

11th Sunday after Pentecost
August 4, 2024

Gathering
God invites us to enter His presence

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

🕯️ **Call to Worship** (*Responsively*)

Jim Fox

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.
**Worship the LORD with gladness;
come before him with joyful songs.**
Know that the LORD is God.
It is he who made us and we are his;
we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving
and his courts with praise;
give thanks to him and praise his name.
**For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations.**

—Psalm 100, NIV

🕯️ **Invocation** (*Responsively*)

Jim Fox

Holy and loving God, we come to you,
with hopes and fears, with convictions and doubts,
with pain and joy. By your Spirit,
**help us to see all things in the light of your Word,
our Lord Jesus Christ.**
By your Spirit,
**help us to pray honestly, to listen attentively,
to encourage one another warmly.**
By your Spirit,
**help us grow in the grace and knowledge
of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
who with you and the Holy Spirit
lives and reigns forever.**
All glory to you, both now and forever! Amen.

🕯️ **Opening Song**

His Mercy is More

*What love could remember no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all knowing, He counts not their sum.
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,
Our sins, they are many; His mercy is more.*

Chorus
Praise the Lord, His mercy is more.
Stronger than darkness, new ev'ry morn.
Our sins, they are many;
His mercy is more. Praise the mercy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?
What Father, so tender, is calling us home?
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor.
Our sins, they are many; His mercy is more.

Chorus

What riches of kindness He lavished on us.
His blood was the payment; His life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.
Our sins they are many: His mercy is more.

Chorus

Confessing **God invites us to be honest with Him**

Call to Confession

Jim Fox

In spite of God's love for us and gift of love to us, we often act in destructive and hateful ways. We close our hearts to God and disobey God's law. Together let us confess our sin.

Prayer of Confession

Jim Fox

Almighty and merciful God,
we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep.
We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts.
We have offended against your holy laws.
We have left undone those things which we ought to have done;
and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.
O Lord, have mercy upon us.
Spare those who confess their faults.
Restore those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to
the world in Christ Jesus, our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for his
sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your
holy name. **Amen.**

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Jim Fox

There is now no condemnation
for those who are in Christ Jesus.
—Romans 8:1, NIV

Leader: *This is the Promise of the Lord*

All: **Thanks be to God!**

 **Gloria Patri**

*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.
A-men, A-men.*

Sacrament of Baptism

Introduction *Mackenzie Maurer*
 Daughter of Greg Maurer

Words of Institution

Hear these words of Jesus, an invitation and a promise to
Us all: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given
To me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,
Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and
Of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I
Have commanded you. And surely I am with you always,
To the very end of the age."

In obedience to this command, the church baptizes believers
and their children.

Response

Having heard God's gracious promises to us in Christ, do you
Desire that Mackenzie be baptized?

Parent(s): **I do.**

Questions

Do you acknowledge Mackenzie's need of the cleansing
Blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the
Holy Spirit?

I do

Do you claim God's covenant promises and benefits for
Mackenzie by faith and do you look to the Lord Jesus Christ
For the salvation of your child as you do your own?

I do

Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and
Do you promise by relying on God's power and grace
Through the Holy Spirit to live an exemplary life before
Your child?

I do

Do you commit yourself to pray with and for your child, to
Teach your child the Scriptures and the great articles of
Our faith in Jesus Christ?

I do

Do you promise to use every means provided by God,
Including faithful participation in the life of the Church, to
Bring your child up in the loving discipline of the Lord?

I do

Questions for the Congregation

Do you, the members of this congregation, acting for
yourselves and on behalf of the whole Body of Christ,
assume responsibility with these parents for the spiritual
nurture of this child?

We do

Do you commit yourselves to set a godly example before this
child, to provide as far as you are able, all that is necessary
to the end that this child may one day confess Jesus Christ
as Savior and Lord?

We do

Baptism

Welcome

Some of us will have the privilege of encouraging Mackenzie
Often, over the course of many years. Others of us may not
Be able to do so.

Yet we all speak words of promise and welcome, speaking
On behalf of Christ's whole church, in time and space, and
Committing ourselves to live lives of Christian
encouragement, wherever God calls us.

Blessing

The Lord Bless You and Keep You

The Lord bless you and keep you,
the Lord make His face shine upon you.
And give you peace, and give you peace,
and give you peace forever.

Prayer

Ever-living God,
in your mercy you promised to be not only our God
but also the God of our children.
We thank you for receiving Mackenzie by baptism.
Keep Mackenzie always in your love.
Guide Mackenzie as she grows in faith.
Protect Mackenzie in all the dangers and temptations of life.
Bring Mackenzie to confess Jesus Christ as her Lord and Savior
and to be his faithful disciple to her life's end,
in his name. **Amen.**

Offering

Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him

Invitation Let us be faithful stewards of our time, our talents,
and our money. so that our treasure is in heaven
and our giving pleases God.

Offering

Offertory *First Things First*
Juliana Leshner

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.

Prayer of Dedication

God of wonder, we offer you these humble gifts, signs of your
goodness and mercy. Receive them with our gratitude,
that through us all people may know the riches of your love in
the Word-made-flesh. **Amen.**

Preparation Hymn 25

Immortal, Invisible

Proclaiming

God speaks to us through His Word

Scripture Reading 2 Timothy 4:6-8

⁶ For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time for my departure is close. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ There is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me,

but to all those who have loved his appearing.

Sermon

*“A View From the Finish Line”
Rev. Dr. Dennis Lesher*

! Song of Response

Cornerstone

Verse 1 (2x)

*My hope is built on nothing less than
Jesus' blood and righteousness.
I dare not trust the sweetest frame,
but wholly trust in Jesus's name.*

Chorus

*Christ alone, Cornerstone;
weak made strong in the Savior's love.
Through the storm He is Lord, Lord of all.*

Verse 2

*When darkness seems to hide His face,
I rest on His unchanging grace.
In every high and stormy gale,
my anchor holds within the veil.*

Chorus

Verse 3

*When He shall come with trumpet sound,
oh may I then in Him be found.
Dressed in His righteousness alone.
Faultless stand before the throne.*

Chorus

Sacrament of Communion

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts!

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God!

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise!

Invitation to the Table

Leader: For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you
proclaim the Lord's death until He comes Again!

**People: Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come
again!**

Responding
We respond to God's Word

! Profession of Faith *(In Unison)*

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 Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and buried;
The third day he rose from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
And sitteth at 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 Spirit,
The holy catholic church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.

Commissioning
God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

! Commission Hymn 466 *Jesus, Lover of My Soul*

! Benediction & Blessing

! Postlude

