

Eastminster Presbyterian Church  
SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY  
9<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

August 2, 2020-11:00 a.m.

### GATHERING AROUND GOD'S WORD

*You are invited to silently pray as you prepare to offer thanksgiving to God.*

**We have come together today, O Lord, walking on the pathway of life that you have provided. We rejoice that in Jesus we have been taught to walk this path in peace, love and harmony. We offer thanks that the challenges of the path with its twists, turns and distance are not for us to travel alone. You are our guide. We walk in your footsteps. You are our adventure. You are our resting place. We are blessed to continue walking this journey with you, and from our hearts and lips, hear our gratitude as we offer our worship this morning. Amen**

PSALM OF PRAISE (Psalm 17)

God of all righteousness, hear our cries for justice made in genuine sincerity;

**hear our prayers from lips which speak no evil - from hearts which are free from evil deeds.**

If you put our sincerity to the test, you will find that our thoughts, words and deeds are grounded in your word.

**For it is by putting our trust in you, O God, and in you alone, that we are able to walk in your ways of peace and righteousness.**

VOLUNTARY

*Come Sing Unto the Lord  
Jake and Melody Davis*

arr. Joseph Martin

\*OPENING HYMN 463 *How Firm a Foundation*

CALL TO CONFESSION

The story of Jacob shows God's willingness to enter into the messiness of our human struggles, into fractured relationships, family differences, and unreconciled situations with people we care about. Together, may we seek the face of forgiveness in our Lord and in one another.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Forgiving God, we confess that too often our fists are clenched because we do not want to loosen our grip on control of self and others. We fear that our lives will be dislocated by your kingdom values of justice, mercy and peace. Help us to wrestle with the conflicting values, desires and pressures that confront us daily. Unclench our hands and open us to the transforming power of the Holy Spirit; for, only then can we fully embrace others, and be embraced, by the forgiveness and love of Christ Jesus. Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF GOD'S FORGIVENESS: As far as the east is from the west or the north from the south, no matter how far we walk, the forgiveness and the mercy of the Lord are always a step ahead of us.

RESPONSE 581 *Glory Be to the Father*

## PROCLAIMING GOD'S WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION: Loving God, through the gift of your Word and Spirit, we ask more, much more, to learn of you and trust you, to cherish and serve you, to love, worship and adore you. This is our prayer; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible, page 30*)

Genesis 32: 22-31

<sup>22</sup>The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok.<sup>23</sup>He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had.<sup>24</sup>Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak.<sup>25</sup>When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him.<sup>26</sup>Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me."<sup>27</sup>So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob."<sup>28</sup>Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed."<sup>29</sup>Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him.<sup>30</sup>So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved."<sup>31</sup>The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

ANTHEM

*Holy Manna*  
*Sanctuary Choir*

arr. Joel Raney

NEW TESTAMENT READING (*Pew Bible, page 16*)

Matthew 14: 13-21

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns.<sup>14</sup>When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd; and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.<sup>15</sup>When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves."<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat."<sup>17</sup>They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish."<sup>18</sup>And he said, "Bring them here to me."<sup>19</sup>Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven, and blessed and broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.<sup>20</sup>And all ate and were filled; and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full.<sup>21</sup>And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

\*HYMN 699 *Fill My Cup*

SERMON

*Fed and Blessed, Feed and Bless*

Sherry Holloman

## RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*The Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. I believe 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 from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth at 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.**

OFFERTORY SENTENCE: For more blessings than we can imagine, may the Spirit move us to give generously, trusting that through the love of Christ, the gifts will be multiplied in ways we cannot measure or control. For the sake of God's kingdom, may we share the blessings of our lives.

#### PRESENTATION OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

OFFERTORY *Come to the Table of Grace*  
*Ensemble*

\*RESPONSE 606 *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*

\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING: We offer these gifts to you O God, in response to your many gracious gifts to us. Bless and use all that we offer, both these gifts and our lives, as we seek to be faithful followers of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen

#### THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

\*THE INVITATION: Come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been to this sacrament often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus and you who have failed. Come, it is Christ who invites us to meet him here.

\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts to the Lord.

**We lift our hearts to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

When the hour was late, you spoke, God, and creation sprang forth in newness and you shaped us in your image. If we had listened to you, we would have feasted on Eden's delights, but we hungered for sin's moldy bread, and drank death's sour wine. With great love and unceasing hope, you sent the prophets to us, but we sent them away for the hour was too early to follow you. Then, in overwhelming compassion, you sent Jesus to us. With those who have been fed by your love, with those who drink deeply of your joy, we lift our songs of thanksgiving to you:

\*RESPONSE 552 *Holy, Holy, Holy*

You are gracious and merciful, Holy God, and Jesus Christ is your heart made flesh. He, who had everything, came to fill those who had nothing. He, who lived in glory, came to the deserted places of our hearts to love us. He, who is over all, came to submit to death's power, being cut off from you, until you raised him to new life. We need not go away empty, but are fed at the Table, where we speak the truth in Christ:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Here at this Table, God of abundance, you feed us with that grace and peace which is offered at no cost to us. The Holy Spirit blesses the bread, breaks it, and gives it to us so we might have the strength to hold those whose knees wobble from fear and despair. The Holy Spirit blesses the cup, pours it, and gives it to us so we can go to lift up the hopes which the world has dashed to the ground. The Holy Spirit will gather up the broken people to create a community of wholeness. And when the final hour is now, when we are gathered with our sisters and brothers of every time and place, we will eat and be filled at the heavenly feast, and rejoice with one voice as we praise you forever and ever.

*RESPONSE 555 O Lamb of God*

Pour out your Spirit on us. Pour out your Spirit on these gifts Make these gifts the body and blood of Christ.

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH AND THE LORD’S PRAYER:** Gracious and loving God, you enabled the Psalmist to turn to you in the confident assurance that his cries and prayers would be heard and answered by you. Prayers uttered in the belief that your steadfast love would not permit despair and desolation to have the last word. We offer our prayers in that same belief, and with even greater confidence that we are heard by you, for the wonderful evidence of your love has been revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior, in whom we seek refuge time and time again. Through him, our burdens are lightened and our sins are forgiven. Through his sacrificial love, our lives are blessed with the gift of the Holy Spirit. For these great and glorious gifts, we offer our thanksgiving, our praise and our adoration. In Jesus’ name we pray, saying...**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 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.**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

**RECEPTION OF THE SACRAMENT**

*This sacrament is not the possession of this congregation nor of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). The Lord welcomes you. We welcome you. All persons are invited to receive the sacrament. Please come to the front court by way of the center aisle. We will receive the sacrament by intinction.*

**COMMUNION RESPONSE (LUYH 20) Alleluia**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:** Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal realm. Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**GOING INTO THE WORLD WITH GOD’S WORD**

**\*INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP AND BENEDICTION**

Go now into the world, strengthened by the gifts with which Christ has fed you.

Be generous to others, for Christ has given extravagantly.

Live by God's Word. Walk in God's paths.

And may God's wonderful love be with you everywhere;

may Christ Jesus feed you with his body and word;

and may the Holy Spirit fill you with God's presence always.

We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

Amen.

\*CLOSING HYMN 593 *Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises*

*Sean Turner, verses; congregation refrain 0381*