

September 18, 2022
15th Sunday after Pentecost



Leading Worship Today:

Pastor: Brian Entz

Lay Leader: Eric Ellwoods

Accompanist: Ralph Johansen

*Please stand when there is an **
*Please read along with all **Bold** text*

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Merciful God, save me from my sin and let your Holy Spirit burn in me.
Take away my heart of stone and give me a heart of flesh-
to love you and adore you, to follow you and enjoy you, to delight in you forever;
through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen.
-Ambrose of Milan (c.339-397)*

GATHERING

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, you God's servants;

praise the name of the Lord!

Let the name of the Lord be praised,

both now and forevermore!

From the rising of the sun to the place where it sets,

the name of the Lord is to be praised.

Praise the Lord!

*OPENING HYMN

#299 You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Paul reminds us that "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God; yet we are justified by the gift of God's grace through the redemption that is ours in Christ Jesus." Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change; open us to a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ, your Word incarnate. Amen.

As water is poured into the font remember your baptism and that in these waters you are named as one of God's beloved and joined to Christ forever.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

If we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. Therefore, consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Friends believe the Good News, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

Alleluia, Amen!

***RESPONSE**

The Gloria Patri #581

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.

Amen. Amen.

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

God of abundant life, your grace is our daily bread. Nourish us by your Word and fill us with your Spirit so that we may grow in faith and love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 Timothy 2:1-7 (NRSV)

¹First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone, ²for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity. ³This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, ⁴who desires everyone to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. ⁵For there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and humankind, Christ Jesus, himself human, ⁶who gave himself a ransom for all-this was attested at the right time. ⁷For this I was appointed a herald and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying), a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 16:1-13 (NRSV)

¹Then Jesus said to the disciples, "There was a rich man who had a manager, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. ²So he summoned him and said to him, 'What is this that I hear about you? Give me an accounting of your management, because you cannot be my manager any longer.' ³Then the manager said to himself, 'What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. ⁴I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as manager, people may welcome me into their homes.' ⁵So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, 'How much do you owe my master?' ⁶He answered, 'A hundred jugs of olive oil.' He said to him, 'Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty.' ⁷Then he asked another, 'And how much do you owe?' He

replied, 'A hundred containers of wheat.' He said to him, 'Take your bill and make it eighty.' ⁸And his master commended the dishonest manager because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. ⁹And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

¹⁰"Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? ¹²And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? ¹³No slave can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

#792 There Is a Balm in Gilead

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Jeremiah 8:18-9:1(NRSV)

¹⁸My joy is gone, grief is upon me, my heart is sick. ¹⁹Hark, the cry of my poor people from far and wide in the land: "Is the LORD not in Zion? Is her King not in her?" ("Why have they provoked me to anger with their images, with their foreign idols?") ²⁰"The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved." ²¹For the hurt of my poor people I am hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold of me. ²²Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then has the health of my poor people not been restored?

¹O that my head were a spring of water, and my eyes a fountain of tears, so that I might weep day and night for the slain of my poor people!

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Rev. Brian Entz

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

*"Let us present ourselves to God as those
who have been delivered from death to life".
To give online, please scan the QR code.*



*DOXOLOGY

#606 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*OFFERING PRAYER

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from 1 Cor., Mark, Matthew, Revelation, and John

This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.

We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

All thanks and praise to you O God, maker of the cosmos and all that is within it.

We come to you in gratitude for this, another day of life in your beautiful creation.

We give you thanks for the call you have placed on our lives, for your grace made known in Jesus Christ, and for this family of faith into which you have adopted us.

In the silence of our hearts we lift to you now all for which we are grateful...

We give you thanks that when we call to you in prayer you do not leave our intercessions unheard. In recognition of this truth we pray for the needs of the church, the whole of humanity, and the world.

We pray for your Church, that we and all its members may be faithful disciples; living the way of Jesus, loving you with our whole selves and loving all our neighbors.

We pray for this earth; that it might be freed from the ravages of war, disease, and pollution.

We pray for those in positions of leadership across this nation and around the globe; may they lead with wisdom, justice, humility, and mercy.

We pray for all who suffer from illness or injury, especially all those with COVID19 and its effects. We pray also for the doctors, nurses, medical professionals, and caregivers seeking the healing of others. We ask for your healing presence to be made known to all in need.

We pray for those in our community in the midst of grief... We pray for those in our community whose family members are in need of healing and comfort, including.... Surround them with your gracious Spirit.

We pray for those who struggle with faith, for those who feel their connection to you is lost, for those who search, but aren't sure where to look. Reveal yourself to them anew in Word and Spirit, and empower us to share your life giving love, the Good News of Jesus Christ, with all we encounter.

We pray for those people and communities that have been harmed by the evils of gun violence and white supremacy. When there are more mass shootings than days in the year we cry 'how long, O Lord,' as we are weary of continued violence and little movement toward ending it. Embolden us and our society to act with courage and wisdom, making us a part of the solution.

We pray for all who struggle for justice; devoting themselves to ending white supremacy, sexism, ableism, transphobia, and all systems of hate, fear, and oppression. Encourage and empower us to seek justice for all people.

We pray for those whose lives and communities have been devastated by flood, drought, fire, and all manner of natural disaster. Bring healing and comfort to them and give endurance and compassion to all who work to rebuild.

We pray for those who do not have enough to eat, who don't have a safe place to call home, who struggle to maintain the basic necessities of life. May all people have enough.

We pray for all that rests wearily on our hearts and minds...

Hear these prayers, O God of mercy, and strengthen us for all that is ahead, until the day when you usher us into the blessed Kingdom of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who taught us to pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN

#738 O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

*CHARGE & BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Larger Print Hymns: Please see an usher if you would like a copy of larger print hymns.

Children's Bulletins: Please see an usher if you are interested in a children's bulletin.

WORSHIP NOTES

The Call to Worship comes from Psalm 113.

All other liturgy comes from/is adapted from the Book of Common Worship (2018) or is written in house.

MUSIC LICENSES

#299 You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim | TEXT: Charles Wesley, 1744, alt. | MUSIC: Anon.; A Supplement to the New Version of the Psalms, 1708 | Public Domain

#792 There Is a Balm in Gilead | TEXT: African American spiritual | MUSIC: African American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1989, alt. African American spiritual; arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1989, alt. | Music Arr. © 1990 Melva Wilson Costen (admin. Westminster John Knox Press). All rights reserved. Used by permission.

#738 O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee | TEXT: Washington Gladden, 1879 | MUSIC: Henry Percy Smith, 1874 | Public Domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Confirmation Students: We will be meeting TODAY from 1:30 pm to 3:00 pm.

Community Campfire: Join us on Saturday, October 8th at 5:30pm to enjoy an evening with others around a campfire! There will be s'mores, hot dogs, music, and singing. Please bring your own chair. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex.

SPOT: Spiritual Practices of Today is a new monthly Faith Formation offering that will focus on various spiritual practices we can use to grow deeper in our faith and relationship with God. The October SPOT gathering will be on **Tuesday, October 25th at 7pm**. We plan to meet in the Sanctuary as we reflect on the spiritual practice from September and learn about our October practice, Centering Prayer. Centering Prayer gives us a tool to still ourselves so that we might be more aware of God's presence and better listen for what God is saying to us. Remember to wear comfy clothes.

How can we pray for you? Along with the blue prayer request cards found in the pews you can also submit prayer requests on the BPC website. Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to be taken directly to the prayer request form. All prayer requests go directly to Pastor Brian.



BPC Prayer List:

Jo Hatcher
Gretchen Lieb, Pearl's daughter
Ellen Sibert, Lanny & Shirley Taylor's nephew's wife
John and Charlotte Collins
Janice Sorby
Sharon, Lavina & Larry Pattee's daughter
Mark Lawlor
Julie Bernard, Charlie Wilken's daughter
For the peoples of Ukraine and Russia.
For peace in Ukraine and around the world.
For those with dementia or alzheimers and their caregivers.
For those with COVID 19 and their caregivers.
For all nurses, doctors, and healthcare professionals.
For the Presbytery of the Twin Cities area in the midst of leadership transitions.
For neighboring congregations in the midst of transition.
For the people and communities in eastern Kentucky, Virginia, and Missouri following severe flooding.

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299 You Servants of God, Your Master Proclaim



1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim,
 2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save,
 3 "Sal - va - tion to God, who sits on the throne!"
 4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right:

and pub - lish a - broad Christ's won - der - ful name.
 he still re - mains nigh; his pres - ence we have.
 Let all cry a - loud and hon - or the Son.
 all glo - ry and power, all wis - dom and might,

The name all vic - to - rious of Je - sus ex - tol,
 The great con - gre - ga - tion his tri - umph shall sing,
 The prais - es of Je - sus the an - gels pro - claim,
 all hon - or and bless - ing, with an - gels a - bove,

whose king - dom is glo - rious, who rules o - ver all.
 as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus our King.
 fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
 and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fi - nite love!

This hymn resembles many 18th-century drawings that show parallels between worship on earth and worship in heaven, especially as described in Revelation 7:9–11. This 18th-century tune has had many names; the one used here honors the dynasty of British monarchs, 1714–1901.

There Is a Balm in Gilead 792

Refrain

There is a balm in Gil-e-ad to make the wound-ed whole;

Fine

there is a balm in Gil-e-ad to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Some-times I feel dis-cour-aged, and think my work's in vain, but
 2 Don't ev-er feel dis-cour-aged, for Je-sus is your friend, and
 3 If you can-not preach like Pe-ter, if you can-not pray like Paul, you can

to Refrain

then the Ho-ly Spir-it re-vives my soul a-gain. There is a
 if you lack for knowl-edge, he'll not re-fuse to lend. There is a
 tell the love of Je-sus and say, "He died for all." There is a

This African American spiritual offers a long-delayed answer to the prophet Jeremiah's question, "Is there no balm in Gilead?" (Jeremiah 8:22). No earthly remedy can compare with the healing that comes from a sense of God's presence; nothing else can heal "the sin-sick soul."

738 O Master, Let Me Walk with Thee

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with thee
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move
 3 Teach me thy pa - tience, still with thee
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray

in low - ly paths of ser - vice free;
 by some clear, win - ning word of love;
 in clos - er, dear - er com - pa - ny,
 far down the fu - ture's broad - ening way;

tell me thy se - cret; help me bear the
 teach me the way - ward feet to stay, and
 in work that keeps faith sweet and strong, in
 in peace that on - ly thou canst give, with

strain of toil, the fret of care.
 guide them in the home - ward way.
 trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong.
 thee, O Mas - ter, let me live.

In honestly admitting the limits of human ability, this prayerful hymn does not seek a sense of God's presence for self-comfort but for strength and companionship in pursuing the tasks that God sets before us. The author specifically chose this tune to accompany his words.