



# ABOUT THE PROPER

*An Explanation of the Variable Parts of the Divine Service*



## Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

August 4, 2024



*Meaningful Ministry*

Fear Not, For the Lord Is with You

Shortly before he ascended, Jesus told his followers they were to engage in meaningful ministry—to work their way through the world, sharing the good news of salvation. Our loving Lord knew that was a big and often intimidating task. So, his next words were a promise. “Surely I am with you always until the end of the age” (Matthew 28:20). God’s people still need to hear that promise.

Life in this sinful world will come with challenges. Circumstances can cause fears to arise in our hearts: the fear of rejection, the fear of inadequacy, the fear of persecution. So, listen again to your Savior’s gracious promise. “I am with you always.” Jesus is present in his gospel – the Word and Sacraments – to alleviate your fears, give you confidence, and forgive your sins.

**First Reading**                      2 Kings 6:8-17

Elisha’s ministry had resulted in Elisha and his servant being surrounded by an enemy army. But they didn’t need to fear, for the LORD and his mighty army of angels were with them.

**Second Reading**                      2 Timothy 4:6-8,16-18

Paul knows that soon he will be executed for performing gospel ministry. Yet he is not afraid, for he knows the Lord Jesus has always been by his side.

**Gospel**                                      Mark 6:45-56

Before engaging in ministry at Gennesaret, Jesus comes to the disciples, dispelling their fears with his comforting and powerful presence.

**Psalm of the Day**<sup>4</sup>                      Psalm 46 A                      “The LORD Almighty Is with Us”

The Church sings Psalm 46 in services that celebrate the power of the Lord in the face of every evil attack. It inspired the hymn “A Mighty Fortress” by Martin Luther. He said, “We sing Psalm 46 to praise the only true God for being with us. He wonderfully upholds his Word and Christendom against the very gates of hell, against the rage of every demon, the world, the flesh, sin, and death. Our little spring is a free-flowing source of living water.”

**Gospel Acclamation**                      Mark 6:50

“Jesus spoke to them and said, ‘Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.’”

**Prayer of the Day**

Almighty and most merciful God, the protector of all who trust in you, strengthen our faith, and give us courage to believe that in your love you will rescue us from all adversities; 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

803 “Day by Day” (Carolina Sandrell Berg, 1832-1903)

## Church Year Season <sup>1</sup>

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.

## 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).

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

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

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

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