



You shall be
My witnesses ...
even to the
remotest part
of the earth.

ACTS 1:8, NASB

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

July 30, 2023

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *O God of glory, sovereign of all nations, the risen and ascended Christ calls us to carry your message of life to all people. Led by the power of your Holy Spirit, may we witness always to the hope to which we are called as we share Christ's love to the ends of the earth. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

OPENING SENTENCES (*Psalm 118:24*)

Elder Steve Bowers

One: This is the day the Lord has made!

ALL: *Let us rejoice and be glad in it!*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elder Steve Bowers

PRELUDE

Fanfare on The God of Abraham Praise

Burkhardt

Dr. Terry McRoberts

CHORAL INTROIT

Sing a New Song to the Lord

Hopson

Chancel Choir

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Elder David Greene

One: Give thanks to the Lord; call on his name;

ALL: *make known his deeds among the peoples.*

One: Sing to him, sing praises to him;

ALL: *tell of all his wonderful works.*

One: Glory in his holy name;

ALL: *let the hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.*

One: Let us worship God together.

ALL: *Praise the Lord!*

***HYMN: 260 Alleluia! Sing to Jesus**

HYFRYDOL

PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION

Elder Steve Bowers

Jesus tells us that repentance and forgiveness is to be offered in his name. Therefore, let us confess our sins to God, who assures us of new life through the power of Christ's redeeming love.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Elder Steve Bowers

Almighty God, you love us, but we have not loved you. You call, but we have not listened. We walk away from neighbors in need, wrapped in our own concerns. We condone evil, prejudice, warfare, and greed. God of grace, help us to admit our sin, so that as you come to us in mercy, we may repent, turn to you, and receive forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Elder Steve Bowers

One: The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Friends, hear the good news: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

ALL: Thanks be to God. Amen.

*CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE: 447 *We Are Forgiven*

WE ARE FORGIVEN

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

We are forgiven. We are forgiven. Thanks be to God. Thanks be to God.

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Elder Steve Bowers

One: The peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And, also, with you.

THE WORD

ANTHEM

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

arr. Beck

Chancel Choir

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Libby Smith

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Elder Steve Bowers

*HYMN: 462 *I Love to Tell the Story*

HANKEY

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder David Greene

FIRST READING *Acts 1:1-12 (page 118)*

Elder David Greene

One: This is the word of God for the people of God. *ALL: Thanks be to God.*

SECOND READING *Deuteronomy 33:26-29 (page 191)*

Elder Steve Bowers

One: This is the word of God. The grass withers and the flower fades, but the word of the Lord endures forever. *ALL: Thanks be to God.*

SERMON

The Last Words

Elder Steve Bowers

RESPONSE

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** *The Confession of 1967*

Elder David Greene

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.

(At this time, please find the red friendship pad located toward the center isle on each pew, sign it, pass it down your row and back again, taking note of those who worship with you.)

OFFERING

Elder David Greene

OFFERTORY

There Is a Fountain Filled with Blood

arr. by Diemer

Dr. Terry McRoberts

*Doxology (Tune: 606)

OLD HUNDREDTH

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

*Dedicatory Prayer

Elder David Greene

SENDING

***HYMN: 542** *God Be with You Till We Meet Again*

GOD BE WITH YOU

***CHARGE + BENEDICTION**

Elder Steve Bowers

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Amen

Rutter

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

Largamente

Boelmann

Dr. Terry McRoberts