**16th Sunday after Pentecost, Sept. 11/12, 2021**

**AS WE GATHER**

In today’s Readings, James draws our attention to the tongue. Our tongues might be small but, like the rudder of a ship, the tongue is vitally important to us for staying on the right course. If the rudder is broken, the ship is adrift. If the tongue is filled with evil, so will the rest of our lives. But the tongue also boasts of great things, speaking God’s good word of forgiveness and life. Remember that Jesus has restored all things, including our tongues to no longer speak evil, but to speak His Word.

**PSALM** 116:1-9

**INVOCATION, SENTENCES, CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION**

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: I called on the name of the Lord:

**People: O Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief!**

Pastor: The Lord has dealt bountifully with us.

**People: The Lord has opened our ears.**

Pastor: The Lord has delivered us from death.

**People: He wipes away tears from all faces.**

Pastor: He rescues our feet from stumbling

**People: and restores our tongues to proclaim His good news.**

Pastor: Despite all of God’s actions on our behalf, we still struggle with sin in our lives. Our tongues still curse. Our feet still stumble. Our ears still listen to lies and vicious gossip. But our heavenly Father invites us to come to Him for restoration, renewal, and forgiveness.

 *Silence for reflection.*

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

**People: we have sinned against You and our neighbors in what we have said and what we have left unsaid. We have neglected opportunities to love our neighbors. We have stumbled and fallen again and again. We ask that You restore us, renew us, and forgive us on account of Jesus. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, in His boundless love sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise for our forgiveness and eternal life. Because of Jesus, we are restored, body and soul. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the +Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen. We are forgiven in Christ. We are renewed and restored. Amen.**

**HYMN** *“Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing”* (*LSB* 528)

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** *(bulletin insert)*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Isaiah 50:4-10 *(bulletin insert)*

**GRADUAL** *(bulletin insert)*

**EPISTLE** James 3:1-12 *(bulletin insert)*

**HOLY GOSPEL** Mark 9:14-29 *(bulletin insert)*

**HYMN** *“Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”* (*LSB* 849)

**SERMON “*Help is in Jesus”***

# THE NICENE CREED *(LSB*,back inside cover)

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD’S PRAYER

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However,* ***if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing****. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**DISTRIBUTION**

 *“Your Table I Approach”* (*LSB* 628)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have placed Christ’s body and blood upon our tongues to renew and restore us once again. We ask that You would strengthen us to proclaim Your promises to all the world; 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

**HYMN** *“Take My Life and Let It Be”* (*LSB* 783)