



Time After Pentecost

Sunday, August 22, 2021

*An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in Spirit.
You are welcome to sing during worship if you are vaccinated!*

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude — “Let Us Break Bread Together on Our Knees”

Setting by Douglas Wagner

Nancy Timm & Rachel Szybnski, handchimes; Sharon Malm, piano

Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** — no. 462

“Now We Join in Celebration”

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna,
the God of miracles,
the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance,
let us confess our sin. God, our provider,
help us.
It is hard to believe there is enough to share.
We question your ways when they differ from
the ways of the world in which we live.
We turn to our own understanding
rather than trusting in you.
We take offense at your teachings and your
ways.

Turn us again to you.
Where else can we turn?
Share with us the words of eternal life
and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Beloved people of God:
in Jesus, the manna from heaven,
you are fed and nourished.
By Jesus, the worker of miracles,
there is always more than enough.
Through Jesus, † the bread of life,
you are shown God's mercy:
you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.
Amen.

*Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth, that, renouncing what is false and evil, we may live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Hearing & Responding to Scripture

A Reading from Hebrew Scriptures — Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18

1Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. 2aAnd Joshua said to all the people, 14“Now therefore revere the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. 15Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

16Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods; 17for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; 18and the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 34:15-24 — *spoken responsively by verse*

15The eyes of the Lord are up- | on the righteous,
and God's ears are open | to their cry.

**16The face of the Lord is against those | who do evil,
to erase the remembrance of them | from the earth.**

17The righteous cry, and | the Lord hears them
and delivers them from | all their troubles.

**18The Lord is near to the | brokenhearted
and saves those whose spir- | its are crushed.**

19Many are the troubles | of the righteous,
but the Lord delivers them from | every one.

**20God will keep safe | all their bones;
not one of them | shall be broken.**

21Evil will bring death | to the wicked
and those who hate the righteous | will be punished.

**22O Lord, you redeem the life | of your servants,
and those who put their trust in you will | not be punished.**

A Reading from the Epistles — Ephesians 6:10-20

10Be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his power. 11Put on the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12For our struggle is not against enemies of blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers of this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13Therefore take up the whole armor of God, so that you may be able to withstand on that evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. 14Stand therefore, and fasten the belt of truth around your waist, and put on the breastplate of righteousness. 15As shoes for your feet put on whatever will make you ready to proclaim the gospel of peace. 16With all of these, take the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. 17Take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

18Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints. 19Pray also for me, so that when I speak, a message may be given to me to make known with boldness the mystery of the gospel, 20for which I am an ambassador in chains. Pray that I may declare it boldly, as I must speak.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation — hymn no. 472, *sung three times*

“Jesus Christ, Bread of Life”

Jesus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hunger.

Jesus Christ, risen Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

***Gospel** — John 6:56-69

The Gospel of John, the 6th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said,] 56“Those who eat my flesh and drink my blood abide in me, and I in them. 57Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me. 58This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.” 59He said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue at Capernaum.

60When many of his disciples heard it, they said, “This teaching is difficult; who can accept it?” 61But Jesus, being aware that his disciples were complaining about it, said to them, “Does this offend you? 62Then what if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? 63It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh is useless. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life. 64But among you there are some who do not believe.” For Jesus knew from the first who were the ones that did not believe, and who was the one that would betray him. 65And he said, “For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by the Father.”

66Because of this many of his disciples turned back and no longer went about with him. 67So Jesus asked the twelve, “Do you also wish to go away?” 68Simon Peter answered him, “Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — “Put On God's Armor”

Interim Pastor Bill Nelsen

***Hymn** — no. 522

“As We Gather at Your Table”

*Affirmation of Faith — Apostles' Creed

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 power of 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

*Prayers of Intercession

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

God of courage, bless all leaders of your church. Make them ready to proclaim the gospel of peace and strengthen them to preach your loving word. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, bless fields and orchards. Protect the land from drought and bring life-giving rain to support growth. Instruct your people in wise treatment of the world you have provided for all your creatures. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of community, bless all who seek justice between nations and peoples. Give guidance to bridge-builders, heal divisions, and inspire cooperation in times of crisis, disaster, and war. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, bless all who are in any need. Accompany all who are lonely and feeling abandoned and remind them of your abiding presence. Accompany all who are persecuted and exploited and open us to their cries. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of change, bless our transitions. Guide all who are embarking on new stages in life such as a new job, new school, or new community. Sustain enduring friendships and kindle new relationships and interests. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, bless all who mourn the deaths of their beloved ones. We give you thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Renew our confidence in your promise of resurrection and life in the world to come. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Offering

Please leave an offering in the basket outside the sanctuary, mail a check to the office, or give online: <https://tithe.ly/give?c=283920>.

Sharing the Meal

*The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

*The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Distribution of Communion

Hymn — no. 487

“What Feast of Love”

Departing to Serve God's World

Announcements

Blessing

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,

✠ be upon you now and forever. Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Put on God's armor. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude — “Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring” (from *Cantata no. 147*)

Johann Sebastian Bach
Carrie Stelter, cello

Acknowledgements

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“Confession and Forgiveness” written by James E. Janecek , in Seeds of Faith: Service Prayers for the Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost. Posted on the United Church of Christ’s Worship Ways archive. <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-c/p/pentecost-ordinary-time-21.html>

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Online Assistants

Pastor/Presider: Pastor Bill Nelsen
Director of Music: Cantor Emily Bruflat
Lector/Assistant: Ribar Family

In Person Assistants

Pastor/Presider: Pastor Bill Nelsen
Director of Music: Cantor Emily Bruflat
Greeter/Reader: Nancy Timm
Ushers: Bill Kautt

Announcements

Important Worship Information

- Masks will be required for everyone - vaccinated or not - during worship services.
- Only those vaccinated should sing. Singing is considered a super-spreader activity.

Volunteers Needed

- Sunday School Teachers (No previous teaching experience required, just a passion for helping our kids' relationship with God! Twice a month commitment on Sunday mornings.)
- Confirmation Class Helpers
- An assistant to the lead teacher - no teaching required!
- Confirmation Mentors (Mentors are adult guides paired with a confirmand, tasked to be available as the student navigates questions of faith in the life of the church)
- Contact the church office or email Calleigh (cc.flcstp@gmail.com) if you can assist us.

Prayers

- We pray for the family of Tom Stenson, who recently passed away
- We pray for the family of Bob Eisenberg, who passed away on Monday
- We pray for those who have recently undergone surgery: Erika Schuldt, Glen Stryker, and John Malm.
- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Gwen Weldon, Tom and Deb Johnson, Tom Michels, Dick Muesing, Abigail Christenson, Betty Gustafson, Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Paul Aasen, Bob Cady, Marion Peterson, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge, and Urusla McRostie, and for all those families continuing to adjust to the loss of loved ones.