**Faith & First**

## Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## ~ September 15, 2024 ~

**Gathering**

**Prelude**

**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 *“O God, My Faithful God”*** LBW #504 ELW #806

Vs 1 O God, my faithful God, true fountain ever flowing,  
 without whom nothing is, all perfect gifts bestowing:  
 give me a healthy frame, and may I have within  
 a conscience free from blame, a soul unstained by sin.

Vs. 2 Give me the strength to do with ready heart and willing  
 whatever you command, my calling here fulfilling–  
 to do it when I ought, with all my might– and bless  
 whatever I have wrought, for you must give success.

Vs. 3 Keep me from saying words that later need recalling;  
 guard me, lest idle speech may from my lips be falling;  
 but when, within my place, I must and ought to speak,  
 then to my words give grace, lest I offend the weak.

Vs. 4 When dangers gather round, oh, keep me calm and fearless;  
 help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheerless;  
 help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,  
 and, by your Spirit's might, to live at peace with all.

**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*

P: Kyrie eleison:

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

P: Christe eleison:

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

P: 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:*** ***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.***

***Amen.***

**Word**

**First Reading: Isaiah 50:4-9a**

*The image of the servant of the Lord is one of the notable motifs in the book of Isaiah. Today’s reading describes the mission of the servant, whom early Christians associated with Jesus. Like Jesus, the servant does not strike back at his detractors but trusts in God’s steadfast love.*

4The 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. **5**The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I did not turn backward. **6**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. **7**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; **8**he who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who are my adversaries? Let them confront me. **9**It is the Lord God who helps me; who will declare me guilty?

**Psalm 116:1-9**

**1**I love the Lord who has heard my voice and listened to my supplications.  
**2for the Lord has given ear to me whenever I called.**

**3**The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me; I came to grief and sorrow.

**4Then I called on the name of the Lord: “O Lord, I pray, save my life!” I will walk in the presence of the Lord.**

**5**Gracious is the Lord and righteous; our God is full of compassion. **6The Lord watches over the innocent; I was brought low, and God saved me.  
7**Turn again to your rest, O my soul, for the Lord has dealt well with you.

**8For you have rescued my life from death, my eyes from tears, and my feet from stumbling;**

**9**I walk in the presence of the Lord in the land of the living.

**I will walk in the presence of the Lord.**

**SECOND READING**: **James 3:1-12**

*This text was various images to illustrate how damaging and hurtful the way we speak to and about others can be. Not only are we to control our speech, but what we say and how we say it are to reflect our faith.*

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. **2**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. **3**If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. **4**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. **5**So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a such a small fire! **6**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 life, and is itself set on fire by hell. **7**For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, **8**but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. **9**With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. **10**From the same mouth comes a blessing and a cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. **11**Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? **12**Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

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

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

**Gospel**: **Mark 8:27-38**

*This story provides the turning point in Mark’s gospel. Peter is the first human being in the narrative to acknowledge Jesus as the Messiah, but he cannot accept that as the Messiah Jesus will have to suffer. Moreover, Jesus issues a strong challenge to all by connecting discipleship and the cross.*

**27**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?” **28**And they answered him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” **29**He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” **30**And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

**31**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. **32**He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. **33**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.”

**34**He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. **35**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. **36**For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? **37**Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? **38**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.”

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day “Lift High the Cross” vs. 1-4** LBW #377

***Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim Till***

***all the world adore his sacred name.***

Vs. 1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,  
 Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. ***Refrain***

Vs. 2 Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
 The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. ***Refrain***

Vs. 3 All newborn soldiers of the Crucified  
 Bear on their brows the seal of him who died. ***Refrain***

***Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim Till***

***all the world adore his sacred name.***

Vs. 4 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
 As thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. ***Refrain***

**Hymn of the Day “Lift High the Cross”** ELW #660

***Refrain: Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim Till***

***all the world adore his sacred name.***

Vs. 1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,  
 Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. ***Refrain***

Vs. 2 All newborn servants of the Crucified  
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died. ***Refrain***

Vs. 3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
 as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. ***Refrain***

Vs. 4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
 praise to the Crucified for victory! ***Refrain***

\* **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 buried; he descended into hell.

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.***

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God’s good creation and all who are in need.

We pray for the church throughout the world. From us into communities of forgiveness and grace. Help us to notice where you are calling us into new relationships, and give us courage to embrace the uncomfortable and unfamiliar. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the earth and all its inhabitants. Protect lands at risk of wildfire and heal dying forests. Where fire brings destruction, raise up new growth. Guide us in tending precarious ecosystems. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those who govern nations, tribes and cities. Open them to the cries of people in need. Direct them in shaping policies that prioritize the health and well-being of all who struggle with hunger and housing insecurity. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all who are ill, all who are lonely or anxious, and all who grieve especially

Draw them close to you and soothe them with the promise of your enduring love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for teachers, professors, librarians, school administrators, staff and all who support the education of young people. Sustain them as they shape learning communities, rooted in equity and authenticity. We pray for children of all ages in their learning. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember our beloved dead (especially), who with the great cloud of witnesses bear witness to your saving grace. Accompany us in our pilgrimage of faith, that we too place our hope and trust in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust these and all our prayers to you, holy God, in the name of your beloved child, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **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. ***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.**

**\* Sending Hymn “What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”** WOV #780

Vs. 1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

**Refrain: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;  
 leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.**

Vs. 2 O how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
O how bright the path grows from day to day,  
leaning on the everlasting arms. **Refrain**

Vs. 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
leaning on the everlasting arms. **Refrain**

**\* Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

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