

THE WORSHIP OF GOD

The Lord's Day

July 22, 2018

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

O Lord, heavenly Father, in whom is the fullness of light and wisdom, enlighten our minds by your Holy Spirit, and give us grace to receive your Word with reverence and humility, without which no one can understand your truth. For Christ's sake, Amen. ~ John Calvin (1509-1564)

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

Lighting the Christ Candles

Call to Worship:

Leader: How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

People: **Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.**

Leader: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

People: **O Lord of Hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.**
Psalm 84

Leader: Praise the Lord!

People: **Praise the name of the Lord!**

*Hymn: *Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty* #35

*Prayer of Adoration

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession:

God of justice and righteousness, have mercy upon us as we confess our sin. We say we love our neighbors, but we still make distinctions. We favor the rich and discount the poor. We say we have faith, but our works do not show it; we preach Jesus Christ while we send the hungry away. While our lips praise you, our hands cast off strangers. We are not worthy to ask your forgiveness except for the name of Christ, who pardoned the thief on the cross and forgave those who put him to death.

Time for Personal Confession

Response: *Have Mercy, God, upon My Life* #421
verses 1 and 4

Have mercy, God, upon my life, and make me clean within:
Pour out your ever-faithful love and wash away my sin.

Create in me a faithful heart, a spirit right and new.
Sustain me with your saving love and keep me close to you.

Assurance of Pardon:

Leader: Our assurance is this: "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

People: **For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do. God sent a Savior, who redeems us of all unworthiness."** Romans 8

Leader: Friends, this is the good news!

People: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

*Gloria Patri: *Glory Be to the Father* #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.**

Presentation of Tithes and Offerings:

Offertory

*Doxology: **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; #606
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayer for Illumination:

Almighty God, by the power of your word we learn how to live for your glory, so we pray your Holy Spirit will join with our spirits that we may seek your word with our whole heart, and knowing your word, may we have the strength to keep from straying from your commandments. May your word be to us a treasure, kept within our hearts that we may not sin against you, and may we offer ourselves into your service. For we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.
Based on Psalm 119:9-11

Psalter: *Psalm 98:1-6*
Tune: Abbot's Leigh #409; *God Is Here!*

Leader: Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things; his right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. The LORD has made his salvation known and revealed his righteousness to the nations. He has remembered his love and his faithfulness to Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

People: **Sing new songs to God Almighty, marvel at God's majesty;
In the face of foes around us, God has brought us victory!
Nations all shall see God's promise; Love endure and faith prevail;
Evermore will God be gracious to the house of Israel.**

Leader: Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth, burst into jubilant song with music; make music to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn— shout for joy before the LORD, the King.

People: **Joyful songs of praise and honor, Earth shall sing with one accord;
Horn and trumpet raise a mighty shout of tribute to our Lord!
Seas and floods rejoice with gladness, all the earth God's gifts profess:
Endless grace conceived in mercy, justice born in righteousness.**

Scripture Reading: **First Corinthians 13**

Duet: *Pie Jesu* from *Requiem* Andrew Lloyd Webber
Mary Crocker, Emily Rhoades, sopranos

Time for Young Disciples

(Preschool children may return to their pew or gather at the piano door where today's shepherd will lead them in a time of special activities.)

*Hymn: *Though I May Speak* #693

Scripture Reading: **Revelation 2:1-7**

Sermon: **The Letter to the Church at Ephesus** Steve Newton
"Remember then from what you have fallen; repent, and do the works you did at first."

Prayers of the People

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.

*Affirmation of Faith: Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Hymn: *Lift High the Cross* #826

*Benediction

Postlude

*Please stand if you are able

