

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 5th 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* arr. Mark Hayes

Gathering Around the Word

Call to Worship

from Isaiah 35:4-7

One: Say to those in a panic:

**All: “Be strong! Don’t fear! Here is your God;
God will come and save you.”**

One: Then the eyes of the blind will be opened,

All: And the ears of the deaf will be cleared.

One: Waters will spring up in the desert,
and streams in the wilderness.

**All: The burning sand will become a pool;
and the thirsty ground, fountains of water.**

One: Come, let us worship God!

All: We worship the God who makes all things new!

Hymn 451 *Open My Eyes, That I May See (vrs 1)*

OPEN MY EYES

Call to Confession

Many people brought their greatest needs to Jesus, certain that he would help them. With that same confidence, let us confess our failings and receive God’s sure forgiveness.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

God of eternal life, we confess

that we are often short-sighted.

We want the wins we can get right now.

**We look after our own well-being,
and fail to see you working in the world around us.**

**We seek short-term pleasures that ease our fears,
instead of trusting you to meet all our needs.**

Forgive us for our selfishness.

**Help us to live into your ways
of empathy, compassion, and care
for one another and for our earth.**

Turn us to your ways, and teach us to know that

**though we may not see your righteousness
at the moment, it will come.
Claim us anew, O God, and hold us
to your path of mercy, love, and justice.
In Christ Jesus we pray, Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

from Mark 7:30, 37

Just as Jesus healed the troubled and made the deaf to hear and the mute to speak, our merciful God lifts our burdens from us. God's grace removes the failures of our past and turns us to new life. Dear friends, hear and believe this wonderful 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

Holy God, whose Spirit comes to us in moments of both strength and weakness, come now into our midst that we might be able to hear your word in fullness and in truth. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading Psalm 146

Let my whole being praise the LORD!

² I will praise the LORD with all my life;

I will sing praises to my God as long as I live.

³ Don't trust leaders;

don't trust any human beings—

there's no saving help with them!

⁴ Their breath leaves them,

then they go back to the ground.

On that very same day, their plans die too.

⁵ The person whose help is the God of Jacob—

the person whose hope rests on the LORD their God—

is truly happy!

⁶ God: the maker of heaven and earth,

the sea, and all that is in them,

God: who is faithful forever,

⁷ who gives justice to people who are oppressed,

who gives bread to people who are starving!

The LORD: who frees prisoners.

⁸ The LORD: who makes the blind see.
The LORD: who straightens up those who are bent low.
The LORD: who loves the righteous.
⁹ The LORD: who protects immigrants,
who helps orphans and widows,
but who makes the way of the wicked twist and turn!
¹⁰ The LORD will rule forever!
Zion, your God will rule from one generation to the next!
Praise the LORD!

Sharing Faith with the Younger Church

Second Reading Mark 7:24-35

²⁴ Jesus left that place and went into the region of Tyre. He didn't want anyone to know that he had entered a house, but he couldn't hide. ²⁵ In fact, a woman whose young daughter was possessed by an unclean spirit heard about him right away. She came and fell at his feet. ²⁶ The woman was Greek, Syrophenician by birth. She begged Jesus to throw the demon out of her daughter. ²⁷ He responded, "The children have to be fed first. It isn't right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

²⁸ But she answered, "Lord, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs."

²⁹ "Good answer!" he said. "Go on home. The demon has already left your daughter." ³⁰ When she returned to her house, she found the child lying on the bed and the demon gone.

³¹ After leaving the region of Tyre, Jesus went through Sidon toward the Galilee Sea through the region of the Ten Cities. ³² Some people brought to him a man who was deaf and could hardly speak, and they begged him to place his hand on the man for healing. ³³ Jesus took him away from the crowd by himself and put his fingers in the man's ears. Then he spit and touched the man's tongue. ³⁴ Looking into heaven, Jesus sighed deeply and said, "*Ephphatha*," which means, "Open up." ³⁵ At once, his ears opened, his twisted tongue was released, and he began to speak clearly.

Sermon

Responding to the Word

Hymn 630

Fairest Lord Jesus (vrs 1)

CRUSADERS' HYMN

Affirmation of Faith

Nicene Creed

Sharing our Prayers

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts!

All: We lift them to the Lord.

One: Give thanks to the Lord our God!

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise!

The Lord's Prayer

Sharing the Feast

Prayer after Communion

Dedicating our Gifts

*God gifts each of us with life, time, and treasure. The portions which we return,
small as they might be, are for the sake of those in need
and the furtherance of God's witness in this 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

"Irish Blessing"

Inside back of the hymnal

Postlude