



ABOUT THE PROPERs

An Explanation of the Variable Parts of the Divine Service



Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Proper 7

June 21, 2026



Say It Out Loud:
“Keep the Faith”

Believers in God have always been persecuted. Jesus plainly tells us about the crosses we will bear as his disciples. We can expect the world to treat us no better than it treated our Master. Yet, we have hope. Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit to strengthen our faith, give us the words to speak, and provide courage so we can boldly testify to his truth even in the face of opposition and persecution.

First Lesson ¹ Jeremiah 20:7-13

Persecution can come from any quarter. For Jeremiah, it came from within the visible church. Passhur, the chief officer of the temple, heard the message Jeremiah proclaimed and had him beaten and put into stocks. How telling that the first time the Bible calls Jeremiah by the title “prophet” is also the first time he faces bodily persecution! Proclaimers of the pure Word of God will always face persecution from without and within the visible church. But what could Jeremiah do? He could not hold in the Word because it was like a fire in his heart. He did his job and found his courage in the mighty warrior of the Lord and the knowledge that God will prevail. In the face of persecution, Jeremiah found courage, praise and joy.

Second Reading ³ 2 Timothy 4:1-8

St. Paul recognized that his time on earth was short. The Lord was about to bring glory to his own name through Paul’s martyrdom. Yet what is in store for Paul was a crown of righteous from the Lord’s gracious hand. There are those who put their own safety ahead of service to God and support for his kingdom work. But for those who put him first, the Lord is faithful and will bring us to his heavenly kingdom. Paul had spent a life in ministry serving Christ above all; now he looked forward to the end of the fight, the rest from the race, and the receipt of the crown.

Gospel ¹ Matthew 10:5a, 21-33

Why should Christians be surprised or disappointed or angered about the persecutions they face? We slaves are not above our master who was persecuted first. Therefore, we are not to be afraid of opposition to the gospel! Instead, we shout and proclaim! Our enemies can only succeed in killing the body. Such a small thing compared to the fate that awaits them! The enemies of Christ have always been fearsome, whether in the days of the crumbling of the Roman Empire or during these latter days of American hegemony. That’s why Christ says it three times, do not be afraid. In place of fear, find the courage of Christ to witness in the face of any persecution.

Psalm of the Day ⁴ Psalm 91 A “The Shadow of the Almighty”

The Church sings Psalm 91 in services that focus on times of crisis, especially temptation or persecution. The lion and the snake (verse 13) are sometimes scriptural references to the devil, and the devil uses this psalm to tempt Jesus (Luke 4:10,11). Martin Luther said, “Psalm 91 is a comfort psalm. It encourages us to trust in God through all distress and difficulties. It is full of rich, comforting promises derived from the First Commandment. It is the second psalm (after Psalm 34) in which the dear angels are proclaimed to be our guardians, which is comforting and good to note.”

Prayer of the Day

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 your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Gospel Acclamation 2 Corinthians 12:9

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.”

Hymn of the Day 823 “Jesus, Priceless Treasure” (Johann Franck, 1618-77)

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)

St. John the Baptist is one of the only saints in the Church Calendar whose festival commemorates his birth instead of his death. The date falls three months after the celebration of the Annunciation of Our Lord (March 25), when in addition to announcing the birth of our Lord, the Archangel Gabriel told the Virgin Mary that her relative Elizabeth was in her sixth month of pregnancy. This festival thus falls six months before Christmas Day, reflecting the biblical narrative of the two births.

Minor Festivals Presentation of the Augsburg Confession (June 25)

On June 25, 1530, our Lutheran forefathers courageously made a public declaration of a new summary of the ancient Biblical truth: **mankind is justified by God’s grace through faith in Christ Jesus.** Written by Philipp Melancthon, approved by Martin Luther, and signed by princes, dukes, and other civil leaders, the Augsburg Confession was presented to Charles V, the Holy Roman Emperor in the German town of Augsburg. It was a great triumph for those who believed the Biblical gospel of justification by grace through faith apart from the works of the law. It was and still is considered to be the most important man-made statement of what Lutherans believe. After Holy Scripture, it is the heart of the Lutheran Church.

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

Superfrontal: 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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