

Order of Service

Eighteenth Sunday of Pentecost

October 4, 2020

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

[P = Pastor C = Congregation]

Opening Hymn: ELH #37 *"We All Believe in One True God"*

**We all believe in one true God,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Ever present Help in need,
Praised by all the heav'nly host,
By whose mighty pow'r alone
All is made and wrought and done.**

**We all believe in Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's Son,
Who descended from His throne And for us salvation won,
By whose cross and death are we Rescued from all misery.**

**We all confess the Holy Ghost,
Who from both fore'er proceeds,
Who upholds and comforts us In all trials, fears, and needs.
Blest and Holy Trinity, Praise forever be to Thee!**

The 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 Your enemies. 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: *“Amazing Grace”*

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; Was blind, but now I see.**

Prayer for the Day

P: Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and leave no one standing idle. Help us to order our lives by your wisdom and to serve you in willing obedience. We ask for this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with the You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (*sung*) Amen.

Psalm of the Day: Psalm 27

P: The Lord is my light and my salvation-- whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life-- of whom shall I be afraid?

C: When evil men advance against me to devour my flesh, when my enemies and my foes attack me, they will stumble and fall.

P: Though an army besiege me, my heart will not fear; though war break out against me, even then will I be confident.

C: One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple.

P: For in the day of trouble he will keep me safe in his dwelling; he will hide me in the shelter of his tabernacle and set me high upon a rock.

C: Then my head will be exalted above the enemies who surround me; at his tabernacle will I sacrifice with shouts of joy; I will sing and make music to the Lord.

P: Hear my voice when I call, O Lord; be merciful to me and answer me.

C: My heart says of you, "Seek his face!" Your face, Lord, I will seek.

P: I am still confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

All: Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.

Congregational Response: ELH #438 vs. 1

**Come, O come, Thou quick'ning Spirit,
God from all eternity! May Thy power never fail us;
Dwell within us constantly.
Then shall truth and life and light
Banish all the gloom of night.**

Old Testament Lesson: Jonah 4: 5-11

⁵ Jonah had gone out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. ⁶ Then the Lord God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. ⁷ But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the plant so that it withered. ⁸ When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live." ⁹ But God said to Jonah, "Is it right for you to be angry about the plant?" "It is," he said. "And I'm so angry I wish I were dead." ¹⁰ But the Lord said, "You have been concerned about this plant, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight." ¹¹ And should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh, in which there are more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left—and also many animals?" (NIV)

Congregational Response: ELH #403 vs. 1 & 3

**God loved the world so that He gave
His only Son the lost to save
That all who would in Him believe
Should everlasting life receive.**

**God would not have the sinner die,
His Son with saving grace is nigh;
His Spirit in the Word doth teach
How man the blessed goal may reach.**

Epistle Lesson: Philippians 1: 18b-27

(From prison, St. Paul speaks of the joyful tension in which a Christian lives. On the one hand, we long to be with Christ in heaven. On the other hand, we are happy to serve Christ on earth. May God give us courage and willingness to exalt our Savior in life and in death!)

¹⁸ But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹ for I know that through your prayers and the help given by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. ²⁰ I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹ For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²² If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me. ²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel. (NIV)

Congregational Response: TLH 422 vs. 4

**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.**

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 20: 1-16

(God's kingdom comes to different people at different times. The reward is the same for all because it is a reward of grace, not personal accomplishment. Work in God's kingdom, be it short or long, is the privilege of grace. Those who take issue with God's grace will find themselves "last," that is, outside of his grace)

¹ "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. ² He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. ³ "About the third hour he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. ⁴ He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.'

⁵ So they went. "He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour and did the same thing.

⁶ About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' ⁷ "'Because no one has hired us,' they answered. "He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.'

⁸ "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.' ⁹ "The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius. ¹⁰ So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius.

¹¹ When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. ¹² 'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.'

¹³ "But he answered one of them, 'Friend, I am not being unfair to you. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? ¹⁴ Take your pay and go. I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you. ¹⁵ Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' ¹⁶ "So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

(NIV)

The Confession of Faith — The 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

Hymn: ELH #226 vs. 1-3 *“By Grace I’m Saved”*

**By grace I’m saved, grace free and boundless;
My soul, believe and doubt it not.
Why stagger at this word of promise?
Hath Scripture ever falsehood taught?
Nay; then this word must true remain;
By grace thou, too, shalt heav’n obtain.**

**By grace! None dare lay claim to merit;
Our works and conduct have no worth.
God in His love sent our Redeemer,**

**Christ Jesus, to this sinful earth;
His death did for our sins atone,
And we are saved by grace alone.**

**By grace! O mark this word of promise
When thou art by thy sins oppressed,
When Satan plagues thy troubled conscience,
And when thy heart is seeking rest.
What reason cannot comprehend
God by His grace to thee doth send.**

Sermon: Jonah 4: 5-11 (*see Old Testament Lesson*)
"The Lord Provides Grace!"

Hymn: ELH #364 vs. 1-3 (Tune-TLH #396)
"O for a Faith That Will Not Shrink"

**O for a faith that will not shrink,
Though pressed by many a foe,
That will not tremble on the brink Of any earthly woe,**

**That will not murmur nor complain
Beneath the chast'ning rod,
But in the hour of grief or pain Will lean upon its God.**

**A faith that shines more bright and clear
When tempests rage without,
That, when in danger, knows no fear,
In darkness feels no doubt.**

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. 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: Bless our national, state, and local governments.

C: Protect our nation from natural disasters and terrorism. Help us to live quiet and peaceful lives so that we can continue to freely proclaim the Good News of the Gospel.

P: Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses, social **workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.**

C: Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

P: Show your favor upon our businesses and industries during these times of economic uncertainty. Please give employment to the people who are out of work and provide for their needs.

C: Help us find satisfaction in all work well done.

P: Build up the homes of our land. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to Christian parenting and to each other. Give children and young people the wisdom to regard their parents as your representatives.

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.

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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 He 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.

** Communion has been cut out from the recording **

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.