

THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 22, 2017

Worship Focus

I believe in the Holy Spirit... who converts us

SEND
FORTH
YOUR
SPIRIT.



PSALM 104:30

CALVARY LUTHERAN CHURCH
9807 CHURCH ROAD
DALLAS, TX 75238 + 214-348-5567
churchsec@caltex.org

THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Service of the Word

Christian Worship, p. 38

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OPENING HYMN

339 – Today Your Mercy Calls Us



1 To - day your mer - cy calls us To wash a -
2 To - day your gate is o - pen, And all who
3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us; His Ho - ly
4 O all - em - brac - ing Mer - cy, O ev - er



way our sin. How - ev - er great our tres - pass,
en - ter in Shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come
Spir - it waits. His bless - ed an - gels gath - er
o - pen Door, What should we do with - out you



What - ev - er we have been, How - ev - er long from
And par - don for their sin. The past shall be for -
A - round the heav'n - ly gates. No ques - tion will be
When heart and eye run o'er? When all things seem a -



mer - cy Our hearts have turned a - way, Your pre - cious
got - ten, A pres - ent joy be giv'n, A fu - ture
asked us How of - ten we have come; Al - though we
gainst us, To drive us to de - spair, We know one



blood can wash us And make us clean to - day.
grace be prom - ised; A glo - rious crown in heav'n.
oft have wan - dered, It is our Fa - ther's home,
gate is o - pen, One ear will hear our prayer.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816–78, alt.

Tune: ANTHES (76 76 D) Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–after 1857.

INVOCATION

- Minister** The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
- Congregation** **And also with you.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- 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.
- May the Word of God dwell richly In my heart from hour to hour,
So that all may see I triumph Only through his pow'r.**
- May his spirit live within me As I seek the lost to win,
And may they forget the channel, Seeing only him. (467:2,6)**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M Let us pray. Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



THE WORD

FIRST LESSON Ezekiel 11:17-21

God promises to replace the stone hearts of his rebellious people with hearts of flesh.

EZEKIEL 11:17 “Therefore say: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I will gather you from the nations and bring you back from the countries where you have been scattered, and I will give you back the land of Israel again.’


¹⁸“They will return to it and remove all its vile images and detestable idols. ¹⁹ I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh. ²⁰ Then they will follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. They will be my people, and I will be their God. ²¹ But as for those whose hearts are devoted to their vile images and detestable idols, I will bring down on their own heads what they have done, declares the Sovereign LORD.”

PSALM

Psalm 119b

Refrain Tune: Richard Proulx. © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., Chicago, IL,
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Refrain



Lord, you have the words of
ev - er - last - ing life.

Psalm tone

Teach me, O LORD, to follow | your decrees;*

then I will keep them | to the end.

Give me understanding, and I will | keep your law*
and obey it with | all my heart.

Direct me in the path of | your commands,*
for there I | find delight.

Refrain

Turn my eyes away from | worthless things;*
preserve my life according | to your Word.

Fulfill your promise to your | servant,*
so that you | may be feared.

How I long for your | precepts!*
Preserve my life in your | righteousness.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit,
as it was in the be | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON 2 Corinthians 2:10b-16

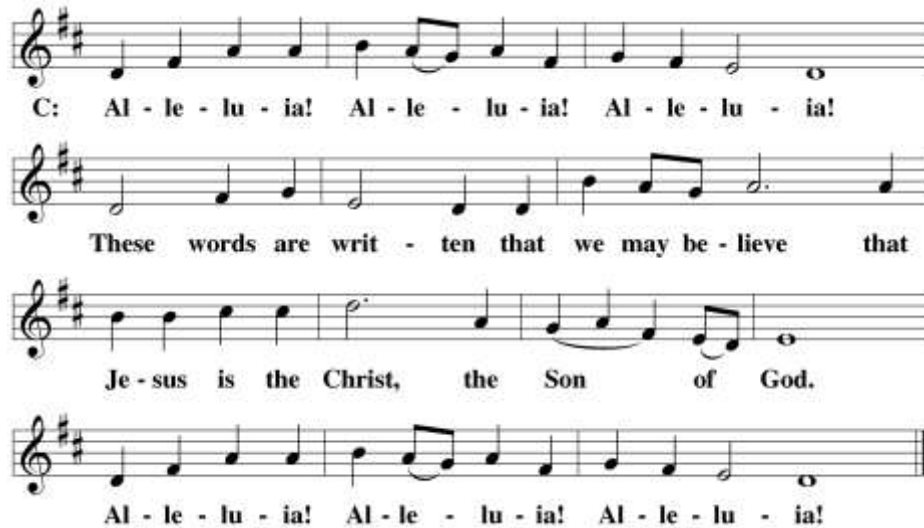
Paul describes the Spirit's work in making God known to us.

2 CORINTHIANS 2:10^b And what I have forgiven--if there was anything to forgive--I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, ¹¹ in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

¹² Now when I went to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ and found that the Lord had opened a door for me, ¹³ I still had no peace of mind, because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I said good-bye to them and went on to Macedonia.

¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumphal procession in Christ and through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him. ¹⁵ For we are to God the aroma of Christ among those who are being saved and those who are perishing. ¹⁶ To the one we are the smell of death; to the other, the fragrance of life. And who is equal to such a task?

VERSE OF THE DAY



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

These words are writ - ten that we may be - lieve that

Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

GOSPEL John 3:1-8

Jesus says that we must be born again of God's Spirit in order to see God's Kingdom.

¹JOHN 3:1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him."

³ In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again."

⁴ "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!"

⁵ Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



"NO ONE
can see the
kingdom of God
without being
born from above."



John 3:3, NRSV

HYMN OF THE DAY

184 – O Holy Spirit, Enter In

1 O Ho - ly Spir - it, en - ter in And in our hearts
 2 Give to your Word im - pres - sive pow'r That in our hearts
 3 O might - y Rock, O Source of life, Let your dear Word,
 your work be - gin, Your dwell - ing place now make us,
 from this good hour As fire it may be glow - ing,
 in doubt and strife, In us be strong - ly burn - ing
 Sun of the soul, O Light di - vine, A - round and in
 That in true Chris - tian u - ni - ty We faith - ful wit -
 That we be faith - ful un - to death And live in love
 us bright - ly shine, To joy and glad - ness wake us
 ness - es may be, Your glo - ry ev - er show - ing,
 and ho - ly faith, From you true wis - dom learn - ing.
 That we May be Tru - ly liv - ing, To you giv - ing
 Hear us, Cheer us By your teach - ing; Let our preach - ing
 Your grace And peace On us show - er; By your pow - er
 Prayer un - ceas - ing And in love be still in - creas - ing,
 And our la - bor Praise you, Lord, and serve our neigh - bor.
 Christ con - fess - ing, Let us see our Sav - ior's bless - ing.

Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606–73, abr., adapt.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, st. 1, 3, alt.; *The Lutheran Hymnal*, St. Louis, 1941, st. 2, alt.
 Tune: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET (887 887 22 44 48) Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, alt.

SERMON

2 Corinthians 2:12-14

The Spirit Has Opened Our Hearts

CONFESSION OF FAITH

(8:00)



Choir

1 We all be - lieve in one true God, Fa - ther, Son, and
2 We all be - lieve in Je - sus Christ, Son of God and
3 We all con - fess the Ho - ly Ghost, Who from both for -

Ho - ly Ghost, Ev - er - pres - ent help in need,
Mar - y's Son, Who de - scend - ed from his throne
e'er pro - ceeds, Who up - holds and com - forts us

Praised by all the heav'n - ly host, By whose might - y
And for us sal - va - tion won, By whose cross and
In all tri - als, fears, and needs. Bless - ed, ho - ly

pow'r a - lone All is made and wrought and done,
death are we Res - cued from all mis - er - y,
Trin - i - ty, Hear our praise e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–84; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.

Tune: WIR GLAUBEN ALL AN EINEN GOTT (87 77 77) *Neu-vermehrtes . . . Gesangbuch*, 3rd ed., Meiningen, 1693, alt.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

(11:00)

**C 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.**

FRIENDSHIP REGISTER and GATHERING OF OFFERINGS

MUSICAL OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray to the Lord on behalf of His Church and for all people as they have need.

Brief silence

God our Father, You have invited us to raise our prayers to You in the name of Jesus, Your beloved Son, and have promised to hear and answer us with all that is best for us. Give us confidence, that we may call upon You as the people of Your name, and teach us to be content with what Your wisdom and love supply. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our Father, You have appointed on earth governments and institutions that are accountable to You. Bless our nation and those in authority over us, and teach us to be good and faithful citizens who willingly supply the resources needed to provide for the common good. Though we are quick to judge and condemn what we dislike, give us patience and wisdom, that we may encourage and support those who carry the heavy mantle of leadership. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our Father, You have set apart a people for Yourself and washed them in the blood of the Lamb to be Your own, to live under You in Your Kingdom forevermore. Give us faith, that we may daily be restored through repentance and forgiveness, and renew our hearts and spirits in the causes of holiness, righteousness and faithfulness all our days. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our Father, You have loved and chosen us according to Your mercy and called us through the living voice of Your Word. Grant to us the healthful Spirit of Your grace, that what You have begun in us may be brought to completion when Christ appears in His glory on the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God our Father, Your Son has borne the weight of our sins and carried the weakness of our flesh in His body on the cross. Be with the sick, the suffering, the grieving and the dying in their hour of need. *[We especially remember ...]* We ask that everyone who calls on You may find comfort in Your presence, healing according to Your will and be sustained through their afflictions. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We recall the saints of old who loved You and served Your name. We commend all things to Your mercy in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, trusting that You will hear us and answer us through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

SERMON HYMN

404 – Faith Is a Living Power from Heaven



1 Faith is a liv - ing pow'r from heav'n
 2 Faith finds in Christ what - e'er we need
 3 Faith in the Sav - ior brings us peace
 4 We thank you, then, O God of heav'n,
 5 As you have prom - ised, grant each soul



That grasps the prom - ise God has giv'n,
 To save or strength - en us in - deed,
 And bids the mourn - er's weep - ing cease;
 That you to us this faith have giv'n
 Its ho - ly faith's true end and goal:



A trust that can - not be o'er - thrown,
 Re - ceiv - ing grace from heav - en's throne
 By faith the chil - dren's place we claim
 Through might - y Word and sac - ra - ment
 The bless - ed - ness no foes de - stroy,



Fixed heart - i - ly on Christ a - lone,
 And hum - bly shar - ing cross and crown,
 And give all hon - or to one name,
 To trust the one whom you have sent,
 E - ter - nal love and light and joy.



PRAYER

M Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, 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.



CLOSING HYMN

402 – My Faith Looks Up to Thee



1 My faith looks up to thee, Thou Lamb of
2 May thy rich grace im - part Strength to my
3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a -
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold,



Cal - va - ry, Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me
faint - ing heart; My zeal in - spire! As thou hast
round me spread, Be thou my guide. Bid dark - ness
sul - len stream Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior,



while I pray; Take all my guilt a - way;
died for me, Oh, may my love to thee
turn to day, Wipe sor - row's tears a - way,
then, in love, Fear and dis - trust re - move;



Oh, let me from this day Be whol - ly thine!
Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!
Nor let me ev - er stray From thee a - side.
Oh, bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-87.

Tune: OLIVET (664 6664) Lowell Mason, 1792-1872, alt.

After worship, please feel free to stay and greet your neighbors.

