

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

September 13, 2020

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in God's Name . . .

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

(for silent prayer during the prelude)

God of mercy: Help us to forgive, as you have forgiven us. Help us to trust you, even when hope is failing. Help us to take up our cross daily and follow you in your redeeming work; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.¹ **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM PSALM 114)

One: Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord,

All: at the presence of the God of Jacob.

One: who turns the rock into a pool of water,

All: the flint into a spring of water. Let us worship God!

HYMN OF PRAISE: “Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain” #114

Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
Of triumphant gladness; God
hath brought forth Israel
Into joy from sadness; Loosed from
Pharaoh's bitter yoke
Jacob's sons and daughters;
Led them, with unmoistened foot,
Through the Red Sea waters.
'Tis the spring of souls today;
Christ hath burst His prison,
And from three days' sleep
in death As a sun hath risen.
Now rejoice, Jerusalem,
And with true affection
Welcome in unwearied
strains Jesus' resurrection!

*CALL TO CONFESSION (FROM ROMANS 14)

The Apostle Paul writes, “We do not live to ourselves, and do not die to ourselves. If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to

the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's.” Let us come before the throne of grace and confess our sins.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of grace, only one person has ever lived a life without sin and this was our Lord Jesus Christ. We all are guilty of failing to fulfill your commandments. Despite this, we sometimes ignore our own sin and focus on the sin of our neighbor. We pass inappropriate judgment, and we despise our neighbor. We keep a record of their sins toward us and hold them accountable. Help us to see our own sin and to repent before counseling our neighbor lovingly. In the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON (FROM ROMANS 14)

Each of us will be accountable to God. Our Lord, Jesus, though, died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. Let us put our trust, our life, and our dying in him and know that we are forgiven. Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

. . . to Proclaim God's Word

FIRST READING Exodus 14:19-31 **p. 61**

EPISTLE READING Romans 14:1-12 **p. 163**

***GOSPEL READING** Matthew 18:21-35 **p. 20**

SERMON “Living and Dying to the Lord” Rev. Andy Smothers

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

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.

*CONFESSION OF FAITH *Heidelberg Catechism* (Questions 33-34)

One: Why is he called God's “only begotten Son” when we also are God's children?

Many: Because Christ alone is the eternal, natural Son of God. We, however, are adopted children of God — adopted by grace through Christ.

One: Why do you call him “our Lord”?

Many: Because — not with gold or silver, but with his precious blood — he has set us free from sin and from the tyranny of the devil, and has bought us, body and soul, to be his very own.

. . . to Give Thanks to God . . .

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*IN UNISON*)

Loving God, we stand before you with sins that number more than seventy-seven or even seventy times seven. Our debt to you is beyond description. If we were to settle our accounts with you according to our merits, we would be hopelessly lost. But as the king from the parable shared earlier, we come before you begging for mercy. You release us from this debt, and you forgive our debts. With thankfulness, we offer from what you have given us these gifts in the name of your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

. . . and to Be Sent in God's Name.

CLOSING HYMN: “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” #281

Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy powerful hand;
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more,
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fire and cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through;
Strong deliverer, strong deliverer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield,
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan, Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death, and hell's destruction, Land me safe on
Canaan's side; Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever
give to Thee, I will ever give to Thee.

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

ⁱ *Book of Common Worship, 374.*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship this morning! As we continue to social distance, we will not be offering child care for a time. Feel free to keep your children in worship — even if they're a bit noisy. You're also welcome to take them into the coatroom. Weather permitting, we do hope to have coffee hour outside this morning.

Our thanks go to our lay reader Carol DayRider, and pianist Juanita Rodriquez.

Thanks to all those who have served at coffee hour this summer. Some have served more than once. We appreciate all of you! Please consider signing up to provide refreshments for our coffee hour. A signup sheet will be on the table near the food after worship.

I (Pastor Andy) had an opportunity to visit the Food Pantry recently, which I understand was begun by our congregation and benefits from many faithful volunteers. I inquired of the Stordahls whether there are any supplies they particularly need. They would invite your donations of laundry detergent, toilet paper, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant, paper towels, and wet wipes for babies.

Regular **Office Hours** will begin tomorrow, **September 14th**, Monday through Friday, 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM.

The **Glorioso Ringers** will begin rehearsals tomorrow, **Monday, September 14th** at 2:00 PM.

Come and join us on **Wednesday Evenings for Evening Prayer at 6:30 PM**. Several of us join Pastor Andy for scripture readings and reflections, liturgy, prayer, and fellowship.

If you have any articles to contribute to the **October Newsletter**, please turn them into the office no later than **Wednesday, September 23rd**.

Last week, combined giving was **\$1,606.00**. In order to meet expenses, we need to average **\$2,588.00** per week.

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