

## 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).

# Fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 7 A)

## June 25, 2023

### INTROIT

*Psalm 56: 3-4, 10-11; Antiphon: Psalm 56:13*

*For you have delivered my soul from death, yes my feet from falling,  
that I may walk before God in the light of life.*

*When I am afraid,*

*I put my trust in you.*

*In God, whose word I praise, in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.*

*What can flesh do to me?*

*In God, whose word I praise,*

*in the LORD, whose word I praise,*

*in God I trust; I shall not be afraid.*

*What can man do to me?*

**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.**

*For you have delivered my soul from death, yes my feet from falling,  
that I may walk before God in the light of life.*

### COLLECT OF THE DAY

**P** *O God, because Your abiding presence always goes with us, keep us aware  
of Your daily mercies that we may live secure and content in Your eternal  
love; 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

*Psalm 145:3, 5b, 6b*

*Great is the LORD, and greatly | to be praised,\*  
and his greatness is un- | searchable.*

*On your wondrous works, I will | meditate,\*  
and I will declare your | greatness.*

### RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS

*After each petition:*

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

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

***Next Week's Readings from God's Word:***

*July 2: Fifth Sunday after Pentecost*

*Jeremiah 28:5-9; Psalm 119:153-160 (v.154);*

*Romans 7:1-13; Matthew 10:34-42*

## **Jeremiah 20:7–13 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> O LORD, you have deceived me, and I was deceived; you are stronger than I, and you have prevailed. I have become a laughingstock all the day; everyone mocks me. <sup>8</sup> For whenever I speak, I cry out, I shout, “Violence and destruction!” For the word of the LORD has become for me a reproach and derision all day long. <sup>9</sup> If I say, “I will not mention him, or speak any more in his name,” there is in my heart as it were a burning fire shut up in my bones, and I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot. <sup>10</sup> For I hear many whispering. Terror is on every side! “Denounce him! Let us denounce him!” say all my close friends, watching for my fall. “Perhaps he will be deceived; then we can overcome him and take our revenge on him.”

<sup>11</sup> But the LORD is with me as a dread warrior; therefore my persecutors will stumble; they will not overcome me. They will be greatly shamed, for they will not succeed. Their eternal dishonor will never be forgotten.

<sup>12</sup> O LORD of hosts, who tests the righteous, who sees the heart and the mind, let me see your vengeance upon them, for to you have I committed my cause. <sup>13</sup> Sing to the LORD; praise the LORD! For he has delivered the life of the needy from the hand of evildoers.

## **Romans 6:12–23 (ESV)**

<sup>12</sup> Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, to make you obey its passions. <sup>13</sup> Do not present your members to sin as instruments for unrighteousness, but present yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life, and

your members to God as instruments for righteousness. <sup>14</sup> For sin will have no dominion over you, since you are not under law but under grace.

<sup>15</sup> What then? Are we to sin because we are not under law but under grace? By no means! <sup>16</sup> Do you not know that if you present yourselves to anyone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin, which leads to death, or of obedience, which leads to righteousness? <sup>17</sup> But thanks be to God, that you who were once slaves of sin have become obedient from the heart to the standard of teaching to which you were committed, <sup>18</sup> and, having been set free from sin, have become slaves of righteousness. <sup>19</sup> I am speaking in human terms, because of your natural limitations. For just as you once presented your members as slaves to impurity and to lawlessness leading to more lawlessness, so now present your members as slaves to righteousness leading to sanctification.

<sup>20</sup> For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. <sup>21</sup> But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. <sup>22</sup> But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. <sup>23</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

## **Matthew 10:5a, 21–33 (ESV)**

<sup>5a</sup>These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them,

<sup>21</sup>"Brother will deliver brother over to death, and the father his child, and children will rise against parents and have them put to death, <sup>22</sup>and you will be hated by all for my name's sake. But the one who endures to the end will be saved. <sup>23</sup>When they persecute you in one town, flee to the next, for truly, I say to you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

<sup>24</sup>"A disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master. <sup>25</sup>It is enough for the disciple to be like his teacher, and the servant like his master. If they have called the master of the house Beelzebul, how much more will they malign those of his household.

<sup>26</sup>"So have no fear of them, for nothing is covered that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. <sup>27</sup>What I tell you in the dark, say in the light, and what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. <sup>28</sup>And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. <sup>30</sup>But even the hairs of your head are all numbered. <sup>31</sup>Fear not, therefore; you are of more value than many sparrows. <sup>32</sup>So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, <sup>33</sup>but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

### **FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

Jeremiah 20:7–13

Romans 6:12–23

Matthew 10:5a, 21–33

#### ***Delivered from Sin and Death, You Now Live before God in the Righteousness of Christ***

The outcome of sin is death, "*but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord*" (Rom. 6:23). He has set you free from the slavery of sin and has brought you "*from death to life*" (Rom. 6:13). No longer are you under the condemnation of the Law, but you live "*under grace*" (Rom. 6:14). Such is your courage in the face of "*those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul*" (Matt. 10:28). For though "*you will be hated by all*" and maligned by the world for the name of Christ (Matt. 10:22, 25), you abide in the care of your Father in heaven, who numbers "*even the hairs of your head*" and values you more "*than many sparrows*" (Matt. 10:30–31). By the Word of Christ, you have become like Him, your Teacher and Master in whom you endure to the end, and "*will be saved*" (Matt. 10:22, 25). For He is with you "*as a dread warrior,*" who has overcome your enemies (Jer. 20:11). By the righteousness of faith, He delivers your heart, mind, body and life "*from the hand of evildoers,*" and He brings you into the land of the living (Jer. 20:12–13).