

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 22, 2023

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

“Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters”

arr. Michael Burkhardt

Welcome and Announcements

Introit “O God, You Are My Hope”

David Ward, 2011

O God, you are my hope;

I know that you forgive.

Your love redeems me from the depths

So I may rise and live.

***Call to Worship**

Leader: Though there are rulers, presidents, kings, queens, God is the
Lord of all life.

People: In God we live and move and have our being.

Leader: God requires our faithfulness and our service.

**People: We reach out to others with the same kind of love with which
God has touched our lives.**

Leader: Come, let us worship the Lord who is always with us.

People: Let us give God's things to God!

***Hymn**

“Come! Live in the Light!”

#749

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** (*in unison*)

We are so easily pulled this way and that way by those who would promise instant healing for all the world's woes. We want to have everything be whole and happy, and we don't know what to do, so we pay attention to those voices that cry the loudest, whether they are voices of blame or promise. In our fearfulness, we love to place blame for all our woes on the shoulders of a few people. In our anguish, we seek instant answers from sources that are very unreliable. Lord, help us. Turn us around. Help us know that you are our Lord and you have provided much for us. You have given to us abilities, and understanding, and ways in which we can be those who would bring peace and justice. You have blessed our lives. Heal and restore our spirits, Lord. Help us truly place our trust in you, help us to give God things to God, and help us in this endeavor! This prayer we offer in Jesus' name. Amen. (Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn**

“Gloria Patri”

#581

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children's Sermon

First Scripture Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Choir Anthem “Praise Be to Jesus”

Bill & Gloria Gaither, 1976

Let him who is thirsty come to clear water,
Let him who is hungry come by and eat;

arr. Clint Morse

For money can't buy this cool, living water,
Or this milk and honey so sweet.

(refrain) Praise be to Jesus, the sweet Rose of Sharon.

Praise to the Christ, the Redeemer of men.

Praise to the King who is reigning forever,

The Hope of the ages, my Master and Friend.

The hills and the mountains break forth into singing,

The tall stately trees and fields clap their hands,

In place of the thorn there shall grow a tall fir tree;

A tender plant from the sand. (refrain)

Then shall the light break forth into morning,

Bringing beauty for ashes, strength for the days;

And hearts that were heavy shall stand in his presence,

Wrapped in the garment of praise. (refrain)

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 22:15-22

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Keep the Change!”

Pastor Steve Watters

The Response to the Word

Invitation to Offering

***Response**

“We Give Thee but Thine Own” (v. 1)

#708

***Prayer of Dedication**

The Sacrament of Baptism

***Hymn**

“Baptized in Water”

#482

Presentation

Clerk: Our salvation comes ... rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

People: God pours out this Spirit upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by grace, we might become heirs to the hope of eternal life.

Leader: Do you, as members of the church ... with love and prayer?

People: We do.

Leader: Will you encourage them ... faithful members of his church?

People: We will.

Profession of Faith

Leader: And now, I ask the people of the congregation to stand. With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

People: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living 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.

Thanksgiving over the Water

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The Baptism

Laying On of Hands and Anointing

Leader: Gracious God, you have called ... spirit of joy in your presence.

People: Amen.

Leader: [Lettie Grace], [Deacon Robert] ... grafted into Christ forever.

People: Amen.

Leader: God who began a good work in you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

Welcome

Clerk: Lettie and Deacon ... we welcome you into the body of Christ.

People: Alleluia! Amen!

Clerk: Live as a child of the light and let your light shine before others.

People: Amen.

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

The Sending of God's People

***Closing Hymn** "God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me" #543

***Charge and Blessing**

***Congregational Response**

"We Are the Church"

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and common time. The first staff has the lyrics: "I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to - geth-er!". The second staff has the lyrics: "All who follow Jesus, all around the world! Yes, we're the church to - gether!".

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***Postlude** "Now Thank We All Our God" arr. Phillip M. Young

Pastors: Steven A. Watters
Dr. Mark A. Johnson
Désirée Youngblood

Liturgist: Kelli Armfelt

Clerk of Session: Connie Dwyer

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Electric Bass: Joe Blaho

Greeters: Marilyn Schellhaas