

UNEXPECTED TRUTHS

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9-6-26

WORSHIP THEME: There are so many wonderful surprises that God reveals in the Word of God. Biblical truth is revealed by God and cannot be discovered by reason alone. While some truth can be obvious to human reason, the truths of the Bible are often unexpected. Today, the unexpected truth revealed is “I am my brother’s keeper.” Happy Labor Day & Peach Festival Weekend!

† GOD CALLS †

CALL TO WORSHIP

Psalm 32

Pastor: You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble

ALL: and surround me with songs of deliverance

Pastor: Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous,

ALL: Sing to the Lord!

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

ALL: Amen!

OPENING SONG

“Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee”

Joyful, joyful we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow’rs before Thee,
Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
Fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav’n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow’ry meadow, flashing sea,

**Chanting bird, and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee.**

**Thou art giving and forgiving,
Ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living,
Ocean depth of happy rest!
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
Fountainhead of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit!
Joyful, we by grace are Thine!**

† GOD CLEANSSES †

TIME OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus to forgive us.

ALL: Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and good I have failed to do, You should cast me from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus' sake.

Pastor: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In His great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

SONG OF PRAISE "You Are My All In All"

**You are my strength when I am weak,
You are the Treasure that I seek,
You are my All in All.**

**Seeking You as a precious jewel,
Lord, to give up I'd be a fool,
You are my All in All.**

Chorus:
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name.
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name.

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame,
rising again I bless Your name.
You are my All in All.

When I fall down, You pick me up;
When I am dry, You fill my cup.
You are my All in All!

Chorus:
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name.
Jesus, Lamb of God, Worthy is Your name.
Worthy is Your name!

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you all!
ALL: And also with you!

† GOD SPEAKS †

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING Ezekiel 33:7-9

“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. ⁸ When I say to the wicked, ‘You wicked person, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for^[a] their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. ⁹ But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved.

SECOND READING Romans 13:1-10

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ² Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what

God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. ⁴For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

⁶This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. ⁷Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

⁸Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery," "You shall not murder," "You shall not steal," "You shall not covet,"^[a] and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."^[b] ¹⁰Love does no harm to a neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 18:1-20

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Who, then, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

²He called a little child to him, and placed the child among them. ³And he said: "Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. ⁴Therefore, whoever takes the lowly position of this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. ⁵And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.

⁶"If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. ⁷Woe to the world because of the things that cause people to stumble! Such things must come, but woe to the person through whom they come! ⁸If your hand or your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life maimed or crippled than to have two hands or two feet and be thrown into eternal fire. ⁹And if your eye causes you to

stumble, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into the fire of hell.

¹⁰ “See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven. ^[11] ^[a]

¹² “What do you think? If a man owns a hundred sheep, and one of them wanders away, will he not leave the ninety-nine on the hills and go to look for the one that wandered off? ¹³ And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. ¹⁴ In the same way your Father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should perish.

¹⁵ “If your brother or sister^[b] sins,^[c] go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶ But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’^[d] ¹⁷ If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸ “Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be^[e] bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be^[f] loosed in heaven.

¹⁹ “Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER

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.

SONG OF THE DAY

“Take My Life and Let It Be” (BIG BLUE BOOK, 695, v. 1-3)

**Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in cease-less praise.**

**Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.**

**Take my voice and let me sing Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee.**

MESSAGE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Nicene Creed

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.

† GOD GIVES †

Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION

“Glory Be to Jesus” (LSB 433)

**Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the life-blood From his sacred veins**

**Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;
Blest be his compassion, Infinitely kind**

**Blest through endless ages Be the precious stream
Which from endless torment Did the world redeem.**

**Abel’s blood for vengeance Pleaded to the skies;
But the blood of Jesus For our pardon cries.**

**Oft as earth exulting Wafts its praise on high,
Angel hosts rejoicing Make their glad reply.**

**Lift we then our voices, Swell the mighty flood;
Louder still and louder Praise the precious blood.**

“Praise and Thanksgiving” (LSB 789)

**Praise and thanksgiving,
Father, we offer
For all things living, Created good:
Harvest of sown fields,
Fruits of the orchard,
Hay from the mown fields,
Blossom and wood.**

**Bless, Lord, the labor
We bring to serve You
That with our neighbor
We may be fed.
Sowing or tilling,
We would work with You,
Harvesting, milling
For daily bread.**

Father, providing
Food for Your children,
By Your wise guiding
Teach us to share
One with another,
So that, rejoicing
With us, all others
May know Your care.

DISMISSAL

CLOSING SONG

“Lord Dismiss Us With Your Blessing” (LSB 924)

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing, Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, your love possessing, Triumph in redeeming grace.
Oh, refresh us; oh, refresh us, Trav’ling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration For your Gospel’s joyful sound.
May the fruits of your salvation In our hearts and lives abound.
Ever faithful, ever faithful To your truth may we be found.

Savior, when your love shall call us From our struggling pilgrim way,
Let not the fear of death appall us, Glad your summons to obey.
May we ever, may we ever Reign with you in endless day.

† GOD BLESSES & SENDS †

BLESSING

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon
you and be gracious to you; The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

ALL: Amen!

Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord!

ALL: Thanks be to God