

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Worship Theme:

Being the Church of Grace for the People who will be Grace

Worship Leader:

Carol Hose

PRELUDE 'Adagio' – Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

PLEASE BE IN QUIET REFLECTION DURING THE PRELUDE AS WE PONDER THE HOLY.

GATHERING AND WELCOME

INTROIT, #102 "Now Thank We All Our God"

- 1. Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices, who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices; who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**
- 2. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us, with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us; and keep us still in grace, and guide us when perplexed; and free us from all ills, in this world and the next.**
- 3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given; the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven; the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore; for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Creating God, we gather in your name to worship you. We give thanks that there is a small spark of God within us.

People: Kindle that small spark into a flame of love and service.

Leader: Sustaining God, we gather in your name to worship you. We celebrate the loving presence of God in our life.

People: May God's loving presence be a strong influence in our life.

Leader: Nurturing God, we gather in your name to worship you. We rejoice that God teaches us about love and forgiveness.

People: As we grow in faith, trust and love for God, may our worship, witness and service bring honor to God's Holy Name. Amen.

*** OPENING HYMN #79 “Holy God, We Praise Thy Name”**

1. Holy God, we praise thy name; Lord of all, we bow before thee; all on earth thy scepter claim; all in heaven above adore thee. Infinite thy vast domain; everlasting is thy reign.

4. Holy Father, Holy Son, Holy Spirit: three we name thee, though in essence only one; undivided God we claim thee, and adoring bend the knee while we own the mystery.

6. Thou didst take the sting from death, Son of God, as Savior given; on the cross thy dying breath opened wide the realm of heaven. In the glory of that land thou art set at God's right hand.

7. As our judge thou wilt appear, Savior, who has died to win us; help thy servants, drawing near; Lord, renew our hearts within us. Grant that with thy saints we may dwell in everlasting day.

OPENING PRAYER

O God, our Guide and Guardian, you have led us apart from the busy world into the quiet of your house. Grant us grace to worship you in Spirit and in truth, to the comfort of our souls and the upbuilding of every good purpose. Enable us to do more perfectly the work to which you have called us, that we may rest in peace knowing that we have done your will. Help us to worship you not only with songs of praise and prayer but in every word and deed we do all the days of our lives. Through Jesus Christ our Savior. *Amen.*

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE “Paul Prays for the Ephesians”, Ephesians 3:17-21

SHARING OF PRAYERS AND PRAISES

PASTORAL PRAYER

THE LORD'S PRAYER, #895

THE OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM ‘My eyes for beauty pine’ – Herbert Howells (1892-1983)

DOXOLOGY, #95

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Holy God who both calls us and confronts us: the gifts we bring to you are only a small part of the multitude we have received from your goodness. In the depth of our being, we know that in calling us, what you really seek is our faith, our belief, our conviction – our very hearts. What you long for from us is not a trip to church but a

lifelong journey into the world to follow Jesus with our whole being. Forgive our unbelief, our holding back, and lead us in the way that frees us from the grip of the world – the way of life! In Christ, we pray. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON 2 Samuel 11:1-15

In the spring of the year, the time when kings go out to battle, David sent Joab with his officers and all Israel with him; they ravaged the Ammonites, and besieged Rabbah. But David remained at Jerusalem. It happened, late one afternoon, when David rose from his couch and was walking about on the roof of the king's house, that he saw from the roof a woman bathing; the woman was very beautiful. David sent someone to inquire about the woman. It was reported, "This is Bathsheba daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite." So David sent messengers to get her, and she came to him, and he lay with her. (Now she was purifying herself after her period.) Then she returned to her house. The woman conceived; and she sent and told David, "I am pregnant." So David sent word to Joab, "Send me Uriah the Hittite." And Joab sent Uriah to David. When Uriah came to him, David asked how Joab and the people fared, and how the war was going. Then David said to Uriah, "Go down to your house, and wash your feet." Uriah went out of the king's house, and there followed him a present from the king. But Uriah slept at the entrance of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and did not go down to his house. When they told David, "Uriah did not go down to his house," David said to Uriah, "You have just come from a journey. Why did you not go down to your house?" Uriah said to David, "The ark and Israel and Judah remain in booths; and my lord Joab and the servants of my lord are camping in the open field; shall I then go to my house, to eat and to drink, and to lie with my wife? As you live, and as your soul lives, I will not do such a thing." Then David said to Uriah, "Remain here today also, and tomorrow I will send you back." So Uriah remained in Jerusalem that day. On the next day, David invited him to eat and drink in his presence and made him drunk; and in the evening he went out to lie on his couch with the servants of his lord, but he did not go down to his house. In the morning David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent it by the hand of Uriah. In the letter he wrote, "Set Uriah in the forefront of the hardest fighting, and then draw back from him, so that he may be struck down and die."

PSALM LESSON

Psalm 14 (responsive reading)

Leader: Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God."

**People: They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;
there is no one who does good.**

Leader: The Lord looks down from heaven on humankind to see if there are any who are wise, who seek after God.

**People: They have all gone astray, they are all alike perverse;
there is no one who does good, no, not one.**

Leader: Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call upon the Lord?

People: There they shall be in great terror, for God is with the company of the righteous.

Leader: You would confound the plans of the poor, but the Lord is their refuge.

People: O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion! When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people, Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.

EPISTLE LESSON 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

HYMN #539

"O Spirit of the Living God"

1. O Spirit of the living God, thou light and fire divine, descend upon thy church once more, and make it truly thine. Fill it with love and joy and power, with righteousness and peace; till Christ shall dwell in human hearts, and sin and sorrow cease.

2. Blow, wind of God! With wisdom blow until our minds are free from mists of error, clouds of doubt, which blind our eyes to thee. Burn, winged fire! Inspire our lips with flaming love and zeal, to preach to all thy great good news, God's glorious commonweal.

3. Teach us to utter living words of truth which all may hear, the language all may understand when love speaks loud and clear; till every age and race and clime shall blend their creeds in one, and earth shall form one family by whom thy will is done.

4. So shall we know the power of Christ who came this world to save; so shall we rise with him to life which soars beyond the grave; and earth shall win true holiness, which makes thy children whole; till, perfected by thee, we reach creation's glorious goal!

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, as we turn to your Word for us, may the Spirit of God rest upon us. Help us to be steadfast in our hearing, in our speaking, in our believing, and in our living. Amen.

GOSPEL LESSON

John 6:1-21

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, "Six months' wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?" Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, "Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, "This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world." When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself. When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, "It is I; do not be afraid." Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

Pastor: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God. Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH, #881 The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord: Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried;

The third day he arose from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

GLORIA PATRI, #70

CLOSING HYMN #98 "To God Be the Glory"

1. To God be the glory, great things he hath done! So loved he the world that he gave us his Son, who yielded his life an atonement for sin, and opened the life-gate that all may go in. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood, to every believer the promise of God; the vilest offender who truly believes, that moment from Jesus a pardon receives. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done, and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son; but purer, and higher, and greater will be our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the earth hear his voice! Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, let the people rejoice! O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son, and give him the glory, great things he hath done!

BENEDICTION

And now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling.
To Him who will present you with great joy and rejoicing to God Almighty.
It is into his hands that I commend you but it is out of this building,
as the people who are the church, that I send you to spread seeds of
love, faith, mercy, and hope to everyone you meet.
And the people of God said "**Amen.**"

POSTLUDE 'Sortie' – Maurice Duruflé (1902-1986)

***While worshipping this morning, please be sure that your
cell phone is on silent or turned off.***



TODAY'S ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God!

*Available Sundays to sponsor flowers is
August 15, 22, 29, and the month of September.*



July 25, 2021

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