



“Wise Man or Wise Guy?”

Sunday, September 19, 2021 9:00AM
Worship Service

AS WE GATHER

Jesus’ disciples did not understand the prophecy about His death and resurrection. They focused, instead, on their personal greatness. So, He inverted their viewpoint, using a child to explain that true greatness is in humble servanthood, in welcoming even children (then considered to be without status). But our inner passions rebel and war against such servanthood, as James explains in the Epistle. Fortunately, by the gracious gift of faith, in place of personal struggles, we can rely on God, as Jeremiah does in the Old Testament Reading and David in today’s psalm. Our Lord is the humblest and therefore greatest Servant, and by His death and resurrection He has proclaimed that God’s grace knows no bounds. Confidently, we can follow Him in humble servanthood each day.

WELCOME

Sit

OPENING HYMN

“Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear”

LSB 908

1 Lord, open now my heart to hear,
And through Your Word to me draw near;
Let me Your Word e’er pure retain;
Let me Your child and heir remain.

2 Your Word inspires my heart within;
Your Word grants healing from my sin;
Your Word has pow’r to guide and bless;
Your Word brings peace and happiness.

△ 3 To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One,
Shall glory, praise, and honor be
Now and throughout eternity.

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Stand

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION (James 3:18; 4:5–6, 8; Psalm 54:1–2, 4, 6)

P In today’s Epistle, James urges, “Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” Let us go to God, echoing David’s words in Psalm 54, appointed for today.

P O God, save me, by Your name,

C and vindicate me by Your might.

P O God, hear my prayer;

C give ear to the words of my mouth.

P James' words in today's Epistle guide our confession. Gracious God,

C we confess that as we have desired friendship with the world, we forget that it would mean enmity with God. We confess that our passions are at war within us. We have had bitter jealousy and selfish ambition inside us. In all humility, we come to You, holy Lord, seeking Your peace to calm the war within us.

P God has not given up on you! He yearns jealously over the spirit that He has made to dwell in us. Indeed, He gives more grace. James writes, "A harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace," and in His death and resurrection, Jesus gave us His righteousness and established peace between us and God. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

KYRIE

P In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mercy.

P 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.

C Lord, have mercy.

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

C Lord, have mercy.

P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C Amen.

Sit

HYMN of PRAISE

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

LSB 809

1 Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
There is no shadow of turning with Thee.
Thou changest not: Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be. Refrain

ref Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. Refrain

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;

Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! Refrain
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SALUTATION

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, whose strength is made perfect in weakness,

C grant us humility and childlike faith that we may please You in both will and deed;

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 11:18–20

¹⁸The LORD made it known to me and I knew;
then you showed me their deeds.

¹⁹But I was like a gentle lamb
led to the slaughter.

I did not know it was against me

they devised schemes, saying,

“Let us destroy the tree with its fruit,
let us cut him off from the land of the living,
that his name be remembered no more.”

²⁰But, O LORD of hosts, who judges righteously,
who tests the heart and the mind,

let me see your vengeance upon them,
for to you have I committed my cause.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

James 3:13—4:10

¹³Who is wise and understanding among you? By his good conduct let him show his works in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴But if you have bitter jealousy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast and be false to the truth. ¹⁵This is not the wisdom that comes down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic. ¹⁶For where jealousy and selfish ambition exist, there will be disorder and every vile practice. ¹⁷But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, open to reason, full of mercy and good fruits, impartial and sincere. ¹⁸And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

¹What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? ²You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. ³You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. ⁴You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God. ⁵Or do you suppose it is to no purpose that the Scripture says, “He yearns jealously over the spirit that he has made to dwell in us”? ⁶But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, “God opposes the proud, but gives grace to the humble.” ⁷Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. ⁸Draw near to God, and he will draw

near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. ⁹Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. ¹⁰Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will exalt you.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Mark 9:30–37

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

³⁰[The disciples] went on from there and passed through Galilee. And [Jesus] did not want anyone to know, ³¹for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him. And when he is killed, after three days he will rise.” ³²But they did not understand the saying, and were afraid to ask him.

³³And they came to Capernaum. And when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” ³⁴But they kept silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. ³⁵And he sat down and called the twelve. And he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.” ³⁶And he took a child and put him in the midst of them, and taking him in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, and whoever receives me, receives not me but him who sent me.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

C 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

P Using the promptings of James in the Epistle, let us pray for the nations around the world, the Church wherever it is found, and for ourselves here in this place.

Wherever nations quarrel and plunge toward war, O God, open the ears of their leaders to hear the wisdom from above and pursue peace.

C Move them to find joy in humble service.

P Wherever international alliances, national leaders, and groups within society follow the lead of their selfish ambitions at the expense of the downtrodden and forgotten people across borders and in their midst, O God, give both citizens and their leaders hearts that are open to reason, full of mercy, impartial and sincere.

C Grant that peace break out across borders and justice within them.

P Whenever the Church is fraught with boasting, falsehoods, and schisms, O God, send Your Holy Spirit to use Word and Sacrament to bring clergy and lay leaders to repentance.

C Embolden them to announce with one voice the victory Your Son won for us all.

P Wherever people respond to illness, accident, injustice, and discrimination, O God, strengthen them to rely on You for protection in all circumstances.

C Guide them to make decisions in wisdom and to sow righteousness in peace.

P Whenever our conduct betrays worldly jealousy and selfish ambition, O God, turn our laughter to mourning and our joy to gloom until we recognize Your unending grace.

C Help us seek to meet the needs of the people around us in humble service.

P Wherever people call out to You in their distress, [*especially . . .*], O God, visit, relieve, heal, and console them according to Your gracious will.

C Use us as part of Your answers to their fervent prayers.

P Whenever we pridefully seek to solve our problems by our own strength, O God, remind us of Your faithfulness, constant presence, and gracious protection for Jesus' sake.

C Show us how to humbly serve the people around us as You have served us.

P Heavenly Father, hear us and all for whom we pray, as we rely on Your gracious plans for all we need;

C through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, in whose name we pray. Amen.

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.

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P 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.

C Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P 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 ✠ 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 ✠ 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

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C Amen.

Sit

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

"Jesus Comes Today with Healing"

LSB 620

1 Jesus comes today with healing,
Knocking at my door, appealing,
Off'ring pardon, grace, and peace.

He Himself makes preparation,
And I hear His invitation:
“Come and taste the blessed feast.”

- 2 Christ Himself, the priest presiding,
Yet in bread and wine abiding
In this holy sacrament,
Gives the bread of life, once broken,
And the cup, the precious token
Of His sacred covenant.
- 3 Under bread and wine, though lowly,
I receive the Savior holy,
Blood and body, giv’n for me,
Very Lamb of God from heaven,
Who to bitter death was given,
Hung upon the cursed tree.
- 4 God descends with heav’nly power,
Gives Himself to me this hour
In this ordinary sign.
On my tongue His pledge receiving,
I accept His grace, believing
That I taste His love divine.
- 5 Let me praise God’s boundless favor,
Whose own feast of love I savor,
Bidden by His gracious call.
Wedding garments He provides me,
With a robe of white He hides me,
Fits me for the royal hall.
- 6 Now have I found consolation,
Comfort in my tribulation,
Balm to heal the troubled soul.
God, my shield from ev’ry terror,
Cleanses me from sin and error,
Makes my wounded spirit whole.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“What Is This Bread”

LSB 629

- 1 What is this bread?
Christ’s body risen from the dead:
This bread we break,
This life we take,
Was crushed to pay for our release.
O taste and see—the Lord is peace.
- 2 What is this wine?
The blood of Jesus shed for mine;
The cup of grace
Brings His embrace

Of life and love until I sing!
O taste and see—the Lord is King.

3 So who am I,
That I should live and He should die
Under the rod?
My God, my God,
Why have You not forsaken me?
O taste and see—the Lord is free.

4 Yet is God here?
Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,
In mouth and soul
He makes us whole—
Christ, truly present in this meal.
O taste and see—the Lord is real.

5 Is this for me?
I am forgiven and set free!
I do believe
That I receive
His very body and His blood.
O taste and see—the Lord is good.

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POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P 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,
C 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;

P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

HYMN of the DAY

“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us”

LSB 851

1 Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given
Blessings countless as the sand
To the_unthankful and the evil
With Your own unsparing hand.

2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You
Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures,
Warmed by You, at length believe

That more happy and more blessed
'Tis to give than to receive.

3 Wondrous honor You have given
To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence,
“You have done it all to Me.”
Can it be, O gracious Master,
That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy,
“Give as I have giv’n to you”?

4 Lord of glory, You have bought us
With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly,
Hope, to stay our souls on You;
But, oh, best of all Your graces,
With Your love our love renew.

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SERMON

“Wise Man or Wise Guy?”

BENEDICTION

[P] 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.

[C] Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

“For All the Saints”

LSB 677 sts. 1, 4, 5 & 8

1 For all the saints who from their labors rest,
Who Thee by faith before the world confessed,
Thy name, O Jesus, be forever blest.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

4 Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine!
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one in Thee, for all are Thine.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

5 And when the fight is fierce, the warfare long,
Steals on the ear the distant triumph song,
And hearts are brave again, and arms are strong.
Alleluia! Alleluia!

△ 8 From earth’s wide bounds, from ocean’s farthest coast,
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
Alleluia! Alleluia!

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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

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