**SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST September 28, 2025**

**Prairieland Parish**

As we unite in worship today, we extend a warm welcome to each one present. May we together experience the presence of God

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**We Gather to Prepare Our Hearts to Meet Our Lord**



**Prelude – Welcome -Announcements**

Today we are going to take a look at Hebrews 11 which is often called the faith chapter. It describes how various people responded in faith to what God said to them. But these stories are not told as historical trivia — they encourage us to have faith in our situations, too.

One of the beautiful points of this scripture is that we do not receive all the promises of God in this life. Although we are given eternal life, we still die. But the gift is real, and the promise will be kept.

We have to trust God on it. (We certainly can’t bring it about on our own power!) We must look to God, not this world, for meaning and purpose in life. Our current life is a temporary training time. We do not “belong” in this society and culture; our permanent home and allegiance is the kingdom of God, and that is where our hopes should be.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather, as God's people, bringing our fears and pain,
knowing that when our spirits have grown cold,
**God rekindles the gift of faith in us.**We gather, as God's people,
hanging our broken hearts on the branches of the tree of life.
knowing that while friends may turn against us,
**God transforms enemies into sisters and brothers.**We gather, as God's people, hungering for healing and hope,
knowing that even when life is no picnic,
**God prepares a feast for us.**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**Spirit of God, enlighten our hearts to the reality of divine presence in our midst.**

**Let our worship be pleasing in your sight, so that our gathering is an experience of deep communion with you and one another. In the name of Jesus Christ, this is our prayer. Amen.**

**Praise Hymn UMH #354 “I Surrender All”**

*Author: J. W. Van Deventer (1896)*

*Publication Date: 1989*

*Tune Information*

*Composer: W. S. Weeden (1896)*

**1. All to Jesus I surrender;**

**all to him I freely give;**

**I will ever love and trust him,**

**in his presence daily live.**

**Refrain:**

**I surrender all, I surrender all,**

**all to thee, my blessed Savior,**

**I surrender all.**

**2. All to Jesus I surrender;**

**humbly at his feet I bow,**

**worldly pleasures all forsaken;**

**take me, Jesus, take me now. [Refrain]**

**3. All to Jesus I surrender;**

**make me, Savior, wholly thine;**

**let me feel the Holy Spirit,**

**truly know that thou art mine. [Refrain]**

**4. All to Jesus I surrender;**

**Lord, I give myself to thee;**

**fill me with thy love and power;**

**let thy blessing fall on me. [Refrain]**

**5. All to Jesus I surrender;**

**now I feel the sacred flame.**

**O the joy of full salvation!**

**Glory, glory to his name! [Refrain]**

***We Hear God’s Word***

**New Testament Reading………………………………………………………….** **Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16**

**New Revised Standard Version**

***The Meaning of Faith***

*11 Now faith is the assurance[a] of things hoped for, the conviction[b] of things not seen. 2 Indeed, by faith[c] our ancestors received approval. 3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.[d]*

***The Faith of Abraham***

*8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going. 9 By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. 10 For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God. 11 By faith, with Sarah’s involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered[a] him faithful who had promised. 12 Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, “as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.”*

*13 All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth, 14 for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland. 15 If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.*

Word of God, For the People of God, **Thanks Be to God!**

**Children’s Sermon**

**Faith Hymn UMH #357 “Just as I Am, Without One Plea” (verses 1,3,5)**

*Author: Charlotte Elliott (1835)*

*Publication Date: 1989*

*Tune Information*

*Name: WOODWORTH*

*Composer: William B. Bradbury (1849)*

http://www.gbod3.org/sorter/audio/357.mp3

**1. Just as I am, without one plea,**

**but that thy blood was shed for me,**

**and that thou bidst me come to thee,**

**O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**3. Just as I am, though tossed about**

**with many a conflict, many a doubt,**

**fightings and fears within, without,**

**O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**5. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,**

**wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;**

**because thy promise I believe,**

**O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**\*Meditation\***

**Joys/Concerns**

**PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE**

God of Redemption, You call us to wash ourselves clean, so that our transgressions fall away. May we cease doing evil, learn to do good, and seek justice.

You call us to rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, and plead for the widow.

May we not forget these responsibilities you’ve set before us.

We are grateful for the reminder from the prophet Isaiah that,

though our sins are like scarlet, you’ll make us like snow!

Even though they are red like crimson, you make them like wool!

May we be obedient and willing followers, pleasing unto you.

We pray all these things through Jesus Christ our Lord who taught us to pray…

**Offertory (UM Hymnal 95) Doxology.**

**Offertory Prayer**

God of love and grace, we bring our offerings this day and ask that they might be dedicated to strengthening your church for the making of disciples for Jesus Christ. Your prophet Isaiah reminds us that offering money or possessions is not enough. Isaiah proclaims to the Israelites that unless their offerings are accompanied by a wiliness to “learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow,” the offerings are futile. Open our ears to hear what pleases you and open our eyes to see the opportunities all around us. We pray in Christ’s name. Amen.

**\*Departing Hymn UMH #666 “Shalom To You”**

Author: Elise S. Eslinger (1980)

Publication Date: 1989

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Tune Information

Harmonizer: Carlton R. Young (1989)

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**Shalom to you now, shalom,**

**my friends, May God’s full mercies**

 **bless you, my friends.**

**In all your living**

**and through your loving,**

**Christ be your shalom,**

**Christ be your shalom**

**BENEDICTION**

By: Richard Halverson

Wherever you go, God is sending you.

Wherever you are, God has put you there.

God has a purpose in your being right where you are.

Christ, who indwells you by the power of his Spirit,

wants to do something in and through you.

Believe this and go in his grace, his love, his power.

In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen

**Postlude**