**FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST September 7, 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**

There is more to our faith than believing.

As disciples we are to live out our faith each day.

And we do that through evangelism.

Now, the thought of Evangelism frightens many of us. Why? Because when we think of evangelism, many times what comes to our minds is a preacher on a street corner with a bullhorn, encouraging people to repent of their sins. Or perhaps we think of a total stranger who confronts us with the question, “Have you been saved?”

Too often the focus of evangelism is that of aggressive people making others feel very uncomfortable.

Reaching out to lost people was a high priority for Jesus. He declared, “For the

Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.” We will see that clearly in today’s text.

What Jesus wants us to understand is that Evangelism is more than making sure St.

Peter welcomes you through the pearly gates. It is encouraging others to experience

God, the goodness of God, now, in this life. It is our faith that give us meaning and

purpose in life; it is our faith that helps us through hard times, it is our faith that

motivates us to serve other; it is our faith that grounds us.

So let us come together and be grounded in our faith.

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

(inspired by Luke 15:1-10)

God calls to the lost, the least, and all who long for home;

**God calls when we wander from the path chosen for us**

**and waste the gifts we have been given.**

God calls and welcomes us back to worship this day;

**let us celebrate and rejoice in God’s presence forever;**

let us worship God together.

**GENERAL PRAYER**

**Holy God: We give you thanks and praise for the beauty of this day and for all the promise it offers. We thank you for life, for joy, for every opportunity to walk with you as children of the light. Cleanse our hearts and give us a new heart like the shepherd who left the ninety-nine to go looking for the one, whose heart was full of joy when he found it, who celebrated and put the lost sheep on his shoulders because he was so happy to have found it. Help us to find our greatest joy in the finding of the lost. Help us to remember, and perhaps to know for the first time, the joy that comes from being lost and then being found by your love and grace. In Jesus name we pray. Amen**

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE UMH #378 “Amazing Grace!” (verse 1-4)**

*Author: John Newton (1779)*

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[*http://www.gbod3.org/sorter/audio/378.mp3*](http://www.gbod3.org/sorter/audio/378.mp3)

**1 Amazing grace (how sweet the sound)**

**that saved a wretch like me!**

**I once was lost, but now am found,**

**was blind, but now I see.**

**2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;**

**how precious did that grace appear**

**the hour I first believed!**

**3 Through many dangers, toils and snares**

**I have already come:**

**'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,**

**and grace will lead me home.**

**4 The Lord has promised good to me,**

**his word my hope secures;**

**he will my shield and portion be**

**as long as life endures.**

***We Hear God’s Word***

**Gospel Reading………………………………………………………………………………… Luke 15:1-10**

**New Revised Standard Version**

***The Parable of the Lost Sheep***

*15 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. 2 And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”*

*3 So he told them this parable: 4 “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? 5 And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. 6 And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ 7 Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.*

***The Parable of the Lost Coin***

*8 “Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? 9 And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ 10 Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”*

The Word of God for the People of God, **Thanks be to God!**

**CHILDREN’S SERMON**

**FAITH HYMN UMH #381 “Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us”**

*Author (attr.): Dorothy A. Thrupp (1836)*

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<http://www.gbod3.org/sorter/audio/381.mp3>

**1 Savior, like a shepherd lead us,**

**Much we need Thy tender care;**

**In Thy pleasant pastures feed us,**

**For our use Thy folds prepare:**

**Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,**

**Thou hast bought us, Thine we are;**

**Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,**

**Thou hast bought us, Thine we are.**

**2 We are Thine, do Thou befriend us,**

**Be the guardian of our way;**

**Keep Thy flock, from sin defend us,**

**Seek us when we go astray:**

**Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,**

**Hear, O hear us when we pray;**

**Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,**

**Hear, O hear us when we pray.**

**3 Thou hast promised to receive us,**

**Poor and sinful though we be;**

**Thou hast mercy to relieve us,**

**Grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free:**

**Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,**

**Early let us turn to Thee;**

**Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,**

**Early let us turn to Thee.**

**4 Early let us seek Thy favor,**

**Early let us do Thy will;**

**Blessed Lord and only Savior,**

**With Thy love our bosoms fill:**

**Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,**

**Thou hast loved us, love us still;**

**Blessèd Jesus, blessèd Jesus,**

**Thou hast loved us, love us still**

**“Message”**

**INVITATION UMH Page #12**

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,

who earnestly repent of their sin

and seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**CONFESSION AND PARDON.**

**Merciful God,**

**we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.**

**We have failed to be an obedient church.**

**We have not done your will,**

**we have broken your law,**

**we have rebelled against your love,**

**we have not loved our neighbors,**

**and we have not heard the cry of the needy.**

**Forgive us, we pray.**

**Free us for joyful obedience,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;

that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**Glory to God. Amen.**

**THE GREAT THANKSGIVING\***

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,

always and everywhere to give thanks to you,

Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

You formed us in your image

and breathed into us the breath of life.

When we turned away, and our love failed,

your love remained steadfast.

You delivered us from captivity,

made covenant to be our sovereign God,

and spoke to us through the prophets.

And so, with your people on earth

and all the company of heaven

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ.

Your Spirit anointed him

to preach good news to the poor,

to proclaim release to the captives

and recovering of sight to the blind,

to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

and to announce that the time had come

when you would save your people.

He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners.

By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection

you gave birth to your Church,

delivered us from slavery to sin and death,

and made with us a new covenant

by water and the Spirit.

When the Lord Jesus ascended,

he promised to be with us always,

in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,

he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread,

gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup,

gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said:

"Drink from this, all of you;

this is my blood of the new covenant,

poured out for you and for many

for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this, as often as you drink it,

in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,

we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving

as a holy and living sacrifice,

in union with Christ's offering for us,

as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,

and on these gifts of bread and wine.

Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ,

that we may be for the world the body of Christ,

redeemed by his blood.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ,

one with each other,

and one in ministry to all the world,

until Christ comes in final victory

and we feast at his heavenly banquet.

Through your Son Jesus Christ,

with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church,

all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father,

now and forever. Amen.

And now with the confidence of the children of God we pray, Our Father…

**Sharing of the Elements**

**Joys/Concerns**

**Prayers of the People**

In our trouble and need, we look to you, Lord, the giver of our daily bread,

We pray for the church . . .

Help us to discern the mind of Christ, so that we may abide in your word

and walk in your ways each day.

We pray for the world . . .

Show your mercy and grace to the nations, feeding the hungry, redeeming the captives,

and establishing justice for all people.

We pray for this community . . .

Let your wisdom dwell among us, so that we may lay aside foolish ways

and return to your path of righteousness.

We pray for loved ones . . .

Pour out your blessing, O Lord, on all those who are suffering;

give them long lives to enjoy your goodness.

Generous God, as you provide for us each day,

nourish and strengthen us in faith and faithfulness,

so that we may share your grace in a hungry world;

through Jesus Christ, the bread of life. Amen.

**Offertory/Doxology /Prayer**

God of relentless love, the Gospel reminds us of the joy you feel when one of your children chooses the path of repentance and redemption. We also know how prone we are to wander off that path as we pursue those things that satisfy ourselves only. Receive the gifts we offer this day as a sign of our striving to get back on the path that leads us to you. We pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, the light on our path! Amen. (Luke 15:1-10)

**Departing Hymn UMH #671 “Lord, Dismiss Us with Thy Blessing”**

*Author: John Fawcett (1773)*

*Publication Date: 1989*

*Tune Information*

*Name: SICILIAN MARINERS*

*Meter: 87.87.87*

[*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FlIAJHoO1FA*](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FlIAJHoO1FA)

**1. Lord, dismiss us with thy blessing;**

**fill our hearts with joy and peace;**

**let us each, thy love possessing,**

**triumph in redeeming grace.**

**O refresh us, O refresh us,**

**traveling through this wilderness.**

**2. Thanks we give and adoration**

**for thy gospel's joyful sound.**

**May the fruits of thy salvation**

**in our hearts and lives abound;**

**ever faithful, ever faithful**

**to the truth may we be found.**

**Benediction**

May we who have been found by the grace and overwhelming love of God, now become those who seek with grace and joy. Go into your world with open eyes and longing hearts. And may the peace of God resonate in every invitation and every welcome. Amen.

**\*POSTLUDE**