

TWELFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 16

I Believe in the Holy Spirit

Built on “The Christ”

August 23, 2020



AS WE GATHER

God’s people have gifts that are signs of His loving presence and demonstrations of His gracious power. In a sermon preached in 1538, Martin Luther observed, “Whoever comes to faith can only say that the Holy Spirit comes when and where and to whom He pleases at the time He pleases. He comes when and where He pleases and also gives a person as many gifts as He pleases” (*WLS* § 2057). As people in whom the Spirit dwells, we have the joy of discovering special gifts of God in one another and in ourselves as well. May that mutual discovering and celebrating be truly God pleasing in every way! Acknowledging Jesus as the Christ is central to our confession of faith as individual Christians and vital in our worship as the gathered people of God. In our use of that divine title, we echo the words of the angel who spoke to the shepherds in the field outside of Bethlehem with the Gospel message, “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Luke 2:11). We are blessed in knowing that Jesus, the Christ, is not only God in person in human form but that He is God for us. St. Patrick poetically spoke his confession with the words “Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me.” As we confess Jesus as the Christ this day, we are joining with saints and angels as well as with the sisters and brothers that surround us gathered for worship!

✘ PREPARATION ✘

Lord God, Maker of heaven and earth, we gather together in Your name. We come as living sacrifices, to offer You our worship, our praise and our prayers. Come among us, living Lord. Through the power of Your Holy Spirit, transform our hearts and minds so that we may recognize Your presence, hear Your voice, know Your will, and walk in Your way. Faithful God, we come into Your presence with thanksgiving, deeply grateful for the unfailing love and faithfulness You have shown toward us, Your people. When we call out to You, You answer. When we are exhausted, You give us the strength to go on. When we find ourselves in trouble, You are there, standing beside us. And so, we come before You with gratitude and praise, offering You the worship of our hearts and lives. Finally, God, we pray for ourselves—members of Your Body here on earth. Break down the barriers that divide us from one another. Unite us in our common allegiance to You as Lord and Saviour. Grant us compassion and humility in our relationships. Release the gifts You have given to each one, so that in us and through us, Your kingdom might come and Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. And then send us out from here, to live and work in the world as Your faithful disciples. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE.... We, the members of Trinity Lutheran Church are please today that you have made a choice to worship with us this morning. We gather in the name of the living Christ to worship God. As we worship, let us pray that He will open our eyes, that we may behold wondrous blessings out of His word. That we may share God's love and life and may we be renewed in the refreshing Spirit of the living Christ. Welcome and come into this place, where we strive to reflect the love, peace, and wholeness of such a God. Let us Worship God together!

PRAISE WORSHIP

Minister Terry Dale

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: We have begun our worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Let us speak together the words of the Apostles' Creed regarding the Third Person of the Holy Trinity.

People: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Pastor: What does this mean?

People: **I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.
This is most certainly true.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

People: **Gracious God, with contrition and repentance, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We are by nature sinful and unclean. Daily we have sinned and done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your servants. We indeed deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is not in ourselves but in the merits of Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us remission of all of**

our sins, and by the power of the Holy Spirit at work within our hearts and lives, lead us into ways that reflect Your goodness and love.

Pastor: God is gracious and merciful and hears our supplications. By the command of our Lord and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

✠ WORD ✠

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, You inspired Peter to confess Jesus as the Christ, Your living Son. Keep Your Church firm on the rock of this faith, that in unity and peace the Savior will be proclaimed throughout the world until the end of time as the Holy Spirit works in the lives of Your people. This we ask 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 51:1–6* (The salvation of the Lord will be forever.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

EPISTLE *Romans 11:33–12:8* (We are one Body in Christ.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Ephesians 2:19b–20*

People: **Alleluia. You are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 16:13–20* (Jesus is confessed as the Christ, the Son of the living God, by Peter.)

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

SERMON

SELECTION

Minister Terry Dale

(We Bring Our Tithes & Offering)

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father, almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our LORD. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Philippians 4:5b–6; Galatians 5:22–23a, 25; 6:10,

Leader: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs, invoking the Holy Spirit as the first stanzas of the hymn “To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray” during our time of intercession. The first stanza of the hymn dates back to the thirteenth century; the other three stanzas were written in the sixteenth century by Martin Luther.

People: Lord Have Mercy.

Leader: We pray for the Church, that God’s people live confidently and share joyfully the message of salvation in word and deed. And we pray for this gathering of God’s holy people, that we be blessed with all grace and evidence the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Lord, be with us and bless us.

People: The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Leader: We pray for our families and for those who share in our Christian fellowship and join with us in worship, and for all who are part of the household of faith. Also we pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized or shut in, those who are grieving, the unemployed and underemployed, the chronically ill, and all those whose needs are known and unknown to us. Lord, grant that we bring Your blessing to situations of need in all places.

People: **If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. . . . As we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.**

Leader: Merciful God, we thank You for all those faithful people whose words and actions have guided us in the past, especially remembering those no longer with us on earth, who now share in Your eternal presence. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, direct us to walk Your servant way throughout our lives until that day when we stand in Your glorious presence in heaven. Amen.

People: **The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.**

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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. *Numbers 6:24–26*

People: **Amen.**

SELECTION

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