

**ELEVENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST—
PROPER 18**



**Finding God's Favor
August 24, 2025**

Everyone is asked to silence or put their **cell phones** on vibrate while attending church services

AS WE GATHER

To be the “favorite child” in a family is often a source of competition and sometimes a source for comedy. Years ago, a pair of sibling entertainers, the Smothers Brothers, made their family relationship a staple of their onstage humor when Tom, the older brother, would remind Dickie, the younger, “Mom always did like you best.” As we gather with God’s people at worship week by week, we can be certain that our gracious God values all of us and is pleased to see us grow in grace year by year. The psalmist wrote that “the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor” (Psalm 84:11). In the same Psalm 84 is the verse where the psalmist exclaims to God, “For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere” (v. 10). There is nothing better than for God’s favorite people, which we are, to be gathered in a most favorite place—which this is! It doesn’t get any better than that!

HYMN

Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng

LSB 813



1 Re - joice, O pil - grim throng! Re - joice, give
2 With voice as full and strong As o - cean's
3 With all the an - gel choirs, With all the
4 Yet on and on - ward still, With hymn and
5 Still lift your stan - dard high, Still march in



thanks, and sing; Your fes - tal ban - ner
surg - ing praise, Send forth the stur - dy
saints on earth Pour out the strains of
chant and song, Through gate and porch and
firm ar - ray, As pil - grims through the



wave on high, The cross of Christ your king.
 hymns of old, The psalms of an - cient days.
 joy and bliss, True rap - ture, no - blest mirth.
 col - umned aisle The hal - lowed path - ways throng.
 dark - ness wend Till dawns the gold - en day.

Refrain



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

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INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
 People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalms 103:1–2, 8, 13, 21–22

Pastor: Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name!

People: **Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits.**

Pastor: As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear Him.

People: **The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

Pastor: Bless the Lord, all His hosts, His ministers, who do His will!

People: **Bless the Lord, all His works, in all places of His dominion.
 Bless the Lord, O my soul!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now confess our sins to God, our Father.

People: Have mercy on us, Lord, and grant us Your forgiveness. We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We repent of our sins, those known to us and those unknown as well. Create in us clean hearts, gracious Lord, and put new and right spirits within us that we may be reconciled to You and at peace with all people. We trust in Christ alone for the forgiveness that we seek today and at all times. Give us the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us into paths of righteousness and finally bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As an 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.

HYMN

Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng

LSB 813

6 At last the march shall end; The wea - ried
△ 7 Praise Him who reigns on high, The Lord whom
ones shall rest; The pil - grims find their
we a - dore: The Fa - ther, Son, and
home at last, Je - ru - sa - lem the blest.
Ho - ly Ghost, One God for - ev - er - more.

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!

Text and tune: Public domain

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lector: Let us pray.

O Lord, You call us to be faithful and to heed Your fatherly discipline. Preserve us by Your perpetual mercy, guide us in ways of peace and love, keep us from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable to our salvation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 66:18–23

¹⁸ "For I know their works and their thoughts, and the time is coming to gather all nations and tongues. And they shall come and shall see my glory, ¹⁹ and I will set a sign among them. And from them I will send survivors to the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, who draw the bow, to Tubal and Javan, to the coastlands far away, that have not heard my fame or seen my glory. And they shall declare my glory among the nations. ²⁰ And they shall bring all your brothers from all the nations as an

offering to the Lord, on horses and in chariots and in litters and on mules and on dromedaries, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, says the Lord, just as the Israelites bring their grain offering in a clean vessel to the house of the Lord. ²¹ And some of them also I will take for priests and for Levites, says the Lord.

²² "For as the new heavens and the new earth that I make shall remain before me, says the Lord, so shall your offspring and your name remain.

²³ From new moon to new moon,

and from Sabbath to Sabbath, all flesh shall come to worship before me, declares the Lord.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Hebrews 12:4-29

⁴In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?

"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives."

⁷It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he

disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

¹²Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees, ¹³and make straight paths for your feet, so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed. ¹⁴Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. ¹⁵See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled; ¹⁶that no one is sexually immoral or unholy like Esau, who sold his birthright for a single meal. ¹⁷For you know that afterward, when he desired to inherit the blessing, he was rejected, for he found no chance to

repent, though he sought it with tears.

¹⁸ For you have not come to what may be touched, a blazing fire and darkness and gloom and a tempest ¹⁹ and the sound of a trumpet and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that no further messages be spoken to them. ²⁰ For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even a beast touches the mountain, it shall be stoned." ²¹ Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear." ²² But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, ²³ and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴ and to

Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

²⁵ See that you do not refuse him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will we escape if we reject him who warns from heaven. ²⁶ At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heavens." ²⁷ This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of things that are shaken—that is, things that have been made—in order that the things that cannot be shaken may remain. ²⁸ Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, ²⁹ for our God is a consuming fire.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 13:22—30

Lector: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

²² He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. ²³ And someone said to him, "Lord, will those who are saved be few?" And he said to them, ²⁴ "Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. ²⁵ When once the master of the house has risen and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, open to us,' then he will answer you, 'I do not know where you come from.' ²⁶ Then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in your presence,

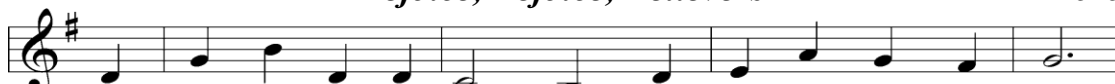
and you taught in our streets.' ²⁷ But he will say, 'I tell you, I do not know where you come from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!' ²⁸ In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. ²⁹ And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. ³⁰ And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

Lector: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**


HYMN OF THE DAY

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

LSB 515



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride-groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'ring bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
 Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
 Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
 A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
 A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride - groom is at hand.
 In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.
 The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

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SERMON

CATECHISM

The Second Article

People: I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

Lector: What does this mean?

I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord,

who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person,

purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death,

that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness,

just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity.

This is most certainly true.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Friends in Christ, I urge you all to lift up your hearts to God and pray with me as Christ our Lord has taught us and freely promised to hear us.

God, our Father in heaven, look with mercy on us, Your needy children on earth, and grant us grace that Your holy name be hallowed by us and all the world through the pure and true teaching of Your Word and the fervent love shown forth in our lives. Graciously turn from us all false doctrine and evil living whereby Your precious name is blasphemed and profaned. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: May Your kingdom come to us and expand. Bring all transgressors and those who are blinded and bound in the devil's kingdom to know Jesus Christ, Your Son, by faith that the number of Christians may be increased. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Strengthen us by Your Spirit according to Your will, both in life and in death, in the midst of both good and evil things, that our own wills may be crucified daily and sacrificed to Your good and gracious will.

Into Your merciful hands we commend all who are in need, praying for them at all times: Thy will be done. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Grant us our daily bread, preserve us from greed and selfish cares, and help us trust in You to provide for all our needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Forgive us our sins as we also forgive those who sin against us so that our hearts may be at peace and may rejoice in a good conscience before You, and that no sin may ever frighten or alarm us. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lead us not into temptation, O Lord, but help us by Your Spirit to subdue our flesh, to turn from the world and its ways, and to overcome the devil with all his wiles. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: And lastly, O heavenly Father, deliver us from all evil of both body and soul, now and forever. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We trust, O Lord, in Your great mercy to hear and answer us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

OFFERING / OFFERTORY

Soloist – Betty Erickson

Amazing Grace

LORD'S PRAYER

People: **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.**

BENEDICTION

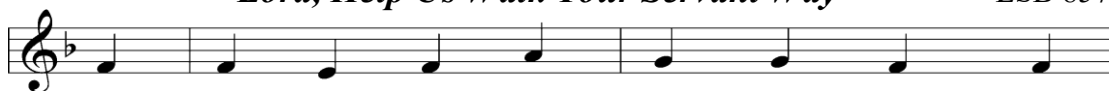
Pastor: **The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.**

People: **Amen.**

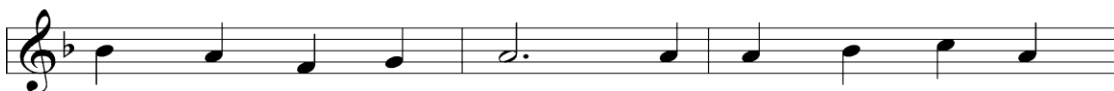
HYMN

Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way

LSB 857



1 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -
 2 You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord, But
 3 No gold - en scep - ter but a towel You
 4 You bid us bend our hu - man pride Nor
 5 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -



ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -
 pow'r You laid a - side. You lived Your years in
 place with - in the hands Of those who seek to
 count our - selves a - bove The low - est place, the
 ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -



get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.
 ser - vant - hood; In low - li - ness You died.
 fol - low You And live by Your com - mands.
 mean - est task That waits the gift of love.
 get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.

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NOTES

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For with you is the fountain of life;



in your light we see light. Psalm 36:9

Fountain of Life Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod
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Prayer Requests: Mary Ann Lowell 623-670-6870

Service Times

Sunday

Sunday Worship 10:00 am

Bible Study 11:15 am

Tuesday

Mid-week Bible Study 10:00 am

3rd Tuesday Men's Breakfast/Royal Cafe 8:30 am

Wednesday

Quilters 9:00 am

Thursday

1st & 3rd *Permission to Grieve Group* 10:00 am

Ladies Lunch Bunch cancelled in Sept. 11:30 am

Office Hours

Monday-Thursday (9am-2pm)

****Closed Friday****

Fountain of Life Lutheran Church