

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 22nd 2021

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

Gathering Around the Word

Call to Worship

One: We gather in this holy place, lifting our voices in praise.

All: We come to offer ourselves, heart and soul and mind and strength.

One: We seek God's presence, opening ourselves to God's living Word.

All: We come to be filled by the Holy Spirit, breath of all creation.

One: Wherever two or three are gathered, Christ is among us.

All: Let us worship the living God together.

Hymn 452

Open the Eyes of my Heart

OPEN THE EYES

Call to Confession

from 2 Corinthians 4:6, 8, 11

God has shone brightly in our hearts to dispel the darkness and bring us knowledge of God's glory. Though we struggle, we are not defeated, because we have the life that Jesus brings within our very bodies. Because of these great promises, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Prayer of Confession (in unison)

Watchful God, you know our plight.

Offended, we have not believed your words.

Complaining, we have betrayed your love.

We are weak, wandering, and lost.

Seeking to stand in our own strength, we fall.

Strangers to your holiness, we wander.

**Defenseless against evil within and without,
we are lost.**

**Shine your light in our darkness,
and guide us back to our place in you. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

from Psalm 18:2, 16

Dear friends, the Lord God is a rock, in whom we can take refuge! From on high, God has saved us out of the roiling waters. Our salvation is assured, because of God's wondrous and unending grace. Beloved of God, hear and believe this Good News:

All: Through 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 John 6:68, Ephesians 6:16-20

Holy God, you have the word of eternal life. By your Holy Spirit, let your words pierce our darkness, strengthen our faith, and illumine our witness for you. Through Christ we pray,
Amen.

First Reading Psalm 18:1-6, 16-19

He said: I love you, LORD, my strength.

²The LORD is my solid rock,
my fortress, my rescuer.

My God is my rock—

I take refuge in him!—

he's my shield,
my salvation's strength,
my place of safety.

³Because he is praiseworthy,^[b]

I cried out to the LORD,
and I was saved from my enemies.

⁴Death's cords were wrapped around me;
rivers of wickedness terrified me.

⁵The cords of the grave^[c] surrounded me;
death's traps held me tight.

⁶In my distress I cried out to the LORD;
I called to my God for help.

God heard my voice from his temple;

I called to him for help,
and my call reached his ears.

¹⁶From on high God reached down and grabbed me;
he took me out of all that water.

¹⁷God saved me from my powerful enemy,
saved me from my foes,
who were too much for me.

¹⁸They came at me on the very day of my distress,
but the LORD was my support.

¹⁹He brought me out to wide-open spaces;
he pulled me out safe
because he is pleased with me.

Second Reading 2 Corinthians 4:5-12

⁵ We don't preach about ourselves. Instead, we preach about Jesus Christ as Lord, and we describe ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. ⁶ God said that light should shine out of the darkness. He is the same one who shone in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of God's glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷ But we have this treasure in clay pots so that the awesome power belongs to God and doesn't come from us. ⁸ We are experiencing all kinds of trouble, but we aren't crushed. We are confused, but we aren't depressed. ⁹ We are harassed, but we aren't abandoned. We are knocked down, but we aren't knocked out.

¹⁰ We always carry Jesus' death around in our bodies so that Jesus' life can also be seen in our bodies. ¹¹ We who are alive are always being handed over to death for Jesus' sake so that Jesus' life can also be seen in our bodies that are dying. ¹² So death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.

Sermon *Buried Treasure*

Responding to the Word

*Hymn 729 *Lord I Want to be a Christian (vrs. 1&4)* I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN

Affirmation of Faith Church Creed

Sharing our Prayers

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer

Dedicating our Gifts

Living God, we give you thanks for Christ, the bread from heaven, and for all your many blessings. Fill these gifts we bring with your mercy, that they may express your steadfast love and bring your renewing strength to those in need. **Amen.**

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

Sisters and brothers, you have chosen to serve God because God has chosen you in Jesus Christ. Go, therefore, to love and serve as God's people in the world.

May the living God give you strength;
the Lord Jesus Christ feed you with his flesh and blood;
and the Holy Spirit fill you with life.
Be blessed by the Holy Triune God!

Ps. 84:5-7
John 6:56-58
John 6:63

Blessing

Hymn 539 *We Will Go Out with Joy (vrs 1&2)* WE WILL GO OUT WITH JOY

Postlude