

October 10th 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Gathering Around the Word

Call to Worship

from Amos 5:6, 14–15

One: Seek good and not evil;
seek the Lord and live!

All: May the Lord our God be with us.

One: Hate evil and love good,
that justice may prevail.

All: May the Lord our God show us grace.

Hymn 475

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (vrs. 1 & 3)

NETTLETON

Call to Confession

from Psalm 22:11

Sisters and brothers, God is not far from us. When trouble is near, God is our help and our refuge. Let us confess our sins to God, that we might receive mercy.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

from Mark 10:19–22

Loving God,

we know your commandments:

do not murder;

do not commit adultery;

do not steal;

do not bear false witness;

do not defraud;

honor your father and your mother.

We think we follow them,

but instead, we hold on to

what we think is important.

We do not follow you, or love you, O God,

with all our hearts, our minds, our strength.

We hold back from giving our whole selves to you.

Forgive our disobedience,

our lack of commitment,

and our focus on material things

instead of on your will for us.

In the name of Jesus Christ,

who gave his whole life for us. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Dear friends, God challenges us, encourages us, confronts us, and accepts us. God works wonders in our midst and gives us the eyes, hearts, and souls to glimpse such miracles. God guides us through the wilderness of the world, and God leads us home. And yet, most marvelous of all is this incredible good news:

All: Through the grace of 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 Hebrews 4:12–13

Your word, O God, is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. May your word be for us today life and action, beacon and gavel. In the name of the Living Christ we pray. **Amen.**

First Reading Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

⁶ Seek the LORD and live,
or else God might rush like a fire against the house of Joseph.
The fire will burn up Bethel, with no one to put it out.

⁷ Doom to you who turn justice into poison,
and throw righteousness to the ground!

¹⁰ They hate the one who judges at the city gate,
and they reject the one who speaks the truth.

¹¹ Truly, because you crush the weak,
and because you tax their grain,
you have built houses of carved stone,
but you won't live in them;
you have planted pleasant vineyards,
but you won't drink their wine.

¹² I know how many are your crimes,
and how numerous are your sins—
afflicting the righteous,
taking money on the side,
turning away the poor who seek help.

¹³ Therefore, the one who is wise will keep silent in that time;
it is an evil time.

¹⁴ Seek good and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the LORD, the God of heavenly forces,
will be with you just as you have said.

¹⁵ Hate evil, love good,
and establish justice at the city gate.
Perhaps the LORD God of heavenly forces
will be gracious to what is left of Joseph.

Sharing Faith with the Younger Church

Anthem

Second Reading Mark 10:17-31

¹⁷ As Jesus continued down the road, a man ran up, knelt before him, and asked, “Good Teacher, what must I do to obtain eternal life?”

¹⁸ Jesus replied, “Why do you call me good? No one is good except the one God. ¹⁹ You know the commandments: *Don’t commit murder. Don’t commit adultery. Don’t steal. Don’t give false testimony. Don’t cheat. Honor your father and mother.*”

²⁰ “Teacher,” he responded, “I’ve kept all of these things since I was a boy.”

²¹ Jesus looked at him carefully and loved him. He said, “You are lacking one thing. Go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor. Then you will have treasure in heaven. And come, follow me.” ²² But the man was dismayed at this statement and went away saddened, because he had many possessions.

²³ Looking around, Jesus said to his disciples, “It will be very hard for the wealthy to enter God’s kingdom!” ²⁴ His words startled the disciples, so Jesus told them again, “Children, it’s difficult to enter God’s kingdom! ²⁵ It’s easier for a camel to squeeze through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter God’s kingdom.”

²⁶ They were shocked even more and said to each other, “Then who can be saved?”

²⁷ Jesus looked at them carefully and said, “It’s impossible with human beings, but not with God. All things are possible for God.”

²⁸ Peter said to him, “Look, we’ve left everything and followed you.”

²⁹ Jesus said, “I assure you that anyone who has left house, brothers, sisters, mother, father, children, or farms because of me and because of the good news ³⁰ will receive one hundred times as much now in this life—houses, brothers, sisters, mothers, children, and farms (with

harassment)—and in the coming age, eternal life. ³¹ But many who are first will be last. And many who are last will be first.”

Sermon

Responding to the Word

Hymn 697 *Take My Life (vrs. 1, 3, 6)* HENDON

Affirmation of Faith Apostles' Creed

Sharing our Prayers

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Giving Back to God's Kingdom

*May all that we do and say make us living offerings
worthy of being called Christ's disciples.*

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

Postlude