

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 21, 2024**

Gathering
God invites us to enter His presence

Prelude *Hymn Medley (flutes)*

Welcome & Announcements

Preparation for Worship (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

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

Dennis Lesher

I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.
You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:
'I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations.'"
Praise the Lord!

—from Psalm 89:1-4, NRSV

 **Invocation**

Dennis Lesher

God of all faithfulness,
you have opened the gate of mercy for your people
and are always ready to welcome those who turn to you.
Look on us in your compassion,
that we may gladly respond to your love
and faithfully walk in your way
through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

 **Opening Hymn 43** *Great is Thy Faithfulness*

Confessing
God invites us to be honest with Him

Call to Confession

Dennis Lesher

When we see God's beautiful holiness, we recognize our own lack of holiness. God is light and truth, yet we live among shadows and lies. People of God, let us acknowledge who and whose we are; let us ask our powerful God to illumine us with grace and truth in Jesus, our Lord.

Prayer of Confession

Dennis Lesher

Have mercy on me, O God, in your faithful love, in your great tenderness wipe away my offences; wash me thoroughly from my guilt, purify me from my sin. For I am well aware of my offences, my sin is constantly in mind. Against you, you alone, I have sinned, I have done what you see to be wrong, that you may show your saving justice when you pass sentence, and your victory may appear when you give judgment, remember, I was born guilty, a sinner from the moment of conception. But you delight in sincerity of heart, and in secret you teach me wisdom. God, create in me a clean heart, renew within me a resolute spirit, do not thrust me away from your presence, do not take away from me your spirit of holiness. Give me back the joy of your salvation, sustain in me a generous spirit. Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will speak out your praise. Sacrifice gives you no pleasure, burnt offering you do not desire. Sacrifice to God is a broken spirit, a broken, contrite heart you never scorn.

—Psalm 51:1-6, 10-12, 15-17, NJB

Time for Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

Dennis Lesher

Since we are justified by faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,
through whom we have obtained access to this grace
in which we stand;
and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.

—Romans 5:1-2, NRSV

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.*

Offering

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

Invitation How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help? Dear children, let us love, not in word or speech, but also in truth and action.

—from 1 John 3:17-18, NRSV

Offering

Offertory

*Duet by Furstenau
Ali Backlund (flute)*

🕯️ **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** (*Responsively*)

Almighty God, you have given us everything.
Not only did you create us, but you provide for our every need.
We give thanks to you, Lord, for you are good.
Your love endures forever.
When we turned away from you, you reached down to us.
You lifted us up and freed us through the gift of your Son.
We give thanks to you, Lord, for you are good.
Your love endures forever.
You are with us always. You watch over our coming and our going.
Your Holy Spirit guides us and leads us every step of our lives.
We give thanks to you, Lord, for you are good.
Your love endures forever.
For your abundant grace we give you thanks.
Gratefully we offer the gifts you first gave us.
We give thanks to you, Lord, for you are good.
Your love endures forever.
Use our time, our talents, and our tithes for your glory.
May it bless others with hope, peace, and joy. **Amen.**

🕯️ **Preparation Song**

Jesus, I Come

Verse 1

*Out of my bondage sorrow and night
Jesus I come Jesus I come
Into Thy freedom gladness and light
Jesus I come to Thee
Out of my sickness into Thy health
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth
Out of my sin and into Thyself
Jesus I come to Thee*

Verse 2

*Out of my shameful failure and loss
Jesus I come Jesus I come
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross
Jesus I come to Thee
Out of earths sorrows into Thy balm
Out of lifes storms and into Thy calm
Out of distress into jubilant psalm
Jesus I come to Thee*

Verse 3

*Out of unrest and arrogant pride
Jesus I come Jesus I come
Into Thy blessed will to abide
Jesus I come to Thee
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love
Out of despair into raptures above
Upward forever on wings like a dove
Jesus I come to Thee*

Verse 4

*Out of the fear and dread of the tomb
Jesus I come Jesus I come
Into the joy and light of Thy home
Jesus I come to Thee
Out of the depths of ruin untold
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold
Ever Thy glorious face to behold
Jesus I come to Thee*

**Proclaiming
God speaks to us through His Word**

Scripture Reading

Genesis 18:1-15

¹ **18** The LORD appeared to Abraham at the oaks of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance of his tent during the heat of the day. ² He looked up, and he saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to meet them, bowed to the ground, ³ and said, "My lord, if I have found favor with you, please do not go on past your servant. ⁴ Let a little water be brought, that you may wash your feet and rest yourselves under the tree. ⁵ I will bring a bit of bread so that you may strengthen yourselves. This is why you have passed your servant's way. Later, you can continue on."

"Yes," they replied, "do as you have said."

⁶ So Abraham hurried into the tent and said to Sarah, "Quick! Knead three measures of fine flour and make bread." ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd and got a tender, choice calf. He gave it to a young man, who hurried to prepare it. ⁸ Then Abraham took curds and milk, as well as the calf that he had prepared, and set them before the men. He served them as they ate under the tree.

⁹ "Where is your wife Sarah?" they asked him.

"There, in the tent," he answered.

¹⁰ The LORD said, "I will certainly come back to you in about a year's time, and your wife Sarah will have a son!" Now Sarah was listening at the entrance of the tent behind him.

¹¹ Abraham and Sarah were old and getting on in years. Sarah had passed the age of childbearing. ¹² So she laughed to herself: "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I have delight?"

¹³ But the LORD asked Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Can I really have a baby when I'm

old?' ¹⁴ Is anything impossible for the LORD? At the appointed time I will come back to you, and in about a year she will have a son."

¹⁵ Sarah denied it. "I did not laugh," she said, because she was afraid.

But he replied, "No, you did laugh."

Sermon

"Laughter"
Rev. Tim Latham



Hymn of Response 2

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Responding

We respond to God's Word




Profession of Faith *(In Unison)*

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
"Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth."
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
—Psalm 46, NRSV

Prayers of the People

Commissioning
God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

 **Commission Song** *O Love that Will Not Let Me Go*

*O love that will not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
That in thine ocean depths in flow
may richer, fuller be.*

*O light that follow'st all my way,
I yield my flick'ring torch to thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in thy sunshine's blaze its day
may brighter, fairer be.*

*O joy that seekest me through pain,
I can not close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.*

*O cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
And from the ground there blossoms red
life that shall endless be.*

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Postlude**