

14th Sunday After Pentecost

September 14, 2025

GATHERING: *God invites us to enter His presence*

PRELUDE *The Lord is My Salvation*

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

 **CALL TO WORSHIP** (*Responsively*)

Susan Obenschain

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**

Susan Obenschain

Show us the way to fullness of life, Lord Jesus;
that our hearts might be filled with joy, hope, and peace, we pray;
that we might respond to opportunities, we pray;
that we might be strengthened to face challenges, we pray;
that we might become the persons we are called to be, we pray;
that we might learn to respect our sisters and brothers, we pray;
that we might see the needs of others and give help, we pray. **Amen.**

 **OPENING SONG** *The Lord is My Salvation (See Screen)*

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

CALL TO CONFESSION (*Responsively*)

Susan Obenschain

This is the message we have heard
from him and declare to you:
God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.
**If we claim to have fellowship with him
and yet walk in the darkness,
we lie and do not live out the truth.
But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light,
we have fellowship with one another,
and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.**
—1 John 1:5-7, NIV

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Responsively)*

Susan Obenschain

O Lord, our hearts are heavy with the violence of our world,
so much suffering through the ages,
wars and holocausts, genocide and abuse.
We cry on behalf of our violent world:

Lord, have mercy.

O Lord, you love and care for us as a parent;
you came to share life with us as a brother.
But we confess we have failed to live as your children
and instead have broken many bonds.
We cry on behalf of our violent world:

Lord, have mercy.

O Lord, you have called us to live together in community,
to consider one another as brother and sister,
regardless of ethnicity, economic status, or popularity.
Yet we prejudge one another,
refuse to love one another,
and victimize one another.

We cry on behalf of our violent world:

Lord, have mercy.

O Lord, giver of all life,
you fearfully and wonderfully made us
and breathed into our nostrils the breath of life.
Yet we endanger the lives of one another,
abuse the lives of young children among us,
destroy those who are defenseless,
and oppress those who are powerless.
We cry on behalf of our violent world:

Lord, have mercy.

Pardon us through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Susan Obenschain

The LORD is merciful and gracious,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
As a father has compassion for his children,
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.
For he knows how we were made;
he remembers that we are dust.
But the steadfast love of the LORD is from
everlasting to everlasting
on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,
to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.

—Psalm 103:8, 13-14, 17-18, 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 What shall I return to the LORD for all his bounty to me?
I will give what I have promised in the presence of all God's people.
—from Psalm 116:12, 14, NRSV

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *To God Be The Glory
(Saxophone Duet)*



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

Gracious God, everything we have comes from you.
You fill us with good things. Our hearts and lives overflow with your abundance. With thanksgiving, we bring to you our time, talents, and tithes. Use these gifts that you have given us to feed others as we have been fed, to serve others as we have been served, and to bless others as we have been blessed, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**



PREPARATION HYMN 366

I Surrender All

PROCLAIMING: *God speaks to us through His Work*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we may hear your Word with joy. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING *II Kings 6:8-18*

⁸ Once when the king of Syria was warring against Israel, he took counsel with his servants, saying, "At such and such a place shall be my camp." ⁹ But the man of God sent word to the king of Israel, "Beware that you do not pass this place, for the Syrians are going down there." ¹⁰ And the king of Israel sent to the place about which the man of God told him. Thus he used to warn him, so that he saved himself there more than once or twice.

¹¹ And the mind of the king of Syria was greatly troubled because of this thing, and he called his servants and said to them, "Will you not show me who of us is for the king of Israel?" ¹² And one of his servants said, "None, my lord, O king; but Elisha, the prophet who is in Israel, tells the king of Israel the words that you speak in your bedroom." ¹³ And he said, "Go and see where he is, that I may send and seize him." It was told him, "Behold, he is in Dothan." ¹⁴ So he sent there horses and chariots and a great army, and they came by night and surrounded the city.

¹⁵ When the servant of the man of God rose early in the morning and went out, behold, an army with horses and chariots was all around the city. And the servant said, "Alas, my master! What shall we do?" ¹⁶ He said, "Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them." ¹⁷ Then Elisha prayed and said, "O LORD, please open his eyes that he may see." So the LORD opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha. ¹⁸ And when the Syrians came down against him, Elisha prayed to the LORD and said, "Please strike this people with blindness." So he struck them with blindness in accordance with the prayer of Elisha.

SERMON

"The Reality of the Unseen"
Rev. Paul Toms



HYMN OF RESPONSE 66 *To God Be The Glory*

RESPONDING: *We respond to God's Word*



PROFESSION OF FAITH *(In Unison)*

With the whole creation
we join the song:
"Worthy is the Lamb, who was slain,
to receive power and wealth
and wisdom and strength
and honor and glory and praise!"
He has made us a kingdom of priests
to serve our God,
and we will reign on earth.
God will be all in all,
righteousness and peace will flourish,
everything will be made new,
and every eye will see at last
that our world belongs to God.
Hallelujah! Come, Lord Jesus!

—Our World Belongs to God, st. 58

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE


Loving God,
we offer these prayers,
joining our voices to the great chorus of those
who sing your praise and depend on you alone.
We long for that day when all your children
will live in your peace and praise your name.
Until that day, give us sturdy patience and enduring hope,
rooted only in Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

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

 **COMMISSION SONG** *Mighty to Save (See Screen)*

BENEDICTION & BLESSING

POSTLUDE

 *Please stand if you are able.*