

For
salvation
is nearer Romans 13:11, NRSV
to us now
than when
we became
believers ...

FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

September 10, 2023

GATHERING

PRAYER FOR MEDITATION: *Almighty God, whose ways are far beyond our understanding, help us to trust your judgements so that we may do your will by loving you and one another. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen.*

RINGING OF THE CHIMES

WELCOME + ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

PRELUDE

Toccata in E Minor
Dr. Terry McRoberts

Pachelbel

CHORAL INTROIT

We Give You Praise
Chancel Choir

Beebe

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Elder Diane Sklensky

One: Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song!

ALL: *This day is God's gift to us.*

One: Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song!

ALL: *God has graciously gathered us together in this place.*

One: Hallelujah! Sing to the Lord a new song!

ALL: *God is good and faithful. God is our worthy of our praise.*

One: Let us pray. Lord of mercy and light, you have called us out of the darkness of our lives into the light of your love. Your love encourages and sustains us always.

ALL: *We praise and thank you for all the blessings we have received throughout our lives. It is in Jesus' name that we pray. Amen.*

*PROCESSIONAL HYMN: 667 *When Morning Gilds the Skies*

LAUDES DOMINI

PRAISE GOD AND CONFESS OUR SINS

CALL TO CONFESSION *(based on Romans 12:21)*

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Amid the countless things that human beings cannot fully comprehend about God, there stands this: God so loves us, as to bathe us with grace, feed us with mercy, and forgive our sins.

Confident in the love of God, let us pray together.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

Lord God, while we were still slaves to sin, you died for our salvation. Yet we still worship the false gods of the world, forgetting that you are Lord. Loving worldly wealth, we have not loved you with our whole heart, nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. Trusting worldly strength, we have not trusted your word nor followed the Word-made-flesh. Forgiving by worldly norms, we have not shown mercy to others as you have shown mercy to us. Forgive us yet again, we pray in Christ's name. Amen.

SILENT PRAYERS OF CONFESSION AND REPENTANCE

*ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Rev. Courtney Bowen

One: Friends, hear the good news of the gospel: Who is in a position to condemn?

ALL: *Only Christ. And Christ died for us; Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us.*

One: Friends, believe the good news of the gospel:

ALL: *In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.*

*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.*

THE WORD

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

Libby Smith

MINUTE FOR MISSION: STEWARDSHIP | 200 YEARS AND COUNTING

Susie Alexander

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Elder Diane Sklensky

SCRIPTURE READING *Romans 13:8-14 (page 162-163)*

Elder Diane Sklensky

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

HOMILY

What's Love Got to Do with It?

Rev. Courtney Bowen

RESPONSE

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (*The Apostles' Creed*)

Elder Diane Sklensky

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 Diane Sklensky

ANTHEM

There is a Balm

arr. McDonald

Chancel Choir

*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 Diane Sklensky

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

*COMMUNION HYMN 525 *Let Us Break Bread Together*

LET US BREAK BREAD

INVITATION TO THE TABLE

PRAYER OF GREAT THANKSGIVING & THE LORD'S PRAYER

BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND SHARING OF THE CUP

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

SENDING

*HYMN: 744 *Arise, Your Light is Come!*

FESTAL SONG

*CHARGE + BENEDICTION

Rev. Courtney Bowen

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

CHORAL BENEDICTION

Walk in the Light

Purchase

Chancel Choir

POSTLUDE

Postlude in G Minor

Broughton

Dr. Terry McRoberts