



But if You
can do anything,

have compassion on us
and help us

Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost

September 15, 2024

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

3210 Maple Drive, Plover, Wisconsin 54467

Phone: Church 715-341-2898; Cell 715-498-0093

Website www.beautifulsaviorploverwi.com

Pastor David E. Ficken

Our Mission

“To Know Jesus and to Make Him Known”

Our Vision

Educate, Equip and Encourage ourselves and our families through worship and study, and engage our community through discipleship, example and Acts of Kindness, using the unique gifts bestowed on each member of our congregation by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Worship Information

Parents with Young Children: We encourage families to worship together.

Worship Bulletin: Our order of service is printed out in your worship folder.

Worship Form: There are 5 “Movements” in our Worship.

- God grants us the gift of forgiveness.
- God speaks to us from His Word.
- God receives our offerings and prayers.
- God offers us His real presence in Holy Communion.
- God blesses us and sends us out.

Communion: Please read the Statement of Communion below.

(If you are *gluten intolerant* please speak with Pastor or an elder prior to the worship service so we can accommodate you.)

STATEMENT OF COMMUNION

BECAUSE THE WORD OF GOD TEACHES THAT:

- We are all sinners in need of forgiveness.
- Jesus is our only Savior from sin through His death and resurrection.
- The True Body and Blood of Christ is present in the Sacrament of the Holy Communion

 Please see Pastor if you have any questions about this or do not believe in the Lord’s Supper in this way. You are welcome to come forward for a blessing if you are not communing.

- Please see Pastor if there is something going on in your life that needs the attention of Christ in private confession *and* absolution.

AS WE GATHER-- In today’s Gospel, the father of a possessed boy says, “If you can do anything . . .” As God in the flesh, Jesus can do anything—and He wants to! His concern is never an “if,” but an “always.” When our troubles increase, their resolution awaits not God’s intention but our waffling faith in His concern. Few of us have the resolve and bravado of Isaiah in the Old Testament Reading. Seldom do we recognize how we use our tongues for both good and evil. Today the Scriptures encourage us to turn from relying on ourselves to putting our faith-borne trust in Him alone.

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AS WE GATHER--The Twelve were in trouble in today’s Gospel; they couldn’t exorcize the evil spirit in a man’s son. The boy’s father was helpless too. Jesus had no problem with the task, and He exhorted the disciples to turn to Him, saying, “This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer.” Our tongues are not employed for prayer that often. The Epistle notes, however, that like the rudder of a ship, they are powerful. Only Isaiah, prefiguring our Lord’s attitude, has the right outlook. Relying on our heavenly Father, he is ready for a fight. Our Lord can take care of our problems; we must rely on His strength and caring. The Introit has a good encouragement: “Be strong, and let your heart take courage.”

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WITNESS AND OUTREACH -- Mark 9:14-29: In today’s Gospel reading, Jesus demonstrated His divine power over Satan and his wicked angels. Satan is still very active in our world, but we can believe in and share the Good News that Jesus has overcome the devil and will protect His people from Satan’s evil attacks. The One who is in us is greater than the one who is in the world (1 John 4:4).

WELCOME to GUESTS & VISITORS

Hymns will be from the Lutheran Service Book (LSB).



HYMN

✠ PREPARATION ✠

“I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus”

LSB 729

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

Pastor: Since we are gathered to have our faith strengthened by hearing God's Word and by receiving our Lord's body and blood in the fellowship of this altar, but cannot come before God in our sinful condition, let us seek His infinite mercy and ask our heavenly Father's forgiveness.

People: Almighty God, have mercy on us, forgive the weakness of our faith and our many sins, and restore us to fellowship with You and one another, now and forever.

Pastor: In Holy Baptism our heavenly Father declared us to be His children and united us to His Son, by whose death and resurrection all our sins are forgiven. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

☩ WORD ☩



HYMN OF PRAISE "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

LSB 849 v.1

Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms and feeding thousands with the Father's word of peace.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, as You go with us through each day,

People: help us by Your strength to serve You in meeting people's needs and in spreading the Good News of the Gospel;

Pastor: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

FIRST READING *Isaiah 50:4-10* (Isaiah urges a bold faith.)

Lector: The Lord God has given Me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary.

People: Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens My ear to hear as those who are taught.

Lector: The Lord God has opened My ear,

People: and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward.

Lector: I gave My back to those who strike, and My cheeks to those who pull out the beard;

People: I hid not My face from disgrace and spitting.

Lector: But the Lord God helps Me; therefore I have not been disgraced;

People: therefore I have set My face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame.

Lector: He who vindicates Me is near. Who will contend with Me? Let us stand up together.

People: Who is My adversary? Let him come near to Me.

Lector: Behold, the Lord God helps Me; who will declare Me guilty?

People: Behold, all of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

Lector: Who among you fears the Lord and obeys the voice of His servant?

People: Let him who walks in darkness and has no light trust in the name of the Lord and rely on his God.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 116:1–9*

EPISTLE *James 3:1–12* (James warns against an uncontrolled tongue.)

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



ALLELUIA “A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing” LSB 493, v.6

O risen Christ, ascended Lord,

All praise to You let earth accord: Alleluia, alleluia!

You are, while endless ages run, With Father and with Spirit one.

Alleluia, alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

HOLY GOSPEL *Mark 9:14–29* (Jesus exorcizes a spirit after the disciples are not able.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the ninth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read.)

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.



HYMN

“Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense” LSB 741 vv.1-3

SERMON

CATECHISM *Table of Duties*

Pastor: What does Scripture say about the duty of husbands?

People: Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. (1 Peter 3:7) Husbands, love your wives and do not be harsh with them. (Col. 3:19)

Pastor: What does Scripture say about the duty of wives?

People: Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. (Eph. 5:22) They were submissive to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. (1 Peter 3:5-6)

CREED *Nicene Creed*

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I

believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *Psalm 116:1–2, 5, 7–9*

Pastor: Let us pray for ourselves, the church around the world, and all people in their various conditions. Today’s Psalm is the response of a trusting person, confident that God has heard the prayer. Be present, Lord our God, wherever wars rage and governments fail, where homelessness and disease are rampant, and where the poor are forgotten.

People: **I love the Lord, because He has heard my voice and my pleas for mercy.**

Pastor: Guard, defend, and give wisdom to all who go into harm’s way to do battle against foreign enemies and in emergencies here at home. Use medical personnel and caring neighbors to bring about health and healing.

People: **Because He inclined His ear to me, therefore I will call on Him as long as I live.**

Pastor: Provide faith-filled leaders and followers to proclaim the Gospel, serve You with the gifts You have given them, and care for the needs of people around the world.

People: **Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.**

Pastor: Be with all who tend flocks, raise harvests, and distribute food so that many may be fed.

People: **Return, O my soul, to your rest; for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.**

Pastor: Visit, relieve, and console those who are sick or in mourning, [*including . . .*], according to Your gracious plans for them.

People: **For You have delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling.**

Pastor: These and any other things You see that we need, grant to us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: **I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living. Amen.**

OFFERTORY (in offering plate at entrance to sanctuary)



HYMN

“Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart”

LSB 806

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22*
Pastor: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
People: **We lift them to the Lord.**
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord, who, having accomplished our salvation, now reigns over all things at Your right hand. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:



SANCTUS

“Sanctus”

LSB 161

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow’r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”
In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST *1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
Pastor: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD’S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: And also with you. Amen.

 **AGNUS DEI HYMN**

Lamb of God from Now the Feast and Celebration by Marty Haugen © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

AGNUS DEI "Lamb of God"



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us,
6
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer-cy and love: have
11
mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us, mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you
16
take a-way the sin of the world: grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

See LSB 329: Christian Questions with Their Answers prepared by Dr. Martin Luther for those who intend to go to the Sacrament.



Note: These questions and answers are no child’s play, but are drawn up with great earnestness of purpose by the venerable and devout Dr. Luther for both young and old. Let each one pay attention and consider it a serious matter; for St. Paul writes to the Galatians in chapter six: “Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked.”

NOTE: Pastor will come around again, offering the COMMON CUP.



DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

“I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table”

LSB 618

“Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower”

LSB 694

“In Christ Alone”

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm.
What heights of love, what depths of peace
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease
My Comforter, my All in All Here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone! - who took on flesh, Fullness of God in helpless babe.
This gift of love and righteousness, Scorned by the ones He came to save
Till on that cross as Jesus died, The wrath of God was satisfied
For every sin on Him was laid Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain:
Then bursting forth in glorious day Up from the grave He rose again
And as He stands in victory Sin's curse has lost its grip on me,
For I am His and He is mine Bought with the precious blood of Christ

No guilt in life, no fear in death, This is the power of Christ in me
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny
No power of hell, no scheme of man, Can ever pluck me from His hand
Till He returns or calls me home Here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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COMMUNION DISMISSAL

Pastor: Now this, the Body and Blood of Christ, crucified, risen and ascended, strengthen you, nourish you and keep you steadfast in the true faith to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

People: **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: We give You thanks, heavenly Father, for this gift of life and the strengthening of our faith.

People: **Help us each day to rely on all that Your Son has done for us and promised for our future;**

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:24–26*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you under His able protection. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you daily and eternal peace.

People: **Amen.**



HYMN

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

LSB 809

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

Pastor: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series B, Quarter 4.
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NEXT WEEK’S READINGS:

OLD TESTAMENT READING Jeremiah 11:18-20

EPISTLE James 3:13-4:10

HOLY GOSPEL Mark 9:30-37

TITHE & OFFERING – our sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Lord

Our “tithes” are our first fruits returned to God in proportional, joyful, thankful and faithful response to His grace. “Offerings” are special gifts for ministries, memorials and needs over and above the tithe.

(If you are a guest, we welcome you as a guest. Please do not feel obligated to give an offering unless you feel moved to do so by the Spirit.)

August Financial Recap:

August Givings (Thank you!)	\$19,308.51
Monthly Need:	<u>\$17,640.16</u>
Overage:	\$ 1,668.35

<u>Parking Lot Project:</u>
Received: \$55,520
Goal: \$100,000

Scrip Profit: 8/19/24 - 9/8/24: \$10.35

Lutheran Center for Religious Liberty: September 15 On September 17, 1787, delegates to the Constitutional Convention held in Philadelphia signed the United States Constitution. To remember that day, we will celebrate Constitution Day on September 17, 2024. This day is also known as Citizenship Day. Learn how we are actually citizens of two kingdoms by listening to Dr. Seltz at <https://bit.ly/2kingdom>

Life Quotes: September 15 “I pray that you will recognize and value those people in your life who were blessed by God so they could be a blessing to you! I especially pray that you will then use the blessings God has bestowed on you to bless those around you and to pass these blessings on to your own descendants to a thousand generations. Now is the time to pass on the gift. Now is the time to pass the baton to the next runner in the race! To God be all the glory!” *Barbara Lane Geistfeld, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

CALENDAR:

September 19—Governance Bd. Mtg, 6:30pm

October 3—First Choice Banquet of Life

October 6—Oktoberfest @ BSLC

October 13—Amanda Ellison Concert @ BSLC, 4pm



Facing Your Giants: Friday morning Bible Study, 10-11:30am.

We are meeting Friday, September 20, after being off for a couple weeks.

First Choice Banquet of Life: October 3 Beautiful Savior is looking to host a table again this year. **Please confirm with Teresa if you are interested in joining us at this event.** The cost is \$55 per person, but we have money in our budget for First Choice. Please don't let the cost hold you back. The theme for the night is “Unsung Heroes,” based on Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.” Doors open at 5:30pm and the program begins at 6:30 (at Sentry World in Stevens Point). **Registration is due by September 21.** We have room for ten people at our table. This organization changes lives in our community.

Careers for Christ Program at Concordia University Chicago: October 12-14

All high school students are invited to participate in this free weekend where they will learn about ministry to the church, connect with current students and faculty in church work programs, and be inspired by the Word of God. Online registration is available at CUChicago.edu/CRC. Registration deadline is Sept. 30.



BSLC and Friends Cookbook: Over the years there have been many occasions to share meals with our brothers and sisters in Christ at Beautiful Savior. Orphan Grain Train shares a potluck meal every month. These meals have filled us and delighted our plates. With this in mind, Beautiful Savior is exploring the possibility of organizing a cookbook of favorites. We are asking for each of you to share your recipes for this fund-raising project. We want to see everything from appetizers and soups, main dishes, drinks, and desserts. Each of these recipes will be compiled into a cookbook that will be sold to raise funds for Christ Care. Submissions should be emailed to jwrez@aol.com or secretary@bsavior.onmicrosoft.com. Submission are due **September 29, 2024.**

Amanda Ellison Concert: Sunday Oct.13, 4pm. Mark your calendars now for a special hymn concert at Beautiful Savior! Free to attend. Invite your friends and family!

Special Music: Do you love to sing or play an instrument? We are looking for volunteers to provide a musical piece during worship before the first communion hymn. This is another way to give glory to God, using the gifts and talents He has blessed you with! It doesn't have to be fancy or perfect. Sign up on the whiteboard in the narthex. All ages are encouraged to participate!



Parking Lot Update: The parking lot is now slotted to be ground up on Friday, **September 13th**. Then concrete work will be done on the curbs around the entrances. We can still drive on the lot while this is happening. Once the concrete work has had a few days to cure, the two layers of asphalt will begin. This is when we will not be able to drive on the lot. A makeshift “driveway” has been marked off with pink flags, allowing you to drive over the grass and into the back parking lot once the front lot becomes off limits. Thank you again for your patience, prayers, and flexibility throughout this process!

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Prayer List : 9/15/2024 – 9/21/24

Ongoing prayers for Grief & Loss: (Named & Not Named)

Loved Ones –

Family of Bob Helmrick; Family of Robert Kowalski (Chad’s father); Family of Elaine Idsvoog; Erin Stroede (mother passed away); family of Art Holford

Situations:

Suicide Attempts, Cancer, Christian Parenting, Caregivers, AODA

Military:

Devante; Emily; Nick

Pending Diagnosis & Treatment:

Ken Resch (Father of Julie Barge); Paula; Phil Idsvoog; BSLC friend new cancer diagnosis; BSLC friend, Sarah, new cancer diagnosis

Hospitalized/Recovering:

Sharon Hughes—Hospice

Circuit 17:

St Luke-Rapids (starting the Call process for a Pastor); Bethlehem-Nekoosa (starting the Call process for a Pastor); Beautiful Savior and Pastor Dave Ficken (accepted a call to St. Philip, Dublin, CA)

Shut-ins:

Mary S., and Anita C.; Rose Janke (Karen Holman’s mother)

Birthdays:

9/17 Wyatt Lutz

9/19 Louise Skornia

Baptism Birthdays:

Anniversaries:

Missions:

First Choice Resource Center

Camp Luther

Peace Campus Center & Pastor Andy Weden

St. Paul Lutheran Elementary School

Wycliffe & Lutheran Bible Translators & Linda Jordan

J.P. & Aimee Cima & Family

Orphan Grain Train Center

Christ Care / Carpenter’s Crew

***Please let us know if you have any prayer requests – Thank you! ***

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 50:4–10

- 4 The Lord God has given me
the tongue of those who are taught,
that I may know how to sustain with a word
him who is weary.
Morning by morning he awakens;
he awakens my ear
to hear as those who are taught.
- 5 The Lord God has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious;
I turned not backward.
- 6 I gave my back to those who strike,
and my cheeks to those who pull out
the beard;
I hid not my face
from disgrace and spitting.
- 7 But the Lord God helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like a flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame.
- 8 He who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together,
Who is my adversary?
Let him come near to me.
- 9 Behold, the Lord God helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
Behold, all of them will wear out like
a garment;
the moth will eat them up.
- 10 Who among you fears the Lord
and obeys the voice of his servant?
Let him who walks in darkness
and has no light
trust in the name of the Lord
and rely on his God.

Epistle: James 3:1–12

¹Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. ²For we all stumble in many ways, and if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. ³If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. ⁴Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. ⁵So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.

How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! ⁶And the tongue is a fire, a world of

unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. ⁷For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, ⁸but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹With it we bless our Lord and Father, and with it we curse people who are made in the likeness of God. ¹⁰From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers, these things ought not to be so. ¹¹Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and salt water? ¹²Can a fig tree, my brothers, bear olives, or a grapevine produce figs? Neither can a salt pond yield fresh water.

Holy Gospel: Mark 9:14–29

¹⁴When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and scribes arguing with them. ¹⁵And immediately all the crowd, when they saw him, were greatly amazed and ran up to [Jesus] and greeted him. ¹⁶And he asked them, "What are you arguing about with them?" ¹⁷And someone from the crowd answered him, "Teacher, I brought my son to you, for he has a spirit that makes him mute. ¹⁸And whenever it seizes him, it throws him down, and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. So I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able." ¹⁹And he answered them, "O faithless generation, how long am I to be with you? How long am I to bear with you? Bring him to me." ²⁰And they brought the boy to him. And when the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. ²¹And Jesus asked his father, "How long has this been happening to him?" And he said, "From childhood. ²²And it has often cast him into fire and into water, to destroy him. But if you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us." ²³And Jesus said to him, "If you can! All things are possible for one who believes." ²⁴Immediately the father of the child cried out and said, "I believe; help my unbelief!" ²⁵And when Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, "You mute and deaf spirit, I command you, come out of him and never enter him again." ²⁶And after crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, "He is dead." ²⁷But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he arose. ²⁸And when he had entered the house, his disciples asked him privately, "Why could we not cast it out?" ²⁹And he said to them, "This kind cannot be driven out by anything but prayer."

About the Cover: After the disciples could not cast out the demon from the boy, an exasperated father pleaded with Jesus to see if He could do anything. When Jesus said, "If You can! All things are possible one who believes," it is without question that Jesus can accomplish this. When the father says, "I believe; help my unbelief" (Mark 9:23–24), it is also without question that Jesus has compassion on all who call upon Him, no matter how weak their faith. His compassion to save depends solely on His love, which is shown in the giving of Himself to conquer sin, death, and the devil for us.

