

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, September 13, 2020

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

HYMN #549 “Around the Throne, a Glorious Band”

Around the throne, a glorious band, The saints in countless numbers stand,
Of ev'ry tongue, redeemed to God, Arrayed in garments washed in blood.

Through tribulation great they came; They bore the cross, despised the shame.
From all their labors now they rest In God's eternal glory blest.

They see their Savior face to face And sing the triumphs of his grace.
Each day and night they sing his praise, To him the loud thanksgiving raise:

"Worthy the Lamb, for sinners slain, Through endless years to live and reign;
You have redeemed us by your blood And made us kings and priests to God."

Oh, may we tread the sacred road That saints and holy martyrs trod,
Wage to the end the glorious strife, And win, like them, a crown of life.

STAND

M: The grace of our Lord ☩ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord have mercy on me, a sinner.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son ☩ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

PRAYER AND PRAISE

LORD, HAVE MERCY

- M:** For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C:** **Lord, have mercy.**
- M:** For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.
- C:** **Christ, have mercy.**
- M:** For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.
- C:** **Lord, have mercy.**
- M:** Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:
- C:** **Amen.**
- M:** The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O LORD, OUR LORD

- C:** **O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth. Almighty God, merciful Father, you crown our life with your love. You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit; you make us pure and holy in your sight. You did not spare your only Son, but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth. O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father, you came to live with us; you made your Father known; you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the King of glory; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- M:** Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C:** **Amen.**

BE SEATED

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Jeremiah 15:15-21: You understand, O LORD; remember me and care for me. Avenge me on my persecutors. You are long-suffering—do not take me away; think of how I suffer reproach for your sake. When your words came, I ate them; they were my joy and my heart’s delight, for I bear your name, O LORD God Almighty. I never sat in the company of revelers, never made merry with them; I sat alone because your hand was on me and you had filled me with indignation. Why is my pain unending and my wound grievous and incurable? Will you be to me like a deceptive brook, like a spring that fails? Therefore this is what the LORD says: “If you repent, I will restore you that you may serve me; if you utter worthy, not worthless, words, you will be my spokesman. Let this people turn to you, but you must not turn to them. I will make you a wall to this people, a fortified wall of bronze; they will fight against you but will not overcome you, for I am with you to rescue and save you,” declares the LORD. “I will save you from the hands of the wicked and redeem you from the grasp of the cruel.”

M: The Word of the Lord.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 121

Refrain: Keep me, keep me as the apple of your eye. Hide me, hide me in the shadow of your wings.

I lift up my eyes to the hills.* Where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord,* the maker of heaven and earth.
He will not let your foot slip,* he who watches over you will not slumber;
indeed, he who watches over Israel* will neither slumber or sleep.

Refrain: Keep me, keep me as the apple of your eye. Hide me, hide me in the shadow of your wings.

The Lord watches over you,* the Lord is your shade at your right hand.
The Lord will keep you from all harm,* he will watch over your life;
the Lord will watch over your coming and going* both now and forevermore.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son* and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,* is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain: Keep me, keep me as the apple of your eye. Hide me, hide me in the shadow of your wings.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 12:1-8: Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man’s gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

M: The Word of the Lord.

VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia. Your words became a joy to me, and the delight of my heart. Alleluia.

C: **Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

STAND

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-26: From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, chief priests and teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life. Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!” Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the things of God, but the things of men.” Then Jesus said to his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it. What good will it be for a man if he gains the whole world, yet forfeits his soul? Or what can a man give in exchange for his soul?”

M: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

BE SEATED

HYMN #465 “Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken”

Jesus, I my cross have taken, All to leave and follow you.
Destitute, despised, forsaken, You on earth once suffered, too.
Perish ev'ry fond ambition, All I've ever hoped or known;
Yet how rich is my condition! God and heav'n are still my own.

Let the world despise and leave me; They have left my Savior, too.
Human hearts and looks deceive me; You are not, like them, untrue.
And since you have smiled upon me, God of wisdom, love, and might,
Foes may hate and friends may shun me—Show your face, and all is bright.

Go, then, earthly fame and treasure! Come, disaster, scorn, and pain!
In your service pain is pleasure; With your favor loss is gain.
I have called you Abba, Father! You my all in all shall be.
Storms may howl, and clouds may gather; All must work for good to me.

SERMON - Matthew 16:21-26

“Going God’s Way”

STAND

NICENE CREED

C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(Please remain standing)

OFFERING

(We will not pass a plate but one will be available on the table as you leave church.)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

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

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C: Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory. You are my God, and I will exalt you. I will give you thanks, for you have become my salvation. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **Amen.**

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace. Amen.

BE SEATED

DISTRIBUTION

In accordance with God's command in I Corinthians, we at Christ practice close communion. This means that only members of our church or of one in fellowship with us may commune. Visitors are invited to speak with the pastor and find out why this is an act of LOVE.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN #428 “Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me” (please read to yourself)

Why should cross and trial grieve me?

Christ is near With his cheer; Never will he leave me.

Who can rob me of the heaven That God's Son For me won When his life was given?

When life's troubles rise to meet me, Though their weight May be great,

They will not defeat me. God, my loving Savior, sees them;

He who knows All my woes Knows how best to end them.

God gives me my days of gladness, And I will Trust him still When he sends me sadness.

God is good; his love attends me

Day by day, Come what may, Guides me and defends me.

Since I know God never fails me, In his voice I'll rejoice When grim death assails me.

Trusting in my Savior's merit,

Safe at last, Troubles past, I shall heav'n inherit.

STAND

THANKSGIVING

THANK THE LORD

C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell everyone what he has done. Let all who seek the Lord rejoice and proudly bear his name. He renews his promises and leads his people forth in joy with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia! Alleluia!

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace. Amen.

BE SEATED

HYMN #422 “Jesus, Lead Us On”

Jesus, lead us on Till our rest is won;
And although the way be cheerless, We will follow, calm and fearless.
Guide us by your hand To our fatherland.

If the way be drear, If the foe be near,
Let not faithless fears o'ertake us; Let not faith and hope forsake us,
For through many a woe To our home we go.

When we seek relief From a long-felt grief,
When temptations come alluring, Make us patient and enduring;
Show us that bright shore Where we weep no more.

Jesus, still lead on Till our rest is won.
Heav'nly Leader, still direct us; Still support, console, protect us
Till we safely stand In our fatherland.