

**12th Sunday After Pentecost
August 31, 2025**

GATHERING: *God invites us to enter His presence*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP *(Time for Silent Preparation)*



CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsively)*

Dennis Lesher

God calls us to worship, **and we come**,
some with laughter and songs of joy.
God calls us to worship, **and we come**,
some from a sense of obligation or habit.
God calls us to worship, **and we come**,
some with hearts heavy with grief.
God calls us to worship, **and we come**,
some with distraction or exhaustion.
God calls us to worship, **and we come**,
some with eagerness and enthusiasm.
God calls us to worship, **and we come**,
some with stress, loneliness, or depression.
As God's dearly loved children,
we bring all our joy and pain, hurt and hope
into this place of Spirit-given grace, love, and hope.



INVOCATION *(Responsively)*

Dennis Lesher

God of goodness and grace,
we long for your presence,
for the peace your promises bring,
and for the assurances we have received
through the gift of your Son.
**May we, your people,
this day and every day,
have open eyes to see
and open ears to hear
your presence among us.**
Open us to your Holy Spirit, Lord,
and prepare us for worship. **Amen.**



OPENING HYMN 4

How Great Thou ART

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

Dennis Lesher

Our Lord Jesus said:
“You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart,

and with all your soul,
and with all your mind.’
This is the greatest and first commandment.
And a second is like it:
‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’
On these two commandments
hang all the law and the prophets.”
As God has instructed us in these great commandments,
and because we have not lived in full obedience,
let us now confess our sins to God,
trusting Christ as our Savior and Lord.

—based on Matthew 22:37-40, NRSV

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Responsively)*

Dennis Leshar

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

Dennis Leshar

Who is a God like you, pardoning iniquity
and passing over the transgression
of the remnant of your possession?
He does not retain his anger forever,
because he delights in showing clemency.
He will again have compassion upon us;
he will tread our iniquities under foot.
You will cast all our sins
into the depths of the sea.
You will show faithfulness to Jacob
and unswerving loyalty to Abraham,
as you have sworn to our ancestors
from the days of old.

—Micah 7:18-20, 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 Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal;
but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes
and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart
will be also.

—Matthew 6:19-20, 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 every good and perfect gift, our gifts are not always good, and they are always imperfect.
We give, knowing that our motives are mixed
and our mission is unclear. Still, we offer these efforts with boldness,
knowing that your love is stronger than our impurities and imperfections.
Through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

PREPARATION SONG *Dayspring (See Screen)*

PROCLAIMING: *God speaks to us through His Work*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Lord God,
let the words of your servant's mouth
and the meditations of our hearts
be pleasing in your sight,
O Lord, our Rock and Redeemer.
Through Christ. **Amen.**

—based on Psalm 19:14, NRSV

SCRIPTURE READING *Colossians 2:16 – 3:4*

¹⁶ Therefore let no one pass judgment on you in questions of food and drink, or with regard to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath. ¹⁷ These are a shadow of the things to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. ¹⁸ Let no one disqualify you, insisting on asceticism and worship of angels, going on in detail about visions, puffed up without reason by his sensuous mind, ¹⁹ and not holding fast to the Head,

from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.

²⁰ If with Christ you died to the elemental spirits of the world, why, as if you were still alive in the world, do you submit to regulations— ²¹ “Do not handle, Do not taste, Do not touch” ²² (referring to things that all perish as they are used)—according to human precepts and teachings? ²³ These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting self-made religion and asceticism and severity to the body, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

^{3:1} If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ² Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. ³ For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

SERMON

*“A Matter of Life and Death”
Rev. Dan Stewart*



HYMN OF RESPONSE 390

May the Mind of Christ, My Savior

RESPONDING: *We respond to God’s Word*



PROFESSION OF FAITH (In Unison)

Remembering the promise to reconcile the world to himself,
God joined our humanity in Jesus Christ—the eternal Word made flesh. He is the long-awaited Messiah, one with us and one with God, fully human and fully divine, conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary. Being both divine and human,
Jesus is the only mediator. He alone paid the debt of our sin;
there is no other Savior. We are chosen in Christ to become like him in every way. God’s electing love sustains our hope: God’s grace is free to save sinners who offer nothing but their need for mercy.

—Our World Belongs to God, st. 23, 26

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

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



COMMISSION HYMN 26

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

BENEDICTION & BLESSING

POSTLUDE



Please stand if you are able.