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**15th Sunday after Pentecost**

“My heart’s delight, my crown most bright, O Christ, my joy forever. Not wealth nor pride nor fortune’s tide our bonds of love shall sever. You are my Lord; Your precious Word shall guide my way and help me stay forever in Your presence.” *LSB* 557:4

**AS WE GATHER**

God’s people are sometimes called “the people of the Book.” The written Word is central to our lives of worship. As John concluded his Gospel account of the life, death, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, he states that he could have written much more extensively than he had done. But as he reflects on what he has shared in his Gospel, he says, “but these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name” (John 20:31). The writings of John the Evangelist and of all the other biblical writers are there for us to read and reread and savor and share both as part of our worship and in our individual lives of faith. The written Word of the Lord is an essential part of our great and blessed heritage!

**PSALM** 113

**+ PREPARATION +**

**INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES** *Deuteronomy 6:4–5; Proverbs 3:3–6*

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

**People: You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might.**

Pastor: Let not steadfast love and faithfulness forsake you; bind them around your neck; write them on the tablet of your heart.

**People: So you will find favor and good success in the sight of God and man.**

Pastor: Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding.

**People: In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make straight your paths.**

**CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Let us humble ourselves before God, confess our sins to Him, and ask His gracious forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: We now confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and before one another, that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not always put God first. We have used His holy name in ways that do not honor Him. We have not always been devoted to the Lord and have not fully cherished the sacred writings of our faith. We have failed in ways of keeping our thoughts, words, and deeds pure and honorable. At times we have taken what is not ours and have spoken that which is not helpful or true. We have broken the law of God by coveting that which is not rightfully ours and have not put the best construction on all things and spoken the best of all people. We pray our God to have mercy on us, to forgive us all our sins, and to bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grants us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. 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.**

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“Praise the Almighty”* (*LSB* 797)

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

**OLD TESTAMENT** Amos 8:4-7 *(bulletin insert)*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**GRADUAL** *(bulletin insert, below the Collect)*

**EPISTLE** 1 Timothy 2:1-15 *(bulletin insert)*

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL** Luke 16:1-15 *(bulletin insert)*

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

**NICENE CREED** (*back, inside cover*)

**HYMN** *“O God of Mercy, God of Might”* (*LSB* 852)

**SERMON “*Trusting in God’s Mercy”***

# PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD’S PRAYER

*(after each petition):* Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

 **People: hear our prayer.**

**RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS**

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**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.*

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**DISTRIBUTION**

 *“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”* (*LSB* 636)

**POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Let us pray. Grant that Your Son’s body and blood, O Lord, which You have given us to eat and to drink, may abide in us, and let no stain of sin remain in us, whom this pure and holy Sacrament has refreshed; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**People: Amen.**

### BENEDICTION

**HYMN** *“Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good”* (*LSB* 819)

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**