

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 26th 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Gathering Around the Word

Call to Worship

One: God calls us into this space,

All: Inviting us into a time of worship.

One: God calls to our hearts,

All: Inviting us to know God's love.

One: God calls us by name,

All: Inviting us to deeper relationship.

One: May God continue to call to us,

All: And may we know God's grace and peace.

Hymn 275

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God Vrs. 1

EIN' FESTE BURG

Call to Confession

God saves us through the grace of Christ, despite our unworthiness of that salvation. In grateful response to such unmerited grace, let us confess before God the ways we have fallen short.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Loving God,

our strength and redemption,

you know our many misdeeds;

our hidden faults;

our secret sins.

We grasp at power;

we stumble into evil;

we look out only for ourselves.

Forgive us, gracious God,

and lead us in your holy way

of life and love and peace;

for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

from Mark 9:49-50

Dear friends, open your hearts to receive God's mercy, forgiveness, and grace, knowing that you are loved and restored. Preserve what you know of God's love, mercy, and peace, and share

it with others. Be the salt of the earth! Give flavor to the world! And most of all, hear and believe this incredible good news:

All: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God!

Response

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen, amen.*

Listening to the Word

Prayer for Illumination of God's Word

from Psalm 19:7–8, 14

O God, by the power of your Spirit, enlighten our eyes, instruct our minds, rejoice our hearts, and revive our souls so that our lips and our lives may bear witness to your word. **Amen.**

First Reading

James 5:13-20

¹³ Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. ¹⁴ Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. ¹⁷ Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

¹⁹ My brothers and sisters,^[a] if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, ²⁰ you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's^[b] soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Sharing Faith with the Younger Church

Anthem—None

Second Reading

Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22

¹ So the king and Haman went in to feast with Queen Esther. ² On the second day, as they were drinking wine, the king again said to Esther, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you. And what is your request? Even to the half of my kingdom, it shall be fulfilled." ³ Then Queen Esther answered, "If I have won your favor, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me—that is my petition—and the lives of my people—that is my request. ⁴ For we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed, and to be

HYMN 539 *We Will Go Out with Joy (vrs. 1)* WE WILL GO OUT WITH JOY

Postlude