

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost + September 5, 2021

Worship services: Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

WELCOME! The Labor Day weekend marks the close of our 2021 Summer Season. As we scatter from here, God goes with us. He calls us, as His dear children, to follow Him and to walk in His ways. And, He promises the presence of His Spirit to empower us as we encounter each new day!

✘ ✘ ✘

THE PRESERVICE MUSIC AND PASTORAL GREETING

✘ THE PREPARATION ✘

THE OPENING HYMN – “Earth and All Stars”

(v. 1, 4, 5, 7)

#817

THE INVOCATION

THE PSALM (*Psalm 90—selected verses*)

P: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. (90:1)

C: **Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.** (90:2)

P: You return man to dust and say, “Return, O children of man!” (90:3)

C: **So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.** (90:12)

P: Let your work be shown to your servants, and your glorious power to their children. (90:16)

C: **Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands upon us; yes, establish the work of our hands!** (90:17)

All: **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and evermore shall be. Amen. Lord you have been our dwelling place in all generations. From everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

THE CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

P: At the Creation of the world, God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created them; Male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:27)

C: **The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and keep it.** (Genesis 2:15)

P: Beguiled by the devil, Adam and Eve sinned against God. Because Adam did not obey, God proclaimed, “Cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life.” (Genesis 3:17)

C: **“By the sweat of your face shall you eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust and to dust you shall return,” God also proclaimed.** (Genesis 3:19)

P: Joyful work for the Lord God in the Garden of Eden was lost. Now, all humanity labors in this world under the influence of sin. Let us confess the sin of our labors.

C: **Lord God Almighty, I confess my sins to You. I have been concerned with my own selfish desires and attitudes. I labor for myself, my comfort, and my wealth. I have failed to do the good You command, and instead have done the evil You forbid. Forgive me, LORD, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ! Renew me by Your Word and Spirit that I may love and serve You and my neighbor faithfully.**

P: The work of Christ is the salvation of the world. By His perfect life, by His innocent suffering and death, and by His glorious resurrection and ascension, I announce to you in the name of Jesus Christ and by the authority of the Lord God Almighty, that all your sins are forgiven. May the Holy Spirit renew your heart and life that your labors are always for the Lord.

All: Amen.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE — (8:00) *"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"* (v. 1-3) #793
(10:00) *"Majesty"*

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, You make us both to will and to do those things that are good and acceptable in Your sight. Show us daily how the works of our hands and hearts are to be labors of love in Your name for our neighbors in this world; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

✠ **THE WORD** ✠

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING – Isaiah 35:4-7a, ESV

This reading is a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy, which makes the path from Babylon back to Zion safe for the exile's return.

Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you."

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING – James 2:1-10, 14-18, ESV

Faithful Christians do not show partiality. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip-service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need.

My brothers, show no partiality as you hold the faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory. For if a man wearing a gold ring and fine clothing comes into your assembly, and a poor man in shabby clothing also comes in, and if you pay attention to the one who wears the fine clothing and say, "You sit here in a good place," while you say to the poor man, "You stand over there," or, "Sit down at my feet," have you not then made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers, has not God chosen those who are poor in the world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom, which he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor man. Are not the rich the ones who oppress you, and the ones who drag you into court? Are they not the ones who blaspheme the honorable name by which you were called?

If you really fulfill the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," you are doing well. But if you show partiality, you are committing sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become guilty of all of it.

What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can

that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace, be warmed and filled," without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.

But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works." Show me your faith apart from your works, and I will show you my faith by my works.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA — *"Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven"*

(v. 4)

#793

THE HOLY GOSPEL READING – Mark 7:31-37, ESV

Then he returned from the region of Tyre and went through Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. And they brought to him a man who was deaf and had a speech impediment, and they begged him to lay his hand on him. And taking him aside from the crowd privately, he put his fingers into his ears, and after spitting touched his tongue. And looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, "Ephphatha," that is, "Be opened." And his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. And Jesus charged them to tell no one. But the more he charged them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. And they were astonished beyond measure, saying, "He has done all things well. He even makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE SERMON HYMN — *"Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service"*

(v. 1-3)

#848

THE MESSAGE

Pastor Jeff Teeple

✧ **THE RESPONSE** ✧

THE HYMN OF RESPONSE — (8:00) *"Lord, Whose Love Through ..."*

(v. 4)

#848

(10:00) *"Purify My Heart"*

sm. group/w congregation

THE APOSTLES' CREED

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR FAMILY PRAYERS

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 comforting message of salvation in Christ Jesus be proclaimed to troubled souls everywhere.

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

P: We bring You our requests for the various structures of society. Bless our national, states, and local governments. Guide and protect those serving in our military. And grant strength to our public safety personnel.

C: Grant us civil servants who are worthy of honor and respect.

P: Grant prosperity to our businesses and industries. Give employers a sense of fairness toward their workers, and employees a feeling of joy and pride in their workmanship. Encourage those who are unemployed with hope in troubled times.

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

- P: Invigorate the schools of our land. Give success to every effort that helps students read, think, and communicate in ways that will promote an informed and responsible citizenry. Arouse curious minds to discover the wonders of Your created order.
- C: Enable our students and all teachers to pursue excellence.**
- P: Strengthen the families of our country. Give fathers and mothers a renewed commitment to be good parents. 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.**
(Here special intercessions are made. Each concluding:)
 P: Lord in Your mercy **C: Hear our 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. Here us now as we pray in His name...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

(10:00) **THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION** *(see below to prepare)*

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Words of Institution

Distribution — Please join in singing:

"I Come, O Savior to Thy Table"	(v. 1, 4, 5)	#618
"Amazing Grace"		#744

Dismissal and Collect

THE BENEDICTION

THE CLOSING HYMN – (8:00) "Christ the Eternal Lord" (v. 1, 3, 4) **#829**
 (10:00) "Joyful (The One Who Saves)" **Video**

THE POSTSERVICE MUSIC

THE SILENT PRAYER

Lord God, bless Your Word wherever it is proclaimed. Make it a word of power and peace to convert those not yet Your own and to confirm those who have come to saving faith. May Your Word pass from the ear to the heart from the heart to the lip, and from the lip to the life that, as You have promised, Your Word may achieve the purpose for which You send it; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

✠ ✠ ✠

(10:00) THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Because Holy Communion is an expression of our oneness in faith, we request that each person desiring to commune with us examine himself on the basis of these points of faith:

I BELIEVE THAT:

- + I am a sinner in need of God's forgiveness.
- + Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan and death.
- + Jesus Christ is really present in the Sacrament, and
- + The bread and wine I receive are also the true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ.
- + All my sins are forgiven through this Sacrament.
- + As God enables me, I pledge to thank, praise, serve and obey Him.



Those who hold in common these teachings are invited to join us at the Lord's Supper. If you have questions or reservations about these points of faith, we invite you to speak with the Pastor before the service. The lighter colored wine is non-alcoholic for those with that special need. Gluten-free wafers are also available.