

Order of Service

Fourteenth Sunday of Pentecost

September 6, 2020

"With one mind and one voice glorify God the Father."

[P = Pastor C = Congregation]

Opening Hymn: ELH 286 vs. 1-4

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee;
Let the water and the blood
From Thy riven side which flowed
Be of sin the double cure:
Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Not the labors of my hands
Can fulfill Thy Law's demands.
Could my zeal no respite know,
Could my tears forever flow,
All for sin could not atone;
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

Nothing in my hand I bring,
Simply to Thy cross I cling;
Naked, come to Thee for dress,
Helpless, look to Thee for grace.
Foul, I to the fountain fly—
Wash me, Savior, or I die!

**While I draw this fleeting breath,
When mine eye-lids close in death,
When I soar to worlds unknown,
See Thee on Thy judgment throne,
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
Let me hide myself in Thee!**

Invocation:

P: We worship in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: (*sung*) Amen.

The Confession

P: Almighty Lord God, we have come together to stand in Your presence, to hear Your Word and to worship You. But who may appear in Your presence, heavenly Father, and who may call on You for help?

C: He who has clean hands and a pure heart; he shall receive blessings from the Lord.

P: O holy and righteous God, You alone can make us clean. We have rebelled against You and become worthless. But Your mercies never end; they are new every day. At Your command and promise, therefore, we come to You and confess our sins.

C: O holy and most merciful Father, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But at Your gracious Word I come to You, and for the sake of my Lord Jesus Christ I plead: God, have mercy on me a sinner!

P: Having heard your confession, I in the name of the Lord Jesus declare to you that our gracious Father in heaven hears the prayer of every repentant sinner, and has forgiven you all your sins for the sake of Jesus Christ. Peace be with you! Amen.

Congregational Response: ELH 49 vs. 1, 3, 5

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name”

All hail the pow’r of Jesus’ name!

Let angels prostrate fall;

Bring forth the royal diadem

And crown Him Lord of all.

Bring forth the royal diadem

And crown Him Lord of all.

Ye seed of Israel’s chosen race,

Ye ransomed from the fall,

Hail Him who saves you by His grace

And crown Him Lord of all.

Hail Him who saves you by His grace

And crown Him Lord of all.

Sinners, whose love can ne’er forget

The wormwood and the gall,

Go, spread your trophies at His feet

And crown Him Lord of all.

Go, spread your trophies at His feet

And crown Him Lord of all.

Prayer for the Day

P: 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. We ask for this through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (*sung*) Amen.

The Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 55: 6-11

⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. ⁷ Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. ⁸ “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,” declares the Lord. ⁹ “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ As the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, ¹¹ so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. *The Holy Bible, Evangelical Heritage Version® (EHV®) copyright © 2017 The Wartburg Project.*

Congregational Response TLH 422 vs. 1, 4

“Savior, I Follow On”

**Savior, I follow on, Guided by Thee,
Seeing not yet the hand That leadeth me.
Hushed be my heart and still, Fear I no further ill,
Only to meet Thy will My will shall be.**

**Savior, I long to walk Closer with Thee;
Led by Thy guiding hand, Ever to be
Constantly near Thy side, Quickened and purified,
Living for Him who died Freely for me.**

Second Lesson: Romans 11:33–36

(St. Paul finishes a section that demonstrates how God’s wisdom can turn mankind’s disobedience into an opportunity for mercy. No wonder the apostle breaks forth into a hymn of praise! Who could have thought of such a thing? It could only be the unsearchable wisdom of our triune God!)

³³Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how untraceable his ways! ³⁴“For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been his adviser?” ³⁵“Or who has first given to God that he will be repaid?” ³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever! Amen. (EHV)

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 16: 13-20

(Human reason cannot consider Jesus to be any more than a prophet—the forerunner of the Messiah at best. But Peter, on behalf of the other disciples, confesses, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.” On this bedrock confession the entire church of God is built. We who are built upon Christ have overcome the dark powers of death. Jesus gave all Christians the authority to proclaim freedom to penitent sinners. Likewise, Christ’s voice is heard through us when we withhold forgiveness from those who proudly insist on their life of sin.)

¹³When Jesus came into the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?” ¹⁴They said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” ¹⁵He said to them, “But you, who do you say that I am?” ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell will not overpower it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he commanded the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Christ. (EHV)

The Confession of Faith — The Nicene Creed

C: 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

Hymn: ELH 227 vs 1,6,7 *“Salvation Unto Us Is Come”*

**Salvation unto us is come
By God’s free grace and favor.
Good works cannot avert our doom;
They help and save us never.
Faith looks to Jesus Christ alone,
Who did for all the world atone;
He is our one Redeemer.**

**As Christ hath full atonement made
And brought to us salvation,
So may each Christian now be glad
And build on this foundation:
Thy grace alone, dear Lord, I plead,
Thy death is now my life indeed,
For Thou hast paid my ransom.**

**Not doubting this, I trust in Thee,
Thy Word cannot be broken,
Thou all dost call, “Come unto Me!”
No falsehood hast Thou spoken:
“He who believes and is baptized,
He shall be saved,” say’st Thou, O Christ,
And he shall never perish.**

Sermon : Isaiah 55: 6-11 (*See Old Testament Lesson*)
“Seek The Lord!”

Hymn: ELH 473 vs. 1-4 *“For Me to Live Is Jesus”*

**For me to live is Jesus,
To die is gain for me;
Then, whensoever He pleases,
I meet death willingly.**

**For Christ, my Lord and Brother,
I leave this world so dim
And gladly seek that other,
Where I shall be with Him.**

**My woes are nearly over,
Though long and dark the road;
My sin His merits cover,
And I have peace with God.**

**Lord, when my pow'rs are failing,
My breath comes heavily,
And words are unavailing.
O hear my sighs to Thee.**

Offering Prayer ~ Prayer of the Church

P: O Lord, our God, you are wise and powerful, good and gracious. Your mercies are new every morning. Each day you open your hand and provide for the needs of your children on earth.

C: We praise you for every grace and blessing.

P: Strengthen your Church in all the world, and give us Your peace as we live among the ungodly. Let your message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed truthfully to troubled souls everywhere.

C: Use our ministries and offerings to extend your healing and your hope.

P: Look with favor on our nation. Enable our leaders to govern with wisdom, honesty, courage, and justice.

C: Protect those who serve in the armed forces and those who maintain peace and safety in our communities.

P: Keep our financial institutions secure and our economy strong. Bless our fields that they may produce abundant harvests. Guard us from calamities of nature, accident and terrorism, and spare us from the ravages of disease and epidemic.

C: Teach us not to worry but to cast all our cares on you.

P: Heavenly Father, grant us wisdom to use the gifts You have entrusted to us according to Your will, that we may be cheerful givers, motivated by Your love for us.

C: Help us always to seek first Your kingdom and Your priorities that we may be good stewards of all things.

P: Lord Jesus, You have told us that it is more blessed to give than to receive.

C: Help us look for opportunities each day to give of our time, talents, and temporal and spiritual treasures for the benefit of Your people and to the glory of Your kingdom.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

P: Hear us Lord, as we bring to you our private petitions.

Silent Prayer

P: Gracious Father, we pray boldly as Jesus taught, with the confidence that you will hear and respond for our welfare.

C: Amen.

The Preface (*Preparation for Holy Communion*)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: (sung) And with your spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: (sung) We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: (sung) It is good and right so to do.

P: Always and everywhere praise and thanks are due to You, O Lord, holy Father, God of life eternal, through Jesus Christ, who on a Sunday overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life; therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

The Sanctus:

C: (sung) Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth; Heav'n and earth are full of Your glory: Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, Blessed is e who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

The Lord's Prayer

P: 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.

C: (sung) For Thine is the kingdom and the pow'r and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

**** Holy Communion Distribution has been Edited out ****

Thanksgiving

P: Let us pray: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through these salutary gifts, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through them in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.

C: (sung) Amen.

The Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord turn to you in His favor and give you peace.

C: (sung) Amen. Amen. Amen.