

Order of Service

Fifteenth Sunday of Pentecost

September 13, 2020

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

[P = Pastor C = Congregation]

Opening Hymn: ELH #444 vs. 1-4

"Take My Life and Let It Be"

**Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee.
Take my moments and my days;
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love.
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.**

**Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only, for my King.
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.**

**Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold.
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.**

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.

Prayer for the Day

P: O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and forever.

C: **(sung) Amen.**

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 121

P: I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from?

C: My help comes from the LORD, the Maker of heaven and earth.

P: He will not let your foot slip—he who watches over you will not slumber;

C: Indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

P: The LORD watches over you—the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

C: The sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night.

P: The LORD will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life;

C: The LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

Congregational Response: ELH No. 174 vs. 1 & 2

**Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird or star in heaven
Such a refuge ne'er was given.**

**God His own doth tend and nourish;
In His holy courts they flourish;
From all evil things He spares them;
In His mighty arms He bears them.**

The Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 15:15-21

(God Promises To Save His Repentant People)

15 Lord, you understand. Remember me and care for me. Take vengeance for me on those who persecute me. You are slow to anger. Do not take me away. Be mindful that I bear reproach for your sake. 16 I devoured your words when they were found. Your words became a joy for me, and a delight for my heart, because I bear your name, Lord God of Armies. 17 I did not sit in the company of partiers, nor did I celebrate. I sat alone because your hand was upon me. You filled me with indignation. 18 Why is my pain unending and my wound incurable, refusing to heal? Will you be like a deceptive brook to me, like a spring that dries up? 19 Therefore this is what the Lord says: "If you repent, I will take you back, so that you may stand before me. If you say what is valuable, and not what is worthless, you will be my spokesman. Let them turn to you, but you must not turn to them. 20 I will make you a bronze wall to this people. They will fight against you, but they will not overcome you, because I am with you to save you and to rescue you, declares the Lord. 21 I will rescue you from the hand of the wicked, and I will deliver you from the grasp of the violent."

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Congregational Response: *"The First Song of Isaiah"*

Surely, it is God who saves me;

I will trust in him and not be afraid.

For the Lord is my stronghold and my sure defense,

And he will be my Savior. (Repeat)

Epistle Lesson: Romans 12:1-8

(God's mercy, not our accomplishments, moves his New Testament people to spiritual worship. Our bodies are living sacrifices. Our minds are renewed in the image of their Creator. There is no room for pride when each sees its mission as a ministering member of the body of Christ.)

Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice—holy and pleasing to God—which is your appropriate worship. 2 Also, do not continue to conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, so that you test and approve what is the will of God—what is good, pleasing, and perfect.

3 So by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought, but think in a way that results in sound judgment, as God distributed a measure of faith to each of you. 4 For we have many members in one body, and not all the members have the same function. 5 In the same way, though we are many, we are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.

6 We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us. If the gift is prophecy, do it in complete agreement with the faith. 7 If it is serving, then serve. If it is teaching, then teach. 8 If it is encouraging, then encourage. If it is contributing, be generous. If it is leadership, be diligent. If it is showing mercy, do it cheerfully.
(EHV)

Congregational Response: CW No. 566 vs. 1 & 2

**We all are one in mission, We all are one in call,
Our varied gifts united By Christ, the Lord of all.
A single, great commission Compels us from above
To plan and work together That all may know Christ's love.**

**We all are called for service To witness in God's name;
Our ministries are different, Our purpose is the same:
To touch the lives of others By God's surprising grace
So every folk and nation May feel God's warm embrace.**

Confession of Faith — 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, died and was buried. He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian church, the Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of Sins; the Resurrection of the body; and the Life everlasting. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 16: 21-26

(“Satan again tempts our Lord Jesus to abandon the way of the cross. This time his clever appeal is made through Jesus’ beloved disciple, Peter. Nothing less than the world’s eternal salvation lay in the balance. The Savior’s stinging rebuke was fitting. Christianity without the cross is an impossibility both for the Savior and for his disciples. Those who stand with the Savior must deny themselves, crucify their old way of thinking, and be ready to lose wealth, honor even life itself.”)

21 From that time, Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and experts in the law, and be killed, and on the third day be raised again.

22 Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, “May you receive mercy, Lord! This will never happen to you.”

23 But Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a snare to me because you are not thinking the things of God, but the things of men.”

24 Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone wants to follow me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. 25 In fact whoever wants to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. 26 After all, what will it benefit a person if he gains the whole world, but forfeits his soul? Or what can a person give in exchange for his soul?” (EHV)

Hymn: ELH #308 *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*

**When I survey the wondrous cross
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss
And pour contempt on all my pride.**

**Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to His blood.**

**See, from His head, His hands, His feet,
Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet
Or thorns compose so rich a crown?**

**Were the whole realm of nature mine,
That were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine,
Demands my soul, my life, my all.**

Sermon: Romans 12: 1-8 (*see Epistle Lesson*)
“Live in View of God’s Mercy!”

Hymn: ELH #523 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

**In the Cross of Christ I glory,
Tow’ring o’er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.**

**When the woes of life o’ertake me,
Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the Cross forsake me;
Lo, it glows with peace and joy.**

**When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the Cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.**

**Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
By the Cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.**

Offering Prayer

The 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. 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 and accident 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: Strengthen the homes of our nation. By your Spirit lead husbands and wives to love each other, parents to nurture their children, young adults to assume responsibility, and children to show respect.

C: Lead us to love one another as you have loved us.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

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

Silent Prayer

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

C: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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.

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.

Closing Hymn: TLH #658 vs. 1-3

"Onward, Christian Soldiers"

Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,

With the cross of Jesus going on before!

Christ, the royal Master, leads against the foe;

Forward into battle, see his banner go!

Refrain: Onward, Christian soldiers, marching as to war,

With the cross of Jesus going on before!

Like a mighty army moves the church of God;

Brothers, we are treading where the saints have trod;

We are not divided; all one body we,

One in hope and doctrine, one in charity.

(Refrain)

Crowns and thrones may perish, Kingdoms rise and wane,

But the Church of Jesus Constant will remain.

Gates of hell can never 'Gainst that Church prevail;

We have Christ's own promise, Men and that cannot fail.

(Refrain)