

WELCOME!

We are glad to welcome you today as we gather together to worship God! Please be sure you complete the salmon insert inside your bulletin and turn it in to the usher at the time of communion.

This bulletin will assist you in participating in worship. All parts spoken by the congregation are listed in **bold print and preceded by "C:"**

There are also instructions printed in *italics* that will indicate other helpful descriptions of the service. Large Print Hymns are available. Please see an usher.

Thank you for turning off your cell phones or putting them on "silent" during the service.



*We are committed to **invite** and **welcome** all to Jesus Christ, to **equip** all with an active faith that works in real life, and together go into the world to **serve** in Jesus' name.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE: "Largo"

by Edward Elgar*

Please stand

INVOCATION, CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[Silence for reflection and self-examination]

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us, and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN 660 "Lift High the Cross"

APOSTOLIC GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE "This Is the Feast"




Refrain This is the feast of vic-tory for our
God. Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-
ia. (1) Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
blood set us free to be peo-ple of God.
Refrain This is the feast of vic-tory for our
God. Al-le-lu-ia. al-le-lu-ia. al-le-lu-
ia. (2) Pow-er, rich-es, wis-dom, and strength, and
hon-or, bless-ing, and glo-ry are his.



29 *Refrain* This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our



32 God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -



36 ia. (3) Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



40 join in the hymn of all cre - a - - - tion:



44 Bless-ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to God and the



48 Lamb for - ev - er. A - - - men.



51 *Refrain* This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our



54 God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -



57 ia. (4) For the Lamb who was slain has be -

61
gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

65
Refrain This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our

68
God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -

71
lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: O God, through suffering and rejection you bring forth our salvation, and by the glory of the cross you transform our lives. Grant that for the sake of the gospel we may turn from the lure of evil, take up our cross, and follow your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of a teacher, that I may know how to sustain the weary with a word. Morning by morning he wakens—wakens my ear to listen as those who are taught. The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious, I did not turn backward. I gave my back to those who struck me, and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard; I did not hide my face from insult and spitting. The Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame; he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. It is the

Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty? All of them will wear out like a garment; the moth will eat them up.

R: The Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: James 3:1-12

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits. How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

R: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



A - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



P: The Holy Gospel according to the eighth chapter of Mark.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 8:27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets." He asked them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered him, "You are the Messiah." And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

ANTHEM

(8:15, Chancel Choir)

“O Love, How Deep “

by Gordon Young

(11am, Women’s Chorale)

“Beautiful Savior”

by F. Melius Christiansen

SERMON

Pastor Patti Morlock

HYMN 810 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

APOSTLES’ CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response:

P: ...Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...

...and join their unending hymn:

HOLY HOLY HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Holy Holy Holy". It consists of four staves of music in a single system, written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music features a mix of quarter, eighth, and sixteenth notes, with some rests and dynamic markings.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians who believe that Christ is present in the wine and bread for forgiveness, life, and salvation are welcome to partake of communion. Please indicate to the server if you would prefer to receive grape juice. All children and adults who prefer to receive a blessing instead of communion are welcome to come forward. Please indicate you would prefer to receive a blessing by keeping your hands folded.

BLESSING, PRAYER and BENEDICTION

HYMN 805 "Lead On, O King Eternal!"

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: "Postlude in A Minor"

by George Calkin

** The prelude is by Sir Edward Elgar (1857-1934), a British composer best known to Americans for his Pomp and Circumstance march, played at many high school graduations. The prelude is from another of his popular compositions called the Enigma Variations and was arranged for organ by Hal Hopson.*

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

16th Sunday after Pentecost – September 12, 2021

“I believe, help my unbelief!” (Mark 9:24)

When Jesus asked what the disciples and scribes were arguing about, the answer came from the father of a spirit-possessed child. “I asked your disciples to cast it out, and they were not able,” he says. Jesus responds in frustration at the “faithless generation.”

We see unbelief in the father of the boy. He brought his child to the disciples with hope they could help, but they did not. Perhaps the father is thinking, “these disciples have met their match and could not do anything about this “kind” of spirit. If the disciples couldn’t cast out the spirit, then perhaps Jesus can’t either.” The father is struggling and cries out to Jesus, “If you can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Jesus repeats the father’s words, almost mockingly, “If you can!” The father is uncertain of Jesus’ power because of the disciples’ failure. Regardless of how much God’s people may fail, God never fails.

Jesus is troubled by the persistent unbelief of the crowd, expressed by the simple words the boy’s father utters. After all the miracles Jesus has done, maybe there is a limit as to just how powerful Jesus is. Perhaps there is something that he cannot do. In verse 24 the father responds to Jesus by crying out, “I believe; help my unbelief.” This is a beautiful expression of faith, full of doubt and full of hope, and it should give those of us who want to follow Jesus much encouragement. It is an honest expression of the difficulty of faith. Perhaps you may have said the same thing and you are looking for “proof” that you have faith. Maybe, knowing you doubt at times, proves that you have faith. For who doubts what they don’t believe?

As this story concludes we find Jesus in a private conversation with his disciples. They ask, “Why could we not cast the spirit out?” The unbelief of the disciples is exposed. The disciples had failed in the same way the father had.

If this troubles you, take heart! Sometimes faith is not easy, even for the first disciples. But remember, God is pursuing you and wants to give you faith! Faith is not a human power but rather a divine power, the work of the Holy Spirit. God gives us faith through the Word, the Gospel, the sacraments, and the words of a preacher. **Amen.**