

**12th Sunday After Pentecost
August 28, 2022 Worship Bulletin**

Gathering for God's Word

Prelude

*Introit

“Blessed Be the Lord God Almighty”

Father in heaven, how we love you.
We lift your Name in all the earth.
May your kingdom, be established in our praises,
As your people declare your mighty works.

Blessed be the Lord God Almighty
Who was and is, and is, to come.
Blessed be the Lord God Almighty.
Who reigns forever more.

Words & Music: Bob Fitts
Copyright: 1984, Scripture in Song (a division of Integrity Music, Inc.)
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Passing the Peace of Christ

Welcome & Announcements

Time of Silence & Ringing of the Bell

Preparing for God's Word

*Call to Worship

[based on Isaiah 6: 3, Revelation 4:8, Psalm 118: 14-16, 19-22]

Leader: The Lord is our strength and our song; he has become our salvation.

People: “Holy, holy, holy is the Lord Almighty; the whole earth is full of his glory.”

Leader: Shouts of joy and victory resound in the tents of the righteous.

People: “The Lord’s right hand is lifted high; the Lord’s right hand has done mighty things!”

Leader: The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone. The gates of righteousness have been opened. Let us enter and give thanks to the Lord.

People: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, who was, and is, and is to come.”

*Hymn of Praise

#1, "Holy Holy Holy," vs. 1-3

Holy, holy, holy
Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning my song shall rise to thee
Holy. holy, holy
Merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed Trinity

Holy, holy, holy
All the saints adore Thee
Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee
Who wert and art and evermore shalt be

Holy, holy, holy
Though the darkness hide Thee
Though the eye of sinfulness Thy glory may not see
Only Thou art holy and there is none beside Thee
Perfect in power, in love and purity

Text: Reginald Heber, 1827, alt.

Music: John Bacchus Dykes, 1861; desc, David McKinley Williams, 1948

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Prayer of Confession

Time of personal silent prayers of confession

All: 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.

Assurance of Pardon

[based on Colossians 2:13-14]

Leader: Hear the Good News. Even while you and I were still dead in trespasses and in the uncircumcision of our flesh, God made us alive together with Christ,

People: God forgave us of all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross.

Leader: In Christ we are forgiven. Praise God.

Hearing God's Word

Children's Message

Ages 12 and under gather up front as congregation sings, #188, "Jesus Loves Me."

After the Children's Message, the children may return to sit with their families.

Hymn of Preparation

#792, "There is a Balm in Gilead," vs. 1, 2

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead
To make the wounded whole.
There is a balm in Gilead
To heal the sin-sick soul.

Sometimes I feel discouraged,
And think my work's in vain,
But then the Holy Spirit
Revives my soul again.

Don't ever feel discouraged,
For Jesus is your friend,
And if you lack for knowledge,
He'll not refuse to lend.

Text & Music: African American Spiritual, arr. Melva Wilson Costen, 1989, alt.
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Prayer of Illumination

Old Testament Reading: Ezekiel 36: 16-28

16 Again the word of the LORD came to me: 17 "Son of man, when the people of Israel were living in their own land, they defiled it by their conduct and their actions. Their conduct was like a woman's monthly uncleanness in my sight. 18 So I poured out my wrath on them because they had shed blood in the land and because they had defiled it with their idols. 19 I dispersed them among the nations, and they were scattered through the countries; I judged them according to their conduct and their actions. 20 And wherever they went among the nations they profaned my holy name, for it was said of them, 'These are the LORD's people, and yet they had to leave his land.' 21 I had concern for my holy name, which the house of Israel profaned among the nations where they had gone.

22 "Therefore say to the house of Israel, 'This is what the Sovereign LORD says: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am going to do these things, but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations where you have gone. 23 I will show the holiness of my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, the name you have profaned among them. Then the nations will know that I am the LORD, declares the Sovereign LORD, when I show myself holy through you before their eyes.

24 "For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. 25 I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols.

26 I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. 27 And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. 28 You will live in the land I gave your forefathers; you will be my people, and I will be your God.

Sermon

“Foundations of the Spirit... Born to be Wild”

John 3: 1-8

3:1 Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. 2 He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the miraculous signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

3 In reply Jesus declared, “I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.”

4 “How can a man be born when he is old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!”

5 Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

Responding to God’s Word

Anthem

“Take My Life and Let it Be”

Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

[various prayers]

Leader: Lord, surround us/them today

People: And fill us all with your Spirit.

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into

temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Offering

Offertory

Hymn of Response

#649, "Amazing Grace," vs. 1-3

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace, my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come
'Tis grace that brought me safe thus far
And grace will lead us home

Text: Stanzas 1-4, John Newton, 1772

Music: Columbian Harmony, 1829, arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1920, alt.

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*Response

#606, The Doxology, "Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow"

Praise God from whom all blessings flow
Praise Him, all creatures here below
Praise Him above the Heavenly host
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost
Amen

Text: Thomas Ken, 1695, 1709

Music: Genevan Psalter, 1551

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*Prayer of Dedication

*Benediction

*Benediction Response

#2069, "All Hail King Jesus," Sing the Faith Hymnal

All hail King Jesus
All hail Emmanuel
King of Kings
Lord of Lords
Bright Morning Star

And throughout eternity
I'll sing Your praises
And I'll reign with You throughout eternity

Words & Music: Dave Moody
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*Postlude

*Please Stand if Able