

²² Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. ²³ Someone asked him, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?”

He said to them, ²⁴ “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. ²⁵ Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Sir, open the door for us.’

“But he will answer, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’

²⁶ “Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’

²⁷ “But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!’

²⁸ “There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. ²⁹ People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. ³⁰ Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.”

Sermon Hymn: 431 I Walk in Danger All the Way

Sermon: Who do you know?

Offering: *(Please remember to sign the Friendship Register.)*

Hymn: 339 v 1, 4 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

Benediction

Closing Hymn: 745 May the Peace of God

Ushers: This Week – Dan Stern & Brady Broedlow
Next Week – Jesse Horta & John Hinz

Greeters: This Week – Rose Henning & Arlene Borchardt
Next Week – Frank & Sue Kramer

The 14th Sunday after Pentecost – September 14th & 15th, 2019

P.O. Box 86, Helenville, Wisconsin

Pastor: Mark Swanson Church Tel: 920-674-3307

Principal: Craig Winkler School Tel: 262-582-3010

Organist: Wendy Winkler

We Welcome You!

Order of Worship: New Service Setting

Opening Hymn: 280 v 1, 2, 4 Thy Strong Word

Prayer of the Day:

M: Almighty and everlasting God, give us an increase of faith, hope, and love; and, that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson - Isaiah 66:18-24

The chosen nation of Israel had rejected the narrow door of the Lord. Yet in this last chapter of Isaiah (along with much of the last half of Isaiah) comes the promise of spiritual and eternal deliverance. This promise comes to the faithful remnant and those who are being gathered from the ends of the earth. Even in the midst of such beautiful and invitatory gospel, there is warning for those who remain in their apostasy. God's mercy is broad and deep, but it found in only one place, the promised Messiah.

¹⁸ “And I, because of their actions and their imaginations, am about to come and gather all nations and tongues, and they will come and see my glory.

¹⁹ “I will set a sign among them, and I will send some of those who survive to the nations—to Tarshish, to the Libyans and Lydians (famous as archers), to Tubal and Greece, and to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations. ²⁰ And they will bring all your brothers, from all the nations, to my holy mountain in Jerusalem as an offering to the LORD—on horses, in chariots and wagons, and on mules and camels,” says the LORD. “They will bring them, as the Israelites bring their grain offerings, to the temple of the LORD in ceremonially clean vessels. ²¹ And I will select some of them also to be priests and Levites,” says the LORD.

²² “As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me,” declares the LORD, “so will your name and descendants endure. ²³ From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me,” says the

LORD. ²⁴ “And they will go out and look upon the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; their worm will not die, nor will their fire be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind.”

Psalm of the Day - Psalm 63 (on the screen)

Second Lesson - Hebrews 12:18-24

The giving of the Old Covenant left the Israelites quaking in fear at the foot of Mt. Sinai. Divine justice would not leave the guilty unpunished. But the New Covenant invites all the nations to come to Mt. Zion in joyful assembly with the confidence that they have been judged innocent and made perfect through Jesus, the Messiah. Sprinkled with blood, we enter the narrow door to paradise.

¹⁸ You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; ¹⁹ to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, ²⁰ because they could not bear what was commanded: “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned.” ²¹ The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, “I am trembling with fear.”

²² But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³ to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, ²⁴ to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

Verse of the Day: *Alleluia. Jesus Christ has destroyed death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. Alleluia. (1 Timothy 1:10b)*

Gospel - Luke 13:22-30

The narrow door to eternity is open only to the spiritual children of Abraham. The Chosen Nation of Israel thought that they had every right to enter through the door. After all, they were part of the Old Covenant. But their lack of faith in Christ and reliance on themselves left them locked out from paradise. In the new Covenant, entrance into the Kingdom of God is open only to those with faith in the Christ.