



## **Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity ~ September 17, 2023**

### *Opening Prayer*

**Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself: We praise and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your Name; for the kingdom and the power and the glory are yours for ever. Amen.**

### *Confession*

As we gather for worship, many things can distract us from worship of God and fellowship with one another. One of the more prominent is our feelings of failure over the past week. The Church has historically confessed our failures as part of worship, not to burden ourselves with guilt, but rather to be unburdened because of the good news that Jesus loves and forgives us. Therefore, let us take time first in silence to approach the Lord in confession, then sing together corporately our confession.

### *Silent Confession*

*Song #1: "From the Depths of Woe (Psalm 130)"*

From depths of woe I raise to thee  
the voice of lamentation;  
Lord, turn a gracious ear to me  
and hear my supplication:  
if thou iniquities dost mark,  
our secret sins and misdeeds dark,  
O who shall stand before thee?

To wash away the crimson stain,  
grace, grace alone, availeth;  
our works, alas! are all in vain;  
in much the best life faileth:  
no man can glory in thy sight,  
all must alike confess thy might,  
and live alone by mercy.

Therefore my trust is in the Lord,  
and not in mine own merit;  
on him my soul shall rest, his Word  
upholds my fainting spirit:

his promised mercy is my fort,  
my comfort, and my sweet support;  
I wait for it with patience.

What though I wait the live-long night,  
and 'til the dawn appeareth,  
my heart still trusteth in his might;  
it doubteth not nor feareth:  
do thus, O ye of Israel's seed,  
ye of the Spirit born indeed;  
and wait 'til God appeareth.

Though great our sins and sore our woes,  
his grace much more aboundeth;  
his helping love no limit knows,  
our utmost need it soundeth.  
Our Shepherd good and true is he,  
who will at last his Israel free  
from all their sin and sorrow.

#### *Assurance*

Take heart, for the Scriptures tell us, "As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us." (Psalms 103:12)

#### *Song #2: "A Mighty Fortress"*

A mighty fortress is our God,  
A bulwark never failing;  
Our helper he amidst the flood  
Of mortal ills prevailing.  
For still our ancient foe  
Doth seek to work us woe  
His craft and power are great,  
And armed with cruel hate  
On earth is not his equal

Did we in our own strength confide  
Our striving would be losing  
Were not the right Man on our side  
The man of God's own choosing  
Dost ask who that may be?  
Christ Jesus, it is he  
The Lord of hosts, His name  
From age to age the same  
And He must win the battle

And though this world, with devils filled

Should threaten to undo us  
We will not fear, for God hath willed  
His truth to triumph through us  
The Prince of Darkness grim  
We tremble not for him  
His rage we can endure  
For lo, his doom is sure  
One little word shall fell him

A mighty fortress, a Rock unfailing  
The King of glory forever amen!  
For endless ages, enthroned in praises  
The King of glory forever, amen!

That word above all earthly powers,  
No thanks to them, abideth  
The Spirit and the gifts are ours  
Through him who with us sideth  
Let goods and kindred go  
This mortal life also  
The body they may kill  
God's truth abideth still  
His kingdom is forever

A mighty fortress, a Rock unfailing  
The King of glory forever amen!  
For endless ages, enthroned in praises  
The King of glory forever, amen!

A mighty fortress, a Rock unfailing  
The King of glory forever amen!  
For endless ages, enthroned in praises  
The King of glory forever, forever amen!

*Song #3: "Worthy of Your Name"*

Rumors of the son of man  
Stories of a savior  
Holiness with human hands  
Treasure for the traitor

No ear had heard no eye had seen  
The image of the Father  
Until heaven came to live with me  
A rescue like no other

You are worthy You are worthy of Your name (2x)  
Jesus

You did not speak you made no sound  
You died for your accusers  
As Your blood fell to the ground  
You redefined my future

On the day when You arose  
The darkness ran for cover  
For the King of kings has claimed his throne  
Now until forever

You are worthy You are worthy of your name (2x)  
Jesus

You're my Author my Maker my Ransom  
My Savior my Refuge my Hiding Place  
You're my Helper my Healer my Blessed Redeemer  
My Answer my Saving Grace

You're my Hope in the shadows  
My Strength in the battle  
My Anchor for all my days  
You stand by my side  
And You stood in my place  
Jesus no other name  
Jesus no other name

You are worthy You are worthy of your name (4x)  
Jesus

*Collect Prayer for the Week:*

O God, because without you we are not able to please you, mercifully grant that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Readings from The Old and New Testaments*

*Old Testament—Deuteronomy 9:1-12*

**9** “Listen, Israel: Today you are about to cross the Jordan to enter and drive out nations greater and stronger than you, with large cities fortified to the heavens. **2** The people are strong and tall, the descendants of the Anakim. You know about them and you have heard it said about them, ‘Who can stand up to the sons of Anak?’ **3** But understand that today the LORD your God will cross over ahead of you as a consuming fire; he will devastate and subdue them before you. You will drive them out and destroy them swiftly, as the LORD has told you. **4** When the LORD your God drives them out before you, do not say to yourself, ‘The LORD brought me in to take possession of this land because of my righteousness.’ Instead, the LORD will drive out these nations before you because of their wickedness. **5** You are not going to take possession of their land because of your righteousness or your integrity. Instead, the LORD your God will drive out these nations before you because of their wickedness, in order to fulfill the promise he swore to your

ancestors Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. <sup>6</sup> Understand that the LORD your God is not giving you this good land to possess because of your righteousness, for you are a stiff-necked people.

<sup>7</sup> “Remember and do not forget how you provoked the LORD your God in the wilderness. You have been rebelling against the LORD from the day you left the land of Egypt until you reached this place. <sup>8</sup> You provoked the LORD at Horeb, and he was angry enough with you to destroy you. <sup>9</sup> When I went up the mountain to receive the stone tablets, the tablets of the covenant the LORD made with you, I stayed on the mountain forty days and forty nights. I did not eat food or drink water. <sup>10</sup> On the day of the assembly the LORD gave me the two stone tablets, inscribed by God’s finger. The exact words were on them, which the LORD spoke to you from the fire on the mountain. <sup>11</sup> The LORD gave me the two stone tablets, the tablets of the covenant, at the end of the forty days and forty nights.

<sup>12</sup> “The LORD said to me, ‘Get up and go down immediately from here. For your people whom you brought out of Egypt have acted corruptly. They have quickly turned from the way that I commanded them; they have made a cast image for themselves.’

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Psalm—Psalms 119:81-88*

<sup>81</sup> I long for your salvation;  
I put my hope in your word.

<sup>82</sup> My eyes grow weary  
looking for what you have promised;  
I ask, “When will you comfort me?”

<sup>83</sup> Though I have become like a wineskin dried by smoke,  
I do not forget your statutes.

<sup>84</sup> How many days must your servant wait?  
When will you execute judgment on my persecutors?

<sup>85</sup> The arrogant have dug pits for me;  
they violate your instruction.

<sup>86</sup> All your commands are true;  
people persecute me with lies—help me!

<sup>87</sup> They almost ended my life on earth,  
but I did not abandon your precepts.

<sup>88</sup> Give me life in accordance with your faithful love,  
and I will obey the decree you have spoken.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Epistle—Galatians 4:21-31*

<sup>21</sup> Tell me, you who want to be under the law, don't you hear the law? <sup>22</sup> For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave and the other by a free woman. <sup>23</sup> But the one by the slave was born as a result of the flesh, while the one by the free woman was born through promise. <sup>24</sup> These things are being taken figuratively, for the women represent two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai and bears children into slavery—this is Hagar. <sup>25</sup> Now Hagar represents Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. <sup>26</sup> But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. <sup>27</sup> For it is written,

“Rejoice, childless woman,  
unable to give birth.  
Burst into song and shout,  
you who are not in labor,  
for the children of the desolate woman will be many,  
more numerous than those  
of the woman who has a husband.”

<sup>28</sup> Now you too, brothers and sisters, like Isaac, are children of promise. <sup>29</sup> But just as then the child born as a result of the flesh persecuted the one born as a result of the Spirit, so also now. <sup>30</sup> But what does the Scripture say? “Drive out the slave and her son, for the son of the slave will never be a coheir with the son of the free woman.” <sup>31</sup> Therefore, brothers and sisters, we are not children of a slave but of the free woman.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel—Luke 16:19-31*

<sup>19</sup> “There was a rich man who would dress in purple and fine linen, feasting lavishly every day. <sup>20</sup> But a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, was lying at his gate. <sup>21</sup> He longed to be filled with what fell from the rich man's table, but instead the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup> One day the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup> And being in torment in Hades, he looked up and saw Abraham a long way off, with Lazarus at his side. <sup>24</sup> ‘Father Abraham!’ he called out, ‘Have mercy on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this flame!’

<sup>25</sup> “‘Son,’ Abraham said, ‘remember that during your life you received your good things, just as Lazarus received bad things, but now he is comforted here, while you are in agony. <sup>26</sup> Besides all this, a great chasm has been fixed between us and you, so that those who want to pass over from here to you cannot; neither can those from there cross over to us.’

<sup>27</sup> “‘Father,’ he said, ‘then I beg you to send him to my father's house— <sup>28</sup> because I have five brothers—to warn them, so that they won't also come to this place of torment.’

29 “But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’

30 “‘No, father Abraham,’ he said. ‘But if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’

31 “But he told him, ‘If they don’t listen to Moses and the prophets, they will not be persuaded if someone rises from the dead.’”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Short Sermon: “Lazarus”*

*Lord’s Prayer*

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Song #4: “My Worth Is Not in What I Own”*

My worth is not in what I own  
Not in the strength of flesh and bone  
But in the costly wounds of love  
At the cross

My worth is not in skill or name  
In win or lose, in pride or shame  
But in the blood of Christ that flowed  
At the cross

I rejoice in my redeemer  
Greatest treasure  
Wellspring of my soul  
And I will trust in Him, no other  
My soul is satisfied in Him alone

As summer flowers we fade and die  
Fame, youth and beauty hurry by  
But life eternal calls to us  
At the cross

I will not boast in wealth or might  
Or human wisdom’s fleeting light  
But I will boast in knowing Christ  
At the cross

I rejoice in my redeemer  
Greatest treasure

Wellspring of my soul  
I will trust in Him, no other  
My soul is satisfied in Him alone

Two wonders here that I confess  
My worth and my unworthiness  
My value fixed, my ransom paid  
At the cross

I rejoice in my redeemer  
Greatest treasure  
Wellspring of my soul  
And I will trust in Him, no other  
My soul is satisfied in Him alone

(repeat)

My soul is satisfied in Him alone  
My soul is satisfied in Him alone

*Song #5: "Who You Say I Am"*

Who am I that the highest King  
Would welcome me?  
I was lost but He brought me in  
Oh, His love for me  
Oh, His love for me

Who the Son sets free  
Oh, is free indeed  
I'm a child of God  
Yes, I am

Free at last, He has ransomed me  
His grace runs deep  
While I was a slave to sin  
Jesus died for me  
Yes, He died for me

Who the Son sets free  
Oh, is free indeed  
I'm a child of God  
Yes, I am  
In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God  
Yes, I am

I am chosen  
Not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me  
Not against me  
I am who You say I am



I am chosen  
Not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me  
Not against me  
I am who You say I am  
I am who You say I am  
  
Who the Son sets free  
Oh, is free indeed  
I'm a child of God  
Yes, I am  
In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God  
Yes, I am  
In my Father's house  
There's a place for me  
I'm a child of God  
Yes, I am

*Nicene Creed*

**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:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate  
from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.  
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.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic 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.**

*Community Discussion/Sharing*

1. Why do we have the tendency to turn away from and ignore the poor and needy?
2. How does having a name (or knowing someone's name) change our relationship with them and our responsibility to them?
3. How can we balance the need to proclaim the gospel with the need to meet real-world problems and injustices?
4. What are some situations where we are waiting for some miraculous sign from God when the truth is plain if we would simply study the Scriptures?

*Doxology*

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.

*Sending Prayer*

**God our Father, you see us, your children, growing up in an unsteady and confusing world: Show us that your ways give more life than the ways of the world, and that following you is better than chasing after selfish goals. Help us to take our failures, not as a measure of our worth, but as a chance for a new start. Give us strength to hold our faith in you, and to keep alive our joy in your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**