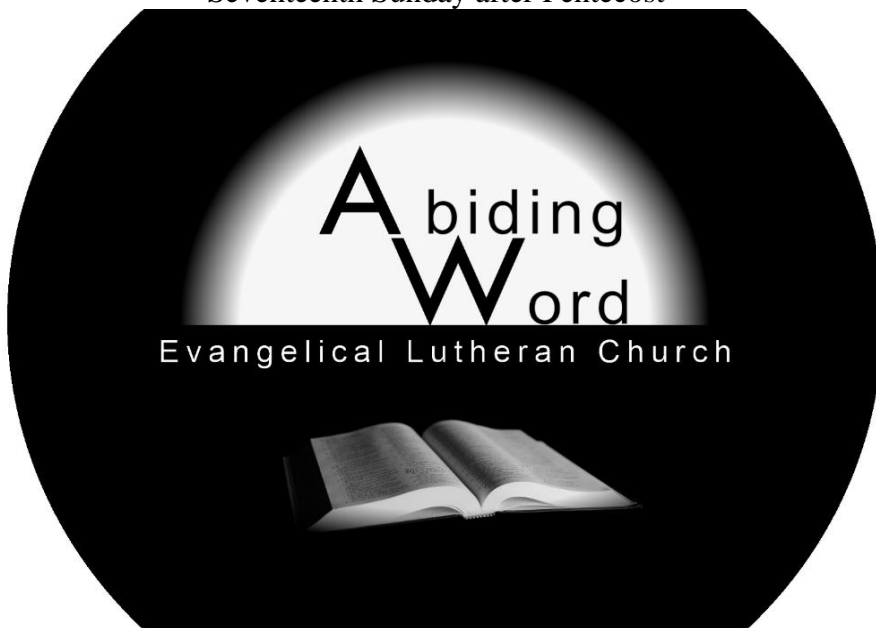


September 15, 2024
Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost



8470 Landen Drive Maineville, Ohio

*At Abiding Word
We gather around the Word (worship)
We grow in the Word (education)
And we share the Word with the world (outreach).*



Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wisconsin Synod
513.677.9357 abidingword.com

Pastor -Troy Jacobs 937.503.3333 welstroyjacobs@yahoo.com

Welcome!

To all who have gathered here this morning we welcome you in the name of Christ our Lord. Through him we have access to God in boldness and confidence. (Ephesians 3:12)

THE NEED FOR FOLLOWERSHIP

FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST ARE ARMED FOR THE BATTLE

Jesus Christ is the leader of our congregation, our home, our lives. And his leadership is perfect in every way. Therefore, when things are amiss in any of those arenas, what is needed is not better leadership, but better followership. In this series, we ask Christ to empower us with his Spirit so that we might better follow his lead. May we better reflect the beauty of his life, better make his priorities our own, and better serve our God and neighbor.

What is the worst war in human history? One might point to World War II, which has the highest death toll of at least 90 million people. Or consider the Three Kingdoms War, which not only resulted in over 40 million deaths but also lasted for most of the third century. There is no end to the sad list of nominations: the Thirty Years War, the Taiping Rebellion, the American Civil War, World War I.

None of those is the correct answer. The worst war in human history began when the first shot was fired in Eden. It has been raging since. It is a war against “spiritual forces of evil” (Ephesians 6:12). This is not a war over land or resources. It is a war for souls. The reality is that there are demonic forces that want to do more than kill you; they want to claim you for all eternity. The good news: Christ has already called you his own and equipped you for this war. Followers of Christ are armed for the battle.

744 RISE, SHINE, YOU PEOPLE

- 1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
our human story; God in him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
with grace unbounded.**

- 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
he brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,
now are forgiven.**

- 3 Come, celebrate, your banners high unfurling,
your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story
of Jesus' glory.**

- 4 Tell how the Father sent his Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation
his new creation.**

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.

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M: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



1 My heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who bore my
 2 My heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who walks be -
 3 My heart is filled with thank-ful-ness to him who reigns a -



pain, who plumbed the depths of my dis - grace and
 side, who floods my weak - ness - es with strength and
 above, whose wis - dom is my per - fect peace, whose



gave me life a - gain, who crushed my curse of sin - ful -
 caus - es fears to fly, whose ev - 'ry prom - ise is e -
 ev - 'ry thought is love. For ev - 'ry day I have on



ness and clothed me in his light and wrote his law of
 nough for ev - 'ry step I take, sus - tain - ing me with
 earth is giv - en by the King. So I will give my



right - eous - ness with pow'r up - on my heart.
 arms of love and crown - ing me with grace.
 life, my all, to love and fol - low him.



* This phrase repeats at the end of st. 3.

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 Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

FIRST READING

1 KINGS 18:21–39

²¹Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.”

But the people said nothing.

²²Then Elijah said to them, “I am the only one of the Lord’s prophets left, but Baal has four hundred and fifty prophets. ²³Get two bulls for us. Let Baal’s prophets choose one for themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. ²⁴Then you call on the name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by fire—he is God.”

Then all the people said, “What you say is good.”

²⁵Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire.” ²⁶So they took the bull given them and prepared it.

Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. “Baal, answer us!” they shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

²⁷At noon Elijah began to taunt them. “Shout louder!” he said. “Surely he is a god! Perhaps he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be awakened.” ²⁸So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was their custom, until their blood flowed. ²⁹Midday passed, and they continued their frantic prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.

³⁰Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come here to me.” They came to him, and he repaired the altar of the Lord, which had been torn down. ³¹Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, “Your name shall be Israel.” ³²With the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord, and he dug a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs of seed. ³³He arranged the wood, cut the bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, “Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood.”

³⁴“Do it again,” he said, and they did it again.

“Do it a third time,” he ordered, and they did it the third time. ³⁵The water ran down around the altar and even filled the trench.

³⁶At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “Lord, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command. ³⁷Answer me, Lord, answer me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts back again.”

³⁸Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil, and also licked up the water in the trench.

³⁹When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The Lord—he is God! The Lord—he is God!”

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

46D A Mighty Fortress Is Our God *Psalm 46D*

1 A mighty fortress is our God,
a trusty shield and weapon;
he helps us free from ev'ry need
that has us now o'ertaken. The old evil foe
now means deadly woe;
deep guile and great might
are his dread arms in fight;
on earth is not his equal.

2 With might of ours can naught be done,
soon were our loss effected;
but for us fights the valiant one
whom God himself elected.
You ask, "Who is this?"
Jesus Christ it is,
the almighty LORD,
and there's no other God;
he holds the field forever.

3 Though devils all the world should fill,
all eager to devour us,
we tremble not, we fear no ill;
they shall not overpow'r us.
This world's prince may still
scowl fierce as he will,
he can harm us none.
He's judged; the deed is done;
one little word can fell him.

4 The Word they still shall let remain
nor any thanks have for it;
he's by our side upon the plain
with his good gifts and Spirit.
And take they our life,
goods, fame, child and wife,
though all may be gone,
our victory is won;
the kingdom's ours forever!

Text: tr. composite; Martin Luther
Text: Public domain

SECOND READING

EPHESIANS 6:10–18

¹⁰Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. ¹¹Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. ¹²For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. ¹³Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. ¹⁴Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, ¹⁵and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. ¹⁶In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. ¹⁷Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

¹⁸And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

MARK 9:14–27

¹⁴When they came to the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and the teachers of the law arguing with them. ¹⁵As soon as all the people saw Jesus, they were overwhelmed with wonder and ran to greet him.

¹⁶“What are you arguing with them about?” he asked.

¹⁷A man in the crowd answered, “Teacher, I brought you my son, who is possessed by a spirit that has robbed him of speech. ¹⁸Whenever it seizes him, it throws him to the ground. He foams at the mouth, gnashes his teeth and becomes rigid. I asked your disciples to drive out the spirit, but they could not.”

¹⁹“You unbelieving generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy to me.”

²⁰So they brought him. When the spirit saw Jesus, it immediately threw the boy into a convulsion. He fell to the ground and rolled around, foaming at the mouth.

²¹Jesus asked the boy's father, “How long has he been like this?”

“From childhood,” he answered. ²²“It has often thrown him into fire or water to kill him. But if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us.”

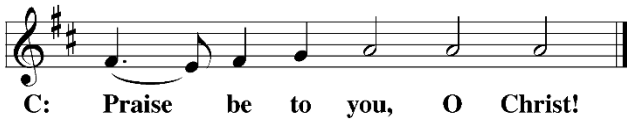
²³“If you can?” said Jesus. “Everything is possible for one who believes.”

²⁴Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, “I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!”

²⁵When Jesus saw that a crowd was running to the scene, he rebuked the impure spirit. “You deaf and mute spirit,” he said, “I command you, come out of him and never enter him again.”

²⁶The spirit shrieked, convulsed him violently and came out. The boy looked so much like a corpse that many said, "He's dead." ²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him to his feet, and he stood up.

M: This is the gospel of our Lord.



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

517 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

- 1 Praise the one who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light;
praise the one who frees the pris'ners,
turning blindness into sight.
Praise the one who preached the gospel,
healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the Father's word of peace.

- 2 Praise the one who blessed the children
with a strong, yet gentle, word;
praise the one who drove out demons
with the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the one who brings cool water
to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water,
quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

- 3 Let us praise the Word incarnate,
Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose victorious
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done;
let us praise the true Redeemer,
praise the one who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955, alt.

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APOSTLES' CREED

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

**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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come 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

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.

872 STAND UP, STAND UP FOR JESUS

- 1 Stand up, stand up for Jesus, ye soldiers of the cross;
lift high his royal banner, it must not suffer loss.
From vict'ry unto vict'ry his army shall he lead
till ev'ry foe is vanquished and Christ is Lord indeed.
- 2 Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the trumpet call obey;
forth to the mighty conflict in this his glorious day.
Ye that are brave, now serve him against unnumbered foes;
let courage rise with danger and strength to strength oppose.
- 3 Stand up, stand up for Jesus, stand in his strength alone;
the arm of flesh will fail you, ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the gospel armor, each piece put on with prayer;
where duty calls or danger, be never wanting there.
- 4 Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the strife will not be long;
this day the noise of battle, the next, the victor's song.
To him that overcometh a crown of life shall be;
he with the King of glory shall reign eternally.

Text: George Duffield, Jr., 1818-1888, abr., alt.
Text: Public domain

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.



870 O CHURCH, ARISE



1 O Church, a - rise and put your ar - mor on; hear the
 2 Our call to war— to love the cap - tive soul, but to
 3 Come see the cross, where love and mer - cy meet, as the
 4 So Spir - it come, put strength in ev - 'ry stride, give —



call of Christ our cap - tain. For now the weak can say that
 rage a - gainst the cap - tor; and with the sword that makes the
 Son of God is strick - en; then see his foes lie crushed be -
 grace for ev - 'ry hur - dle, that we may run with faith to



they are strong in the strength that God has giv - en.
 wound - ed whole we will fight with faith and val - or.
 neath his feet, for the Con - quer - or has ris - en!
 win the prize of a ser - vant good and faith - ful.



With shield of faith and belt of truth we'll stand a -
 When faced with trials on ev - 'ry side, we know the
 And as the stone is rolled a - way, and Christ e -
 As saints of old still line the way, re - tell - ing



gainst the dev - il's lies; an ar - my bold whose bat - tle
 out - come is se - cure, and Christ will have the prize for
 merg - es from the grave, this vic - t'ry march con - tin - ues
 tri - umphs of his grace, we hear their calls and hun - ger



cry is love, reach - ing out to those in dark - ness.
 which he died— an in - her - it - ance of na - tions.
 till the day ev - 'ry eye and heart shall see him.
 for the day when with Christ we stand in glo - ry.

Text: Stuart Townsend, b. 1963; Keith Getty, b. 1974

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