Seventh Sunday After Pentecost July 27, 2025

GATHERING: God invites us to enter His presence

PRELUDE Flute Duet from Opus 10 Kuhlau Ali Backlund, Pamela Johnson

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP (Time for Silent Preparation)

TALL TO WORSHIP (Responsively)

Dennis Lesher

All who thirst, come to the water.
Come, all who are weary;
come, all who yearn for forgiveness.
The Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ has washed over us,
and our gracious and holy God beckons and blesses us.
Drink deeply of these living waters.
Glory to you, O Lord, glory to you.

† INVOCATION (Responsively)

Dennis Lesher

Eternal Light, shine into our hearts; eternal Goodness, deliver us from evil; eternal Power, be our support; eternal Wisdom, scatter the darkness of our ignorance; eternal Love, have mercy upon us, that with all our heart and mind and strength we may seek your face and be brought by your infinite mercy to your holy presence through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

† OPENING HYMN 25 Immortal, Invisible

CONFESSING: God invites us to be honest with Him

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dennis Lesher

The psalmist testifies:

Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,

whose sin is covered.

Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,

and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

While I kept silence, my body wasted away

through my groaning all day long.

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;

my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,

and I did not hide my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"

and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you.

—from Psalm 32:1-6, NRSV

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Dennis Lesher

Holy and merciful God, in your presence we confess our sinfulness, our shortcomings, and our offenses against you. You alone know how often we have sinned in wandering from your ways, in wasting your gifts, in forgetting your love. Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed and sorry for all we have done to displease you. Forgive our sins, and help us to live in your light and walk in your ways, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Dennis Lesher

If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you, so that you may be revered.
O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is great power to redeem. It is he who will redeem Israel from all its iniquities.

-Psalm 130:3-4, 7-8, 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

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with You

All: And also with you

OFFERING: Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves

to Him

INVITATION As we come before God with our tithes and offerings,

let us remember the words of Micah 6:

What does the Lord require of us? To act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with our God. Thus we bring our money, gifts, and whole lives as an offering to our

God.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY A New Commandment

Ali Backlund, Pamela Johnson

† 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

Generous God, you have given us life, a place to live in, and people to live with. Open our eyes to each other and to all our brothers and sisters, especially the poor, the oppressed, the alienated. Make us humble enough to help and comfort them,

so that your love and justice and peace may come to them. We make bold to consecrate ourselves and our gifts to you and to the service of others, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

† PREPARATION SONG

Before the Throne of God Above (See Screen)

PROCLAIMING: God speaks to us through His Work

SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 1:15-28

¹⁵ He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. ¹⁶ For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. ¹⁷ And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. ¹⁸ And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. ¹⁹ For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, ²⁰ and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

²¹ And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, ²² he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him, ²³ if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.

²⁴ Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body,

that is, the church, ²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, ²⁶ the mystery hidden for ages and generations but now revealed to his saints. ²⁷ To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

SERMON "Life and the GPS Jesus" Rev. Daniel Stewart

THYMN OF RESPONSE 97 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name

RESPONDING: We respond to God's Word

†PROFESSION OF FAITH (In Unison)

Christ Jesus. though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave. being born in human likeness. And being found in human form he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name. so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend. in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue should confess to the glory of God: Jesus Christ is Lord!

—from Philippians 2:5-11, NRSV

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

No matter where we are, where we are going, or what we are doing, we know that we find our help in you, our Lord.

You are the creator and sustainer of all

that has been made and will be made.

And yet, the immensity of creation does not distract you

from caring personally for every person in it.

We know that is true of your care for us too!

You do not daydream or become weary in that care.

We thank you that you not only watch over us with diligence

but that you will guide us so that we will not fall—

so that we won't even stumble.

Whether we are awake or asleep, you are there,

sheltering and protecting us from all that would hurt us.

We know that you watch over all our living—

you have in the past, and we know you are now.

Your promise holds for the future and for eternity, and we praise and thank you for that. **Amen.**

-based on Psalm 121

COMMISSIONING: God sends us out into the world as His witnesses

TOMMISSION HYMN 278 Glorious Thing of Thee Are Spoken

BENEDICTION & BLESSING

POSTLUDE

Please stand if you are able.