

# Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## September 12<sup>th</sup> 2021

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### Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Introit

HYMN 631

*In the Presence of Your People*

## Gathering Around the Word

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### Call to Worship

*from Psalm 19:1–4, 14*

One: Look at the heavens!

**All: They are shouting the glory of God.**

One: The days and the nights declare the magnificence  
of God's creative works.

**All: Their voice goes through all the earth  
and their words reach the ends of the world.**

One: Let our words of praise be acceptable to you, O God;

**All: Our Lord, our rock, our redeemer!**

Hymn 366

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling vrs1*

HYFRYDOL

### Call to Confession

The Lord, who has great mercy, listens to the cries of the people who turn with full hearts. Let our tongues now make confession in the presence of God and one another, assured that we will be met with compassion and forgiveness.

### Prayer of Confession (in unison)

**You have called us, O God,**

**but we have refused to listen;**

**you have reached out to us**

**but we have turned our backs on you.**

**We have taken your generous gifts**

**and used them selfishly, hurting others.**

**We have denied our need for you.**

**We have refused to be led by your wisdom.**

**We have not loved you**

**or our neighbors as we should.**

**Forgive our failure to live out**

**the truth of your gospel.**

**Turn our hearts back to you,**

**that we might be a source  
of goodness and love for all your people.  
In the name of the Christ; Amen.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

*from Psalm 19:7–8*

The law of the Lord is perfect, and it revives the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure and make wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, and it enlightens the eyes. Dear friends, hear and believe the 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**

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### **Prayer for Illumination of God's Word**

You speak to us, Lord, with tongues of wisdom. Let your Holy Spirit now open us to hear today's teachings, that we might know your will for us. In Jesus' name; **Amen.**

### **First Reading**            Isaiah 50:4-9a

<sup>4</sup>The LORD God gave me an educated tongue  
to know how to respond to the weary  
with a word that will awaken them in the morning.<sup>[a]</sup>  
God awakens my ear in the morning to listen,  
as educated people do.

<sup>5</sup>The LORD God opened my ear;  
I didn't rebel; I didn't turn my back.

<sup>6</sup>Instead, I gave my body to attackers,  
and my cheeks to beard pluckers.

I didn't hide my face  
from insults and spitting.

<sup>7</sup>The LORD God will help me;  
therefore, I haven't been insulted.

Therefore, I set my face like flint,  
and knew I wouldn't be ashamed.

<sup>8</sup>The one who will declare me innocent is near.  
Who will argue with me?

Let's stand up together.  
Who will bring judgment against me?  
Let him approach me.

<sup>9</sup>Look! The LORD God will help me.  
Who will condemn me?

## Sharing Faith with the Younger Church

### Second Reading James 3:1-12

My brothers and sisters, not many of you should become teachers, because we know that we teachers will be judged more strictly. <sup>2</sup> We all make mistakes often, but those who don't make mistakes with their words have reached full maturity. Like a bridled horse, they can control themselves entirely. <sup>3</sup> When we bridle horses and put bits in their mouths to lead them wherever we want, we can control their whole bodies.

<sup>4</sup> Consider ships: They are so large that strong winds are needed to drive them. But pilots direct their ships wherever they want with a little rudder. <sup>5</sup> In the same way, even though the tongue is a small part of the body, it boasts wildly.

Think about this: A small flame can set a whole forest on fire. <sup>6</sup> The tongue is a small flame of fire, a world of evil at work in us. It contaminates our entire lives. Because of it, the circle of life is set on fire. The tongue itself is set on fire by the flames of hell.

<sup>7</sup> People can tame and already have tamed every kind of animal, bird, reptile, and fish. <sup>8</sup> No one can tame the tongue, though. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. <sup>9</sup> With it we both bless the Lord and Father and curse human beings made in God's likeness. <sup>10</sup> Blessing and cursing come from the same mouth. My brothers and sisters, it just shouldn't be this way!

<sup>11</sup> Both fresh water and salt water don't come from the same spring, do they? <sup>12</sup> My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree produce olives? Can a grapevine produce figs? Of course not, and fresh water doesn't flow from a saltwater spring either.

### Sermon

## Responding to the Word

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**Hymn 721** *Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore vrs 1 & 3*

PESCADOR DE HOMBRES

### Reception into Membership

**Affirmation of Faith** Church Creed

### Sharing our Prayers

### Prayers of the People

### The Lord's Prayer

### Dedicating our Gifts

*The Lord gives us everything we have, so we return with joy a portion of our bounty: ourselves, our lives, and our means. We give to the work of God's church, in God's world.*

**The Doxology**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Christ, all creatures here below;  
Praise God above, you heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

**Charge & Benediction**

**Blessing**

**HYMN 543**

*God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me (vrs. 5)*

GREEN TYLER

**Postlude**