

## WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE

**THE BIBLE** – We believe that EVERY word in the Bible is inspired by God, and therefore the whole Bible is the true, unalterable Word of God, clearly teaching the way of salvation. (2Ti. 3:15-17).

**GOD** – We believe that God is ONE (Dt. 6:4) and that He has revealed Himself in three distinct Persons (Mt. 3:13-17), the Father, our Creator and Preserver; the Son, Jesus, Who is both God and Man, and our only Saviour; the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts and enables us to live a God-pleasing life.

**MAN** – We believe that God created man with body and soul, in His image, but man of his own free will lost this image through sin. (Gn. 1:27; 2:7; 3.)

**SIN** – “Sin is the transgression of the Law.” (1Jn 3:4). There are two kinds of sin: original (inherited) sin (Ps. 51:5) and actual sin (sin in thought, word and deed) (Mt. 15:19). Man is subject to death and eternal damnation by reason of the guilt that attaches to sin.

**REDEMPTION** – We believe that God out of pure love and mercy redeemed mankind from sin through the all-sufficient sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, and His resurrection shows that God was satisfied with the work of Christ. (Jn 3:16; 1Jn 2:2; Ro. 4:25).

**FAITH** – We believe that the sinner must personally receive the merits of Jesus for salvation and trust that, “Jesus died for me.” (Jn 17:3; Ja 1:21; Ps. 31:14).

**THE CHURCH** – We believe that the church, established by Christ is the whole number of believers in Christ, for only believers are members of the church. Jesus Christ is its one and only foundation (Ep. 2:19-22). The church is found wherever the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution.

**SACRAMENTS** – We believe that Christ instituted two sacraments, and when Baptism is administered to infants and adults, according to the command of Christ, God offers His grace and forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16). In the Lord’s Supper communicants receive in, with and under the bread and wine also Christ’s body and blood. Believing communicants receive this for the forgiveness of sins (1Co. 11:24-25).

**SECOND COMING OF CHRIST** – We believe that Christ will return visibly to earth (Acts 1:11) on the Last Day (Mk. 13:32) to judge the world (Acts 10:42). The believers will go to heaven, to be with God forever (1Th. 4:13-18). The unbelievers will go to hell, eternally separated from God (Mt. 25:32, 46).

**RESURRECTION** – We believe that on the Last Day believers in Christ will rise from the dead, their souls reunited with their earthly bodies and glorified by Christ (Jn 14:19; 17:24).

# Ninth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 12 A)

## July 30, 2023

### **INTROIT**

*Psalm 105:2-6; Antiphon: Psalm 105:1*

*Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples!*

*Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wondrous works!*

*Glory in his holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice!*

*Seek the LORD and his strength;  
seek his presence continually!*

*Remember the wondrous works that he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgments he uttered,*

*O offspring of Abraham, his servant,  
children of Jacob, his chosen ones!*

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name;  
make known his deeds among the peoples!*

### **COLLECT OF THE DAY**

**P** *Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love, that, receiving what You have promised, we may love what You have commanded; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**C** **Amen**

### **GRADUAL**

*Romans 11:33, 36*

*Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God!*

*How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways!*

*For from him and through him and to him are all things.*

*To him be glory forever. Amen.*

### **RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS**

*After each petition:*

**P** *Lord, in Your mercy*

**C** **hear our prayer.**

## **Deuteronomy 7:6-9 (ESV)**

<sup>6</sup> “For you are a people holy to the LORD your God. The LORD your God has chosen you to be a people for his treasured possession, out of all the peoples who are on the face of the earth. <sup>7</sup> It was not because you were more in number than any other people that the LORD set his love on you and chose you, for you were the fewest of all peoples, <sup>8</sup> but it is because the LORD loves you and is keeping the oath that he swore to your fathers, that the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand and redeemed you from the house of slavery, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Know therefore that the LORD your God is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, to a thousand generations.

## **Romans 8:28-39 (ESV)**

<sup>28</sup> And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. <sup>29</sup> For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. <sup>30</sup> And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

<sup>31</sup> What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup> He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup> Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup> Who

is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. <sup>35</sup> Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? <sup>36</sup> As it is written,

“For your sake we are being killed all the day long;

we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup> No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup> For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, <sup>39</sup> nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **Matthew 13:44-52 (ESV)**

<sup>44</sup> [Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and covered up. Then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

<sup>45</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls, <sup>46</sup> who, on finding one pearl of great value, went and sold all that he had and bought it.

<sup>47</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and gathered fish of every kind. <sup>48</sup> When it was full, men drew it ashore and sat down and sorted the good into containers but threw away the bad. <sup>49</sup> So it will be at the close of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that

place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

<sup>51</sup> “Have you understood all these things?” They said to him, “Yes.”

<sup>52</sup> And he said to them, “Therefore

every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like a master of a house, who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.

## **NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

### **Proper 12A**

Deuteronomy 7:6–9

Romans 8:28–39

Matthew 13:44–52

### ***The Son of God Has Redeemed Us for Himself with His Holy and Precious Blood***

The Lord our God has chosen us to be “*His treasured possession,*” not because of any strength in us, but solely “*because the Lord loves*” us (Deut. 7:6–8). He is faithful, and He “*keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love Him and keep His commandments*” (Deut. 7:9). He has searched for us and found us in love, and He has bestowed on us “*great value*” by the great price that He has paid on the cross (Matt. 13:45–46). In His joy, He has redeemed us by His cross and gathered us into His Kingdom by the Gospel. Now we are “*hidden in a field,*” covered by the cross and subject to the persecution of the world (Matt. 13:44), not for destruction, but “*to be conformed to the image of His Son*” (Rom. 8:29). Since we “*are called according to His purpose*” (Rom. 8:28), and because Christ Jesus died, rose again, and lives to intercede for us “*at the right hand of God*” (Rom. 8:34), there is nothing in all creation that can separate us from “*the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord*” (Rom. 8:39).

### ***Next Week’s Readings from God’s Word:***

August 6: Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 55:1-5; Psalm 136:1-9, 23-26, (v.26);

Romans 9:1-5 (6-13); Matthew 14 :13-21