

**9th Sunday After Pentecost
July 30, 2023 Worship Bulletin**

Gathering for God's Word

Opening Songs of Praise

“Salvation Belongs to Our God”

Salvation belongs to our God, who sits upon the throne, and unto the Lamb.

Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks, honor and power and strength.

Be to our God forever and ever,

Be to our God forever and ever,

Be to our God forever and ever. Amen.

And we the redeemed, shall be strong in purpose and unity. Declaring aloud,

Praise and glory, wisdom and thanks, honor and power and strength.

Be to our God forever and ever,

Be to our God forever and ever,

Be to our God forever and ever. Amen.

Words and Music: Adrian Howard & Pat Turner

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“A Shield About Me”

Thou, O Lord, are a shield about me.

You're my glory;

You're the lifter of my head.

Thou, O Lord, are a shield about me.

You're my glory;

You're the lifter of my head.

Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah,

You're the lifter of my head.

Words and Music: Donn Thomas & Charles Williams

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“Hosanna”

Praise is rising, eyes are turning to You, we turn to You

Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for You, we long for You

'Cause when we see You, we find strength to face the day

In Your Presence all our fears are washed away, washed away

Hosanna, hosanna

You are the God Who saves us, worthy of all our praises

Hosanna, hosanna

Come have Your way among us

We welcome You here, Lord Jesus

Hear the sound of hearts returning to You, we turn to You

In Your Kingdom broken lives are made new, You make us new

Words & Music: Paul Baloche & Brenton Brown
Copyright: 2006 and this arr. copyrighted 2008 Integrity's Hosanna! Music/ASCAP
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*Welcome & Passing the Peace of Christ

Announcements

Time of Silence & Ringing the Bell

Preparing for God's Word

*Call to Worship

[loosely based on Revelation 22]

Leader: The Spirit of God bids us, "Come." Let everyone who hears within their hearts "Come." Let the whole earth rejoice and sing of our God's steadfast love.

People: We come to rejoice in the Holy One, our God. We give thanks for God sets us free!

Leader: Let everyone who is thirsty for the living water "Come." Let anyone who wishes "Come," and receive the water of life as a gift.

People: We come to rejoice in the Holy One, our God. We give thanks for God's steadfast love that brings joy to our hearts in the night, lights our lives like the dawn, and sets us free. Amen.

*Hymn of Adoration

#835, "Just a Closer Walk with Thee," vs. 1, 3

Just a closer walk with Thee

Grant it, Jesus, is my plea

Daily walking close to Thee

Let it be, dear Lord, let it be

I am weak but Thou art strong

Jesus keep me from all wrong

I'll be satisfied as long

As I walk, let me walk close to Thee

When my feeble life is o'er,

Time for me will be no more;

Guide me gently, safely o'er to thy shore,

Dear Lord, to thy shore.

Words & Music: Trad. North American hymn

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Prayer of Confession

[time of silent personal confession]

All: Heavenly Father, your presence fills our lives. All that we are and all that we have comes from you; all that you do declares your love for us. And yet Lord, when trouble comes, when adversity plagues us, too often we wonder where you are; sometimes we even forget who you are. How quickly we forget that you are always with us and that you are Lord over all. God, dispel our gloom and despair this day. Change our garments of darkness into robes of dazzling light. Spread your table before us and feed us from your hand. Lead us in the paths of righteousness, for it is in Christ's name that we pray. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

[based on John 3: 16-17]

Leader: Hear the Good News, "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life."

People: Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

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

#375, "Shall we Gather at the River," vs. 1, 2, 4

Shall we gather at the river;
Where bright angel feet have trod,
With its crystal tide forever flowing
By the throne of God?

Yes, we'll gather at the river, the beautiful, the beautiful river;
Gather with the saints at the river that flows by the throne of God.

On the margin of the river,
Washing up its silver spray,
We will walk and worship ever,
All the happy golden day.

Soon we'll reach the shining river;
Soon our pilgrimage will cease;
Soon our happy hearts will quiver
With the melody of peace.

Words & Music: Robert Lowry

Prayer of Illumination

New Testament Reading: Revelation 22: 12-21

12 “Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End. 14 “Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. 15 Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. 16 “I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star.” 17 The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!” Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life. 18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book. 19 And if anyone takes words away from this book of prophecy, God will take away from him his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. 20 He who testifies to these things says, “Yes, I am coming soon.” Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. 21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God’s people. Amen.

Sermon

“The Trickier Bits... Shall Come to Judge”

Responding to God’s Word

*Affirmation of Faith

[The Apostle’s Creed]

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

Offertory

Offertory Music

“For those Tears I Died,” Turner Family Band

*Response

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

*Prayer of Dedication

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.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

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.

*Hymn of Response

#366, "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling," vs. 1, 2, 4

Love divine, all loves excelling,
joy of heav'n, to earth come down,
fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art.
Visit us with thy salvation;
enter ev'ry trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast.
Let us all in thee inherit,
let us find the promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be.
End of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

Finish, then, thy new creation;
True and spotless let us be.
Let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee.
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,

lost in wonder, love and praise.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1747, alt.

Music: Rowland Hugh Prichard, 1831, alt.

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*Benediction

*Benediction Response

#543, "O Christ, Surround Me," vs 1, 4

God be the love to search and keep me

God be the prayer to move my voice

God be the strength to now uphold me

O Christ, surround me

O Christ, surround me

Walking behind to hem my journey

Going ahead to light my way

And from beneath, above, and all ways

O Christ, surround me

O Christ, surround me

Text & Music: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, 2004

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*Postlude

*Please Stand if Able