

**16th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 8, 2024**

**Gathering**  
*God invites us to enter His presence*

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**


**Preparation for Worship** (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

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

*John Steinginga*

The earth is the LORD's and all that is in it,  
the world, and those who live in it;  
**for he has founded it on the seas,  
and established it on the rivers.**  
Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?  
And who shall stand in his holy place?  
**Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,  
who do not lift up their souls to what is false,  
and do not swear deceitfully.**

—Psalm 24:1-4, NRSV

 **Invocation** (*Responsively*)

*John Steinginga*

O LORD, God of Israel,  
there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth beneath,  
keeping covenant and steadfast love for your servants  
who walk before you with all their heart.  
Blessed be the LORD,  
who has given rest to his people Israel  
according to all that he promised;  
not one word has failed of all his good promise,  
which he spoke through his servant Moses.  
**The LORD our God be with us,  
as he was with our ancestors;  
may he not leave us or abandon us,  
but incline our hearts to him,  
to walk in all his ways,  
and to keep his commandments,  
his statutes, and his ordinances,  
which he commanded our ancestors.**

—1 Kings 8:23, 56-58, NRSV

 **Opening Song**     *Jesus, Firm Foundation*

*How firm a foundation you saints of the Lord  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word*

*What more can He say than to you He has said  
To you who for refuge to Jesus have fled*

*Verse 2*

*Fear not He is with us O be not dismayed  
For He is our God our Sustainer and Strength  
He'll be our Defender and cause us to stand  
Upheld by His merciful almighty hand*

*Chorus*

*How firm our foundation  
How sure our salvation  
And we will not be shaken  
Jesus firm foundation*

*Verse 3*

*The soul that is trusting in Jesus as Lord  
Will press on enduring the darkest of storm  
And though even hell should endeavor to shake  
He'll never no never no never forsake  
He'll never no never no never forsake*

*Chorus*

*Bridge*

*Age to age He stands faithful to the end  
All may fade away but  
He will remain He will remain*

*Chorus*

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

**Call to Confession**

*John Steiginga*

*"Come now, let us settle the matter," says the LORD.  
"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow;  
though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool."*

—Isaiah 1:18, NIV

**Prayer of Confession** *(Responsively)*

*John Steiginga*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.  
**Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.**  
For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.  
**Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in  
your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and  
blameless when you pass judgment.**  
You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in  
my secret heart.  
**Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.**  
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit  
within me.

**Do not cast me from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

—Psalm 51:1-4, 6, 9-11, NRSV

## Time for Silent Confession

**Assurance of Pardon** (*Responsively*)

*John Steinginga*

What then are we to say about these things?  
If God is for us, who is against us?  
He who did not withhold his own Son,  
but gave him up for all of us,  
will he not with him also give us everything else?  
Who will bring any charge against God's elect?  
It is God who justifies.  
Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes,  
who was raised, who is at the right hand of God,  
who indeed intercedes for us.  
Who will separate us from the love of Christ?  
Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine,  
or nakedness, or peril, or sword?  
**No, in all these things we are more than conquerors  
through him who loved us.  
For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us  
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

—Romans 8:31-35, 37-39, 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** Do good and share what you have, for such sacrifices  
are pleasing to God.

—from Hebrews 13:16, NRSV

## Offering



*Chorus*

*Verse 3*

*For my life He bled and died,  
Christ will hold me fast;  
Justice has been satisfied;  
He will hold me fast.  
Raised with Him to endless life,  
He will hold me fast  
'Till our faith is turned to sight,  
When He comes at last!*

*Chorus (2 x)*

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

**Scripture Reading**

*Acts 16:11-40*

<sup>11</sup> From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, the next day to Neapolis, <sup>12</sup> and from there to Philippi, a Roman colony and a leading city of the district of Macedonia. We stayed in that city for several days. <sup>13</sup> On the Sabbath day we went outside the city gate by the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and spoke to the women gathered there. <sup>14</sup> A God-fearing woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, was listening. The Lord opened her heart to respond to what Paul was saying. <sup>15</sup> After she and her household were baptized, she urged us, "If you consider me a believer in the Lord, come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

<sup>16</sup> Once, as we were on our way to prayer, a slave girl met us who had a spirit by which she predicted the future. She made a large profit for her owners by fortune-telling. <sup>17</sup> As she followed Paul and us she cried out, "These men, who are proclaiming to you a way of salvation, are the servants of the Most High God." <sup>18</sup> She did this for many days Paul was greatly annoyed. Turning to the spirit, he said, "I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!" And it came out right away.

<sup>19</sup> When her owners realized that their hope of profit was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the marketplace to the authorities. <sup>20</sup> Bringing them before the chief magistrates, they said, "These men are seriously disturbing our city. They are Jews <sup>21</sup> and are promoting customs that are not legal for us as Romans to adopt or practice." <sup>22</sup> The crowd joined in the attack against them, and the chief magistrates stripped off their clothes and ordered them to be beaten with rods. <sup>23</sup> After they had severely flogged them, they threw them in jail, ordering the jailer to guard them carefully. <sup>24</sup> Receiving such an order, he put them into the inner prison and secured their feet in the stocks.

<sup>25</sup> About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. <sup>26</sup> Suddenly there was such a violent earthquake that the foundations of the jail were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's chains came loose. <sup>27</sup> When the jailer woke up and saw the doors of the prison standing open, he drew his sword and was going to kill himself, since he thought the prisoners had escaped.

<sup>28</sup> But Paul called out in a loud voice, "Don't harm yourself, because we're all here!"

<sup>29</sup> The jailer called for lights, rushed in, and fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. <sup>30</sup> He escorted them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

<sup>31</sup> They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." <sup>32</sup> And they spoke the word of the Lord to him along with everyone in his house. <sup>33</sup> He took them the same hour of the night and washed their wounds. Right away he and all his family were baptized. <sup>34</sup> He brought them into

his house, set a meal before them, and rejoiced because he had come to believe in God with his entire household. <sup>35</sup> When daylight came, the chief magistrates sent the police to say, "Release those men."

<sup>36</sup> The jailer reported these words to Paul: "The magistrates have sent orders for you to be released. So come out now and go in peace."

<sup>37</sup> But Paul said to them, "They beat us in public without a trial, although we are Roman citizens, and threw us in jail. And now are they going to send us away secretly? Certainly not! On the contrary, let them come themselves and escort us out."

<sup>38</sup> The police reported these words to the magistrates. They were afraid when they heard that Paul and Silas were Roman citizens. <sup>39</sup> So they came to appease them, and escorting them from prison, they urged them to leave town. <sup>40</sup> After leaving the jail, they came to Lydia's house, where they saw and encouraged the brothers and sisters, and departed.

### Sermon

*"Adventures in Phillipi"*  
Rev. Tim Latham



Hymn of Response 203     *And Can it Be?*

### Responding *We respond to God's Word*



Profession of Faith *(In Unison)*

**We believe there is no condemnation  
for those who are in Christ Jesus;  
for we know that all things work together for good  
for those who love God,  
who are called according to God's purpose.  
We are convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor rulers,  
nor things present, nor things to come,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor anything else in all creation,  
will be able to separate us from the love of God  
in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

—from Romans 8:1, 28, 38-39, NRSV

### Prayers of the People

*Leader: Lord, In Your mercy;*  
**All     Hear our prayer**

#### 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 our debts as we forgive our debtors;  
lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil,  
for Thine is the kingdom, and the power,  
and the glory forever, Amen.

Commissioning

*God sends us out into the world as His witnesses*

 Commission Hymn 306     *Jesus Saves!*

 Benediction & Blessing

 Postlude