hurt you; I only design your dross to consume and your gold to refine."**
- 4. "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love; and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn, like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."**

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## Prayer of the Day

**O God, judge eternal, you love justice and hate oppression, and you call us to share your zeal for truth. Give us courage to take our stand with all victims of bloodshed and greed, and, following your servants and prophets, to look to the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## Readings and Psalm

### First Reading: Jeremiah 23:23-29

*Because Jeremiah preaches the unpopular message of God's judgment, he suffers rejection. Today's reading distinguishes between the true prophet, like Jeremiah, who speaks God's word, and the false prophet who misleads the people through dreams. One is like wheat; the other like worthless straw.*

<sup>23</sup> Am I a God near by, says the LORD, and not a God far off? <sup>24</sup> Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them? says the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? says the LORD. <sup>25</sup> I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, "I have dreamed! I have dreamed!" <sup>26</sup> How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophesy lies and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart? <sup>27</sup> They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. <sup>28</sup> Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the LORD. <sup>29</sup> Is not my word like fire, says the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

### Psalm: Psalm 82

- <sup>1</sup> God stands to charge the divine council assembled,  
giving judgment in the midst of the gods:
- <sup>2</sup> **"How long will you judge unjustly,  
and show favor to the wicked?"**
- <sup>3</sup> Save the weak and the orphan;  
defend the humble and needy;
- <sup>4</sup> **rescue the weak and the poor;  
deliver them from the power of the wicked.**
- <sup>5</sup> They do not know, neither do they understand; they wander about in darkness;  
all the foundations of the earth are shaken.
- <sup>6</sup> **Now I say to you, 'You are gods,  
and all of you children of the Most High;**
- <sup>7</sup> nevertheless, you shall die like mortals,  
and fall like any prince.'"
- <sup>8</sup> **Arise, O God, and rule the earth,  
for you shall take all nations for your own.**

### Second Reading: Hebrews 11:29–12:2

*The author of Hebrews presents us with rich stories of faith. In a long list of biblical heroes, we find examples of trust in God that enabled them to face the trials of life*

*faithfully. In addition to this "cloud of witnesses," we have Jesus, the perfect model of faithful endurance.*

<sup>29</sup> By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. <sup>30</sup> By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. <sup>31</sup> By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

<sup>32</sup> And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, <sup>33</sup> who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, <sup>34</sup> quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. <sup>35</sup> Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. <sup>36</sup> Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. <sup>37</sup> They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented <sup>38</sup> of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

<sup>39</sup> Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, <sup>40</sup> since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

<sup>12:1</sup> Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, <sup>2</sup> looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

## **Gospel Acclamation**

*Alleluia.* My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. *Alleluia.* (John 10:27)

The Gospel according to Luke starting with the 12<sup>th</sup> Chapter. **Glory to you O Lord.**

## **Gospel: Luke 12:49-56**

*Jesus delivers harsh words about the purifying and potentially divisive effects of obedience to God's call. The way of the cross often leads followers to encounter hostility and rejection, even from those they love.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>49</sup> "I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze! <sup>50</sup> I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! <sup>51</sup> Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! <sup>52</sup> From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; <sup>53</sup> they will be divided:

father against son

and son against father,

mother against daughter

and daughter against mother,

mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law

and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

<sup>54</sup> He also said to the crowds, "When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, 'It is going to rain,' and so it happens. <sup>55</sup> And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, 'There will be scorching heat,' and it happens. <sup>56</sup> You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?"

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

### **Hymn of the Day: ELW #788 "If God My Lord Be for Me"**

- 1. If God my Lord be for me, I may a host defy; for when I pray, before me my foes, confounded, fly. If Christ, my head and master, befriend me from above, what foe or what disaster can drive me from his love?**
- 2. I build on this foundation, that Jesus and his blood alone are my salvation, the true, eternal good. Without him all that pleases will vain and empty prove. The gifts I have from Jesus alone are worth my love.**
- 3. Christ Jesus is my splendor, my sun, my light, alone; were he not my defender before the judgment throne, I never should find favor and mercy in God's sight, but be destroyed forever as darkness by the light.**
- 4. For joy my heart is ringing; all sorrow disappears; and full of mirth and singing, it wipes away all tears. The sun that cheers my spirit is Jesus Christ, my king; the heav'n I shall inherit makes me rejoice and sing.**

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## **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.**

## **Sharing of Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you all. **And also with you.**

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

*A brief silence.*

Raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. Inspire global missionaries (*missionaries sponsored by this congregation may be named*) with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk alongside our partners in the gospel in solidarity, interdependence, and mutuality. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Safeguard rivers and lakes (*local water sources may be named*) from pollution. Sustain the work of conservationists, policy makers, and advocacy groups seeking to protect fresh water sources. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Bridge divisions across partisan lines. Strengthen cooperative efforts among lawmakers (*local elected officials may be named*) who enact policies that protect our neighbors who are most vulnerable. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are sick or homebound (*especially*). Reassure them of your care in all times and places. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guide the leaders of this congregation. In these late summer weeks, inspire their planning for a new program year ahead. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration and support for their work. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

With thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses who surround us. By the example of their faith, enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, until that day when we join their unending praise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. **Amen.**

## **Offering/Offertory Hymn: ELW #186 "Create in Me a Clean Heart"**

**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

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## **Offering Prayer**

**Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

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.**

## **Preface**

## **Thanksgiving at the Table**

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.

### **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. 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.**

### **Invitation to Communion**

The kingdom of God is set before you.  
Eat and rejoice.

### **Communion Hymn: ELW #491 "Come, Let Us Eat"**

- 1. Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread, come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread. Our Lord's body let us take together, our Lord's body let us take together.**
- 2. Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured. Jesus' blood poured let us drink together, Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.**
- 3. In Jesus' presence now we meet and rest. in Jesus' presence now we meet and rest. In the presence of our Lord we gather, in the presence of our Lord we gather.**
- 4. Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word, rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty word. Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom, Jesus risen will bring in the kingdom.**

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### **Prayer after Communion**

**Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.**

### **Blessing**

The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ✝ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

### **Sending Hymn: ELW #603 "God, When Human Bonds are Broken"**

- 1. God, when human bonds are broken and we lack the love or skill to restore the hope of healing, give us grace and make us still.**

2. **Through that stillness, with your Spirit come into our world of stress, for the sake of Christ forgiving all the failures we confess.**
3. **You in us are bruised and broken: hear us as we seek release from the pain of earlier living; set us free and grant us peace.**
4. **Send us, God of new beginnings, humbly hopeful into life. Use us as a means of blessing: make us stronger, give us faith.**
5. **Give us faith to be more faithful, give us hope to be more true, give us love to go on learning: God, encourage and renew!**

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## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

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- ✚ **Prayers:** Please continue to keep our members and loved ones in your prayers, including Arlen, Lan-Shiang, Ken, Deb, Ruth, Barry, Monica, Jeff, Jenny, Dennis, Caroline, Nathan, Sue Bogenschutz, and the Tryhus Family.
- ✚ **Directory Update:** Please check your contact information in the directory in the Fellowship Hall. If it is correct as is, please place a check mark so we know it has been approved.
- ✚ **Sunday School** is a very important resource for our youth. We are searching for one of more volunteers to provide this resource to our children/grandchildren. If you are interested please speak with Bob or Eric.
- ✚ **Concert & Cream** has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2025. Meal starts at 5:30 pm, concert at 6:30 pm.

Calvary Lutheran Church  
19216 Rapidan Avenue  
Mankato, Minnesota 56001

Pastor Jenna Couch  
Ministers: All Members

Church Phone: 507-278-3317  
E-mail: [office@calvaryrapidan.org](mailto:office@calvaryrapidan.org)  
Website: [calvaryrapidan.org](http://calvaryrapidan.org)  
Facebook: Calvary Lutheran Rapidan

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