**Faith & First**

**Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

## ~ September 3, 2023 ~

**Gathering**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**\* Confession & Forgiveness** WOV pg. 10

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

***C: Amen.***

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

***C: Amen.***

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Gracious God,

***C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

***C: Amen.***

***\** Entrance Hymn *“For the Beauty of the Earth”*** *LBW #561 ELW #879*

Vs. 1 For the beauty of the earth, for the beauty of the skies,  
 for the love which from our birth over and around us lies:

***Refrain: Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.***

Vs. 2 For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 hill and vale and tree and flow'r, sun and moon and stars of light: ***[Refrain]***

Vs. 3 For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind’s delight,  
 for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight: ***[Refrain]***

Vs. 4 For the joy of human love, brother, sister, parent, child,  
 friends on earth, and friends above; for all gentle thoughts and mild: ***[Refrain]***

Vs. 5 For each perfect gift of thine, peace on earth and joy in heav'n;  
 for thyself, best gift divine, to our world so freely giv'n: ***[Refrain]***

**Greeting** *WOV pg. 28*

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.***

**\* Kyrie***WOV pg. 28*

L: Kyrie eleison:

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

L: Christe eleison:

***C: Christ, have mercy.***

L: Kyrie eleison:

***C: Lord, have mercy.***

**\* Hymn of Praise** *WOV pg.29*

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father, we worship you we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone

are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Glory to God, glory to God, glory to God in the highest;

Glory to God, glory to God, and peace to God’s people on earth,

And peace to God’s people on earth.

**\* Prayer of the Day**

P: O God,

***C: we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.***

**Word**

**First Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21**

*Jeremiah's delight in the word of the Lord is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."*

15O LORD, you know; remember me and visit me, and bring down retribution for me on my persecutors. In your forbearance do not take me away; know that on your account I suffer insult. 16Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart; for I am called by your name, O LORD, God of hosts. 17I did not sit in the company of merrymakers, nor did I rejoice; under the weight of your hand I sat alone, for you had filled me with indignation. 18Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable, refusing to be healed? Truly, you are to me like a deceitful brook, like waters that fail. 19Therefore thus says the LORD: If you turn back, I will take you back, and you shall stand before me. If you utter what is precious, and not what is worthless, you shall serve as my mouth. It is they who will turn to you, not you who will turn to them. 20And I will make you to this people a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you, but they shall not prevail over you, for I am with you to save you and deliver you, says the LORD. 21I will deliver you out of the hand of the wicked, and redeem you from the grasp of the ruthless.

**Psalm 26:1-8**

1Give judgment for me, O LORD, for I have lived with integrity; I have trusted in the LORD and have not faltered.

**2Test me, O LORD, and try me; examine my heart and my mind.**

3For your steadfast love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.

**4I have not sat with the worthless, nor do I consort with the deceitful. Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.**

5I have hated the company of evildoers; I will not sit down with the wicked.

**6I will wash my hands in innocence, O LORD, that I may go in procession round your altar,**

7singing aloud a song of thanksgiving and recounting all your wonderful deeds.

**8LORD, I love the house in which you dwell and the place where your glory abides. Your love is before my eyes; I have walked faithfully with you.**

**Second Reading: Romans 12:9-21**

*Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.*

9Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; 10love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. 11Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. 12Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. 13Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. 14Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. 15Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. 16Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are. 17Do not repay anyone evil for evil, but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all. 18If it is possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. 19Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave room for the wrath of God; for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." 20No, "if your enemies are hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them something to drink; for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads." 21Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

**\* Gospel Acclamation** *WOV pg. 31*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

**\* Gospel: Matthew 16:21-28**

*After Peter confesses that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16), Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."*

21From that time on, [after Peter confessed that Jesus was the Messiah,] Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." 23But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." 24Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. 25For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. 26For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life? 27For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. 28Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom."

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day *“Built on a Rock”***  LBW #365 ELW #652

Vs. 1 Built on a rock the church shall stand, even when steeples are

falling; crumbled have spires in ev'ry land, bells still are

chiming and calling--calling the young and old to rest, calling

the souls of those distressed, longing for life everlasting.

Vs. 2 Surely, in temples made with hands God the Most High is

not dwelling--high in the heav'ns his temple stands, all earthly

temples excelling. Yet he who dwells in heav'n above deigns to

abide with us in love, making our bodies his temple.

Vs. 3 Christ builds a house of living stones: we are his own habitation;

he fills our hearts, his humble thrones, granting us

life and salvation. Where two or three will seek his face, he in their

midst will show his grace, blessings upon them bestowing.

Vs. 4 Yet in this house, an earthly frame, Jesus the children is

blessing; hither we come to praise his name, faith in our

Savior confessing. Jesus to us his Spirit sent, making with

us his covenant, granting his children the kingdom.

\* **Apostles’ Creed** *WOV pg. 33*

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 bur ied; 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.

**\* The Prayers**

***Lord, listen to your children praying,*** *WOV #775*

***Lord, send your Spirit in this place;***

***Lord, listen to your children praying,***

***Send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.***

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church. Draw the seeker to you, place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your witnesses, and open your children to your truth when we stumble. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of steadfast love, renew the earth by your Spirit, that lands and oceans reveal the beauty of your creation. Challenge us to live humbly and peaceably as part of your world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of patience, lead those who govern to hold fast to what is good. Guide them to show honor to the people in their care. Overcome evil in all nations and grant peace to peoples and places mired in conflict. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of deliverance, remember all who are suffering, lonely, and in pain especially

Liberate your people being insulted, persecuted, or in the grasp of the ruthless. Give endurance to workers who persevere on this Labor Day and insure fair wages and safe working environments. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of justice, equip this congregation to boldly follow you in uncertain times and to remain faithful in prayer when facing challenges. Show us how best to love and care for one another and our communities. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of glory, we give thanks for the saints who now dwell with you in splendor (*especially*). Nurture us faith until the day we join their heavenly song. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

***Lord, listen to your children praying,***

***Lord, send your Spirit in this place;***

***Lord, listen to your children praying,***

***Send us love, send us pow’r, send us grace.***

**Meal**

**Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

***C: And also with you.***

**\* Offering *“Let the vineyards”*** *WOV pg. 35*

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of

blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,

that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we

offer now. Grace our table with your presence, Lord,

and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

**\* Offering Prayer**

P: Merciful God,

***C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given to us – our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.***

**\* Great Thanksgiving** *WOV pg. 36*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 our thanks and praise.***

**\* Words of Institution** *WOV pg. 36*

P: 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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

***C: Amen.***

**\* Lord’s Prayer** *WOV pg. 39*

***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.***

**Communion Distribution**

**\*Communion Blessing**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his

grace.

***C: Amen.***

**\* Canticle** *WOV Pg. 40*

Thankful hearts and voices raise; tell every-

one what God has done. Let all who seek the

Lord rejoice and bear Christ’s holy name.

Send us with your promises, O God,

and lead us forth in joy with shouts

Of thanksgiving. Alleluia.

**\* Prayer** WOV Pg. 41

P:Let us pray. Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. ***C: Amen.***

**Sending**

**\* Blessing** WOV Pg. 41

P: Almighty God, Father + Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**I Sending Hymn “I Love to Tell the Story”** LBW # 390ELW #661

Vs. 1 I love to tell the story of unseen things above,  
 of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love.  
 I love to tell the story, because I know it's true;  
 it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

***Refrain: I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory  
 tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.***

Vs. 2 I love to tell the story: how pleasant to repeat  
 what seems, each time I tell it, more wonderfully sweet!  
 I love to tell the story, for some have never heard  
 the message of salvation from God’s own holy word. ***[Refrain]***

Vs. 3 I love to tell the story, for those who know it best  
 seem hungering and thirsting to hear it like the rest.  
 And when, in scenes of glory, I sing the new, new song,  
 I'll sing the old, old story that I have loved so long. ***[Refrain****]*

**\* Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

***C: We will! Thanks be to God!***