

Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

August 17, 2025

GATHERING: *God invites us to enter His presence*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP *(Time for Silent Preparation)*



CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsively)*

Dan Obenschain

Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.
**For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth.**
God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
**Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.**
—Psalm 47:1-2, 5-6, NRSV



INVOCATION

Dan Obenschain

Everlasting God, in whom we live and move and have our being:
You have made us for yourself, so that our hearts are restless until they rest in you. Give us purity
of heart and strength of purpose,
that no selfish passion may hinder us from knowing your will,
no weakness keep us from doing it; that in your light we may see light clearly, and in your service
find perfect freedom through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy
Spirit,
one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



OPENING HYMN 43

Great is Thy Faithfulness

CONFESSING: *God invites us to be honest with Him*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dan Obenschain

The psalmist models a transparent faith with these words:
Search me, O God, and know my heart;
test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any wicked way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.
We express our longing for God's leading
by our own transparent confession.
—based on Psalm 139:23-24, NRSV

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Responsively)*

Dan Obenschain

O gracious and gentle and condescending God,
God of peace, Father of mercy, God of all comfort:

we confess before you the evil of our hearts;
we acknowledge that we are too inclined
toward anger, jealousy, and revenge,
to ambition and pride, which often give rise to discord and bitter feelings
between others and us. Too often have we thus both offended and grieved you,
O long-suffering Father.
Forgive us this sin and permit us to partake of the blessing
you have promised the peacemakers,
who shall be called the children of God.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON *(Responsively)*

Dan Obenschain

God demonstrates his own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
**For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness
and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves,
in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
Therefore, since we have been justified through faith,
we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.**

—Romans 5:8; Colossians 1:13-14; Romans 5:1, 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*



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 Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High.
—Psalm 50:14, NRSV

OFFERING

OFFERTORY



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 glory, receive these gifts and the offering of our lives.
As Jesus was lifted up from earth, draw us to your heart
in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought
from bondage to freedom, from darkness to light,
and from death to life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

PREPARATION SONG *His Mercy is More (See Screen)*

PROCLAIMING: *God speaks to us through His Work*

SCRIPTURE READING *2 Corinthians 5:11-6:2*

¹¹ Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience. ¹² We are not commending ourselves to you again but giving you cause to boast about us, so that you may be able to answer those who boast about outward appearance and not about what is in the heart. ¹³ For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are in our right mind, it is for you. ¹⁴ For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; ¹⁵ and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.

¹⁶ From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation.^[a] The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸ All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling^[a] the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6 Working together with him, then, we appeal to you not to receive the grace of God in vain. ² For he says, "In a favorable time I listened to you, and in a day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

SERMON *"Vain Grace"*
Rev. Steve Wilson

HYMN OF RESPONSE 68 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

RESPONDING: *We respond to God's Word*

PROFESSION OF FAITH *(In Unison)*

The LORD is my shepherd, I lack nothing.
He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
he refreshes my soul.
He guides me along the right paths
for his name's sake.
Even though I walk
through the darkest valley,

I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
Surely your goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

—Psalm 23

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE


Creator Spirit, create in us eagerness
to care for the world.
Spirit of Christ, fill us with urgency
to share our joy in our Savior and Lord.
Spirit of holiness, transform our lives
to be beacons in a world of shadows.
Spirit of truth, compel us to see the truth
and make us advocates of justice.
Spirit of wisdom, shower us with wisdom,
that we may best discern how to serve the world.
Advocate, intercede on our behalf for these and other unspoken requests
that weigh heavy on our hearts and minds. **Amen.**

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

 **COMMISSION HYMN 66** *To God Be the Glory*

BENEDICTION & BLESSING

POSTLUDE

 *Please stand if you are able.*