



ABOUT THE PROPERs

An Explanation of the Variable Parts of the Divine Service



Second Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 7

June 22, 2025



“Undivided Attention”

On the Mission Right before Us

We tend to think of mission work as being “over there,” something done in a far-away place. It is good and right to support foreign mission work with our prayers and offerings. However, something is off if we allow our appreciation for “over there” mission work to take our eyes off the mission that is right before us. In our various callings—parent or grandparent or sibling, friend or neighbor or coworker—God will provide one opportunity after another to serve as the witnesses Jesus has made us to be. So, let us continue to pray for and support “over there” mission work. But let us also give our undivided attention to the mission that God had placed right before each of us.

First Reading Isaiah 43:8-13

The LORD calls us to be his witnesses to the truth that there is no God except for him. He alone can save us from every evil. Those who have seen what the Lord has done are witnesses who testify on his behalf right where they live.

Second Reading 2 Timothy 1:3-10

The grace of God has been revealed to all in Jesus Christ. All who have seen it serve as witnesses of God’s grace in their various callings. Our vocations are different: apostle, pastor, parent, grandparent. Yet, God uses all these unique vocations to put us in positions to testify to the life-giving gospel, which delivers us from evil.

Gospel Luke 8:26-39

Using only his words, Jesus demonstrates his authority over the evil one. Jesus sets a demon-possessed man free then instructs the man to return to his home and be a witness to the goodness of God.

Psalm of the Day⁴ Psalm 66 C “Let All the Earth Sing Out”

The Church sings Psalm 66 in services that include joyful praise of God for his amazing saving activity. Sometimes the psalm addresses God, and sometimes it addresses the people praising God. Martin Luther said, “Psalm 66 is a psalm of thanksgiving for common blessings that God often gives us. Daily he delivers and protects his people from their enemies, as he did at the Red Sea. By enumerating these blessings, the Church of Christ summons all people to faith.”

Gospel Acclamation 1 John 4:14

“We have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.”

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, heavenly Father, you sent your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, into this world to destroy the works of the devil and protect us poor people against such an evil foe. Uphold us in all affliction by your Holy Spirit so that we may have peace from such enemies and remain forever blessed; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Hymn of the Day

744 “Rise, Shine, You People” (Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.)

Church Year Season ¹

Season after Pentecost

After reliving the great events of the life of Christ, the worshipping Church spends half a year focusing on the teachings of Christ. The Church wears green during the season of Pentecost as the Spirit uses those teachings of Jesus to grow the faith of believers. The appointed lessons cover a great body of doctrine for faith and life.

Minor Festivals

Nativity of St. John the Baptist (June 24)

Minor Festivals

Presentation of the Augsburg Confession (June 25)

Colors & Symbolism

Green

Green is the color of life, refreshment, growth, and regeneration. Whereas the first half of the Church Year (the “Festival Half” or the “Half Year of Our Lord”) focused on the life of Christ during his earthly ministry, the emphasis for the second half (the “Non-Festival half” or the “Half Year of the Church”) shifts to the result of Christ’s work through the Word: the work of defining and creating faith, and inspiring its fruits. The theme of the Christian’s growth in faith (like healthy green plants) fills the season.

Nain Paraments

Sundays after Pentecost

Superfrontral: When Isaiah was called to be a prophet of the LORD, two seraphs (a class of angels) appeared and called out to one another, “Holy, Holy, Holy” (Isaiah 6:3). The threefold repetition of the divine adjective emphasizes the infinite holiness of the Triune God – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Some congregations count the Sundays in this season of the Church Year as the Sundays after the festival of the Holy Trinity, calling it the “Trinity season,” or the “Sundays after Trinity.” That is why most paraments for this season feature symbols of the Holy Trinity.

Lectern antependium: The equilateral triangle is one of the oldest emblems of the Holy Trinity. The three equal sides and angles represent the equality, unity, and co-eternal nature of the three persons of the Trinity. Though they are three distinct persons, they are of one essence as one God (Deuteronomy 6:4). The three interwoven circles represent the three members of the Trinity and emphasize their unity and eternal nature; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are without beginning or end.

Pulpit antependium: At each point of the triangle (the significance of the triangle is explained above) is a nimbus, Latin for *cloud*. The nimbus appears as a circle, or a halo. In Christian artwork, nimbi surround the head of the Father (when he is depicted as a human), Jesus Christ, or the Holy Spirit (when he is depicted as a dove) to signify their glory and holiness. In artistic depictions of believers (saints), nimbi are placed around their heads to show that they have been made holy by God’s grace in Christ and through faith. The three fish in between the nimbi and that meet in the middle of the triangle signify Christians who are united to the Triune God by faith. Fish have come to represent the followers of Jesus because believers have been brought into the ship of God’s church through the efforts of those who proclaim Gospel (cf. “fishers of men” in Matthew 4:19).

¹ Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year A”. Jonathan E. Schroeder, Author.

² Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year B”. Daniel M. Deutschlander, Author.

³ Courtesy of “Planning Christian Worship: Year C”. Joel J. Gawrisch, Author.

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