

**Grow ... Go ... Gather**  
**September 13, 2020**



**ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**(LCMS)**

2040 Oakwood Avenue N.E.  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49505



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# The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## The Order of Service: Prayer & Preaching

*(Please turn off your wifi)*

### The Preservice Music and Welcome

*(Please put your mask on when singing)*

#### The Opening Hymn: LSB 912, "Christ is Our Cornerstone"



1 Christ is our cor - ner - stone, On Him a - lone we build;  
2 Here may we gain from heav'n The grace which we im - plore,  
△ 3 Oh, then, with hymns of praise These hal - lowed courts shall ring;



With His true saints a - lone The courts of heav'n are filled. On His  
And may that grace, once giv'n, Be with us ev - er - more Un - til  
Our voic - es we will raise The Three in One to sing And thus



great love Our hopes we place Of pres - ent grace And joys a - bove.  
that day When all the blest To end - less rest Are called a - way.  
pro - claim In joy - ful song, Both loud and long, That glo - rious name.

*Text and tune: Public domain*

### The Opening Versicles

*LSB 260*

- P** This is the day which the Lord has made;
- C** **let us rejoice and be glad in it.**
- P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,
- C** **the name of the Lord is to be praised.**
- P** Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;
- C** **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**
- P** Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

**C** Teach me Your paths.

**P** Sanctify us in Your truth.

**C** Your Word is truth.

**P** From the rising of the sun to its setting,

**C** the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**ALL** **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.**

**A Hymn of Praise: LSB 947 "All Glory Be to God on High"**



1 All glo - ry be to God on high And thanks for all His  
2 We praise and laud and wor - ship You; We give You thanks for -  
3 O Je - sus Christ, the on - ly Son Be - got - ten of the  
4 O Ho - ly Spir - it, our de - light And source of con - so -



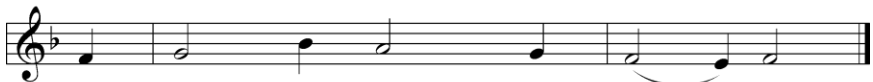
fa - vor; No harm can touch or ter - ri - fy A  
ev - er, O Fa - ther, for Your rule is true And  
Fa - ther, Your sav - ing death has made us one With  
la - tion, Pro - tect us from the dev - il's might Through



child of God for - ev - er. God shows His good and  
just and chang - es nev - er. With bound - less pow'r, Your  
God and with each oth - er. O Lamb of God, to -  
Je - sus, our sal - va - tion, Who by His death up -



gra - cious will And grants His peace, the world to fill—  
might - y reign Ful - fills what - ev - er You or - dain.  
You on high In our dis - tress we sin - ners cry,  
on a tree Has res - cued us from mis - er - y:



All strife at last has end - ed.  
Lord, grant us ev - 'ry bless - ing!  
Have mer - cy on us, a - men!  
To this we hold for - ev - er.

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Tune: Public domain*

## The Prayer of the Day

### The Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 50:15-21

**P** A reading from Genesis, the fiftieth chapter.

When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, 'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### The Epistle Lesson: Romans 14:1-12

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass

judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**A Song:** "Above All" (Le Blanc)

**Verse 1**

Above all powers above all kings  
Above all nature and all created things  
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man  
You were here before the world began

## **Verse 2**

Above all kingdoms above all thrones  
Above all wonders the world has ever known  
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth  
There's no way to measure  
What You're worth

## **Chorus**

Crucified laid behind the stone  
You lived to die rejected and alone  
Like a rose trampled on the ground  
You took the fall and thought of me  
Above all

CCLI Song # 2672885 Lenny LeBlanc | Paul Baloche  
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## **The Gospel Lesson: Matthew 18:21-35**

Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who

owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **The Common Response**

*LSB 263*

**P** Forever, O Lord, Your Word is firmly set in the heavens.

**C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

**P** Blessed are those who hear the Word of God and keep it.

**C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

**P** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.**

**The Sermon Hymn:** "O Come My Soul, Sing Praise to God"

O come, my soul, sing praise to God your Maker,  
and all within me, praise his holy name.  
Sing praise to God, forget not all his mercies;  
his pardoning grace and saving love proclaim.

**Refrain:**

***Praise him, you angels,  
wondrous in might;  
praise him, you servants who in his will delight.***

Good is the Lord and full of kind compassion,  
most slow to anger, plenteous in love.  
Rich is his grace to all who humbly seek him,  
boundless and endless as the heavens above.

**[Refrain]**

His love is like a father's to his children,  
tender and kind to all who fear his name;  
for well he knows our weakness and our frailty;  
he knows that we are dust, he knows our frame.

**[Refrain]**

We fade and die like flowers that grow in beauty,  
like tender grass that soon will disappear;  
but evermore the love of God is changeless,  
still shown to those who look to him in fear.

**[Refrain]**

High in the heavens his throne is fixed forever;  
his kingdom rules o'er all from pole to pole.  
Praise to the Lord through all his wide dominion;  
forever praise his holy name, my soul. **[Refrain]**

**Text and Tune:** Public Domain



**The Sermon:** Ancient Hymns of the Faith – Psalm 103:1-14

P: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his holy name!

**C: Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits,**

P: who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit, who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy, who satisfies you with good so that your youth is renewed like the eagles.

**C: The LORD works righteousness and justice for all who are oppressed. He made known his ways to Moses, his acts to the people of Israel.**

P: The LORD is merciful and gracious,

**C: slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

P: He will not always chide,

**C: nor will he keep his anger forever.**

P: He does not deal with us according to our sins,

**C: nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

P: For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear him.

**C: For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.**

**The Offering Prayer**

**The General Prayer of the Church**

## The Lord's Prayer

- C** 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 Collect of the Word

- P** Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** Amen.

## The Blessing

*LSB 267*

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**
- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.
- C** Amen.

**The Closing Hymn: LSB 919, "Abide, O Dearest Jesus" (Verses 1, 2, 5, 6)**



1 A - bide, O dear - est Je - sus, A - mong us with Your grace  
 2 A - bide, O dear Re - deem - er, A - mong us with Your Word,  
 5 A - bide with Your pro - tec - tion A - mong us, Lord, our strength,  
 6 A - bide, O faith - ful Sav - ior, A - mong us with Your love;



That Sa - tan may not harm us Nor we to sin give place.  
 And thus now and here - af - ter True peace and joy af - ford.  
 Lest world and Sa - tan fell us And o - ver - come at length.  
 Grant stead - fast - ness and help us To reach our home a - bove.

*Tune and text: Public domain*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Events of the Week: September 13 - 20, 2020**

- TODAY:**     **9:30 a.m.** Worship service at St. James and on Facebook Live  
                   **11:00 a.m.** Bible study on Facebook Live  
                   **6:00 p.m.** LWML on ZOOM
- Monday:**   **10:00 a.m.** Registration for **September 20**  
                   Worship begins  
                   **6:30 p.m. Monday Evening Worship with Holy Communion**  
                   **7:30 p.m.** Council Meeting on ZOOM
- Wednesday:** **10:00 a.m.** Bible Study with Darrell  
                   **12 Noon** Devotion w/ Pastor on Facebook
- Friday:**     **12:00 Noon** Registration closes for phone-in  
                   Worship registration.
- Saturday**   **6:00 p.m.** Registration for Worship is closed
- Sunday:**    **9:30 a.m.** Communion Worship w/ Pastor Blain at St. James (for registered members) and on Facebook Live  
                   **11:00 a.m.** Bible Study on Facebook Live



**Note:**  
**Pastor and Sandra will be on vacation September 15 – 22.**

**If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact one of our Deacons.**

Craig Popma 616-531-6481  
Paul Bragenzer 231-758-0633  
Bryan Ensing 616-589-6925  
Jerry Talen 616-826-7342  
Paul Tomasunas 616-260-9864  
John Weiss 616-773-0805

Karen will be back in the office September 15.

**Today's Deacons:** Jerry Talen

**September Altar Guild:** Melissa Ensing and Marjie Weiss



*We have a need for Altar Guild help for **November**. If you would like to oversee Holy Communion set-up and clean-up for this month, please contact Karen in the office.*

Thank you to Sherry and Jennifer Schmidt for giving their service to God by taking care of the October Altar Guild duties.





**Reminder: Please put your pew kneeler down when you are finished with worship. Thank you.**



## Registration Information

**It is important to register every week.**

1. Go to [bit.ly/stjamesgr](http://bit.ly/stjamesgr)
2. Click on the worship service you wish to attend. **Worship Service –September 20, 9:30 am**
3. Click on the green “**register**” box.
4. Put in the **number attending**.
5. Click on the orange “**register**” box.

Enter **your first name** and **ALL** the **first names** of those attending with you in the “first name” box.

Enter **only one last name, e-mail address and confirm e-mail address.**

6. Click on the orange “**register**” box.
7. Your ticket(s) will arrive in your e-mail inbox confirming your sign-up.



**Our first LWML Bible study and meeting** will take place **TODAY, at 6:00pm on ZOOM.** Marjie Weiss will be leading a Bible Study entitled "Held by His Word in Uncertain Times" written by Rev. Brian Noack. As we are led through 2 Timothy we will be reminded how the Apostle Paul prepared and encouraged the young pastor for what was to come, and, most importantly, how he could face these things with the confidence that Christ Jesus gives. Copies of this Bible study are available at [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org). Copies will also be available to pick up at church.

If you would like to participate in our Bible Study and/or are unfamiliar with how Zoom works, please contact Grace Rosema, [grosema\\_school@yahoo.com](mailto:grosema_school@yahoo.com) or 616-822-3625 (leave a message and she will call you back.)

**Mites:** We thank you for your continued support. Women's Witness and Mercy Asia, Mission Central - \$100,000 - is one of our mission grant recipients. Asia is a harvest field ripe for the Gospel. Lutheran Women in Mission realize that our grants to missionaries bring God's Word to a dying world. Asia is predominantly secular, with Buddhist, Muslim, Hindu, and other false religions. Mission Central provides needed supplies to support the work of 10 women missionaries, some of whom have husbands and families working with them, while others work with a team or alone. For more information, go to [www.lwml.org](http://www.lwml.org).

**Please keep saving your mites.** If you are ready to turn them in, please put them in the mite box located in the church entryway when you attend church on Sunday, or mail a check to Rie Wiles, our St. James LWML treasurer, or call Grace Rosema to make arrangements to have them picked up from your home. Thank you.



# ISJ Academy

To ensure the safety of each student at ISJ ACADEMY, each student will have their own **school supplies** this year.

ISJ is also doubling their efforts with disinfecting the school. They are in need of **sanitizing supplies**; disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, Lysol spray, etc.....

If you would like to help defray the cost of school supplies and/or disinfecting supplies, please consider a donation to the school for these needs.

Please send your donation, **labeled "Supplies"**, to the school at:

ISJ Academy  
2066 Oakwood Ave. NE  
Grand Rapids, MI 49505

If you have any questions, please contact the school at 363-0505.



*Thank you! Your help is appreciated!*

**ADDRESS CHANGE:**

Nancy Reed has moved to Clark Retirement Community. You can reach her by sending your cards and letters to:

Nancy Reed  
1551 Franklin St. SE  
Room 4070  
Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Please make this change in your church directory.  
Thank you.

