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Worship
Time After Pentecost
September 1st, 2024

THE GATHERING

Greeting and Announcements

Preparation for Worship

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

CALL TO WORSHIP

Don't beg.

My mother told me.

Don't whine.

I tell my children.

Be polite.

The key to civil society.

The foreigner approached the rabbi.

Her need was great, her daughter ill,

Her desperation complete.

She begged. She whined.

She was impolite.

Faith emboldened by need

Shouting. Heard .Healing.

Uppity faith and feisty women

Annoyance rewarded. Challenge inspiring.

~ WRITTEN BY KATHERINE HAWKER, BASED ON MARK 7:24-30 (MATTHEW 15:21-28). POSTED ON THE LITURGY OUTSIDE WEBSITE. [HTTP://LITURGYOUTSIDE.NET/](http://LITURGYOUTSIDE.NET/)

GATHERING HYMN –For the Beauty of the Earth ELW #879 vs (1,4,5)

- 1** For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Refrain

**Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.**

- 4** For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild: *Refrain*

- 5** For each perfect gift of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
for thyself, best gift divine,
to our world so freely giv'n: *Refrain*

Text: Follitt S. Pierpoint, 1835-1917, alt.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

AMEN

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us.

We confess that we honored you with our lips, but have harmed our neighbors with our tongues.

The cravings at war within us cause conflicts and disputes. In our desire to be first we make distinctions among ourselves. We place the needs of the poor and the suffering last. In your great mercy, forgive us our sins. Draw near to us with grace in time of need, and turn us to follow in the way of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

God promises to forgive our iniquity
And to remember our sin no more.
By grace you have been saved.
In the name of † Jesus Christ,
The source of eternal healing,
Your sins are forgiven.

Amen

Silence is kept for reflection

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

For the reign of God, for peace throughout the world, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

For your people here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend, gracious Lord.

Amen

HYMN OF PRAISE – *Gloria - Heritage Mass*

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of goodwill.

We praise you, we bless you we adore you, we glorify you,

We give you thanks for your great glory.

Lord God, heav'nly King, O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son.

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father

You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us;

You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

You alone are the most High, Jesus Christ,

With the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray:

O God our strength, without you we are weak and wayward creatures. Protect us from all dangers that attack us from the outside, and cleanse us from all evil that arises from within ourselves, that we may be preserved through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

THE WORD

First Reading Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9

The Israelites believed the law was a divine gift that provided guidelines for living out the covenant. Moses commands the people to obey the law and to neither add to nor subtract from it. The Israelites are also to teach the law to their children and their children's children.

So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the LORD, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the LORD your God with which I am charging you. You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the LORD our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today? But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children—

Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Response: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 15

O LORD, who may abide in your tent?

Who may dwell on your holy hill?

Those who walk blamelessly, and do what is right,
and speak the truth from their heart;

who do not slander with their tongue,
and do no evil to their friends,

nor take up a reproach against their neighbors;
in whose eyes the wicked are despised,

but who honor those who fear the LORD;
who stand by their oath even to their hurt;

who do not lend money at interest,
and do not take a bribe against the innocent.
Those who do these things shall never be moved.

Second Reading-James 1:17-27

The letter of James was intended to provide first-century Christians with instructions in godly behavior. Here Christians are encouraged to listen carefully and to act upon what they hear, especially by caring for those least able to care for themselves.

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose, he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act — they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to us.

Response: Thanks be to God.

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. God gave us birth by the word of truth so that we would become a kind of first fruits of creation. Alleluia

The holy Gospel according to Mark.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading – Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Mark's gospel depicts Jesus as challenging traditional ways in which religious people determine what is pure or impure. For Jesus, the observance of religious practices cannot become a substitute for godly words or deeds that spring from a faithful heart.

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

'This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching human precepts as doctrines.'

You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition." Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand ⁵there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder,²adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person.

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated

Sermon

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

HYMN OF THE DAY –Listen God is Calling #ELW 513

[A leader sings the words in parentheses]

ENGLISH

Refrain

(Listen,)

**listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.**

(Listen,)

**listen, God is calling, through the Word inviting,
offering forgiveness, comfort and joy.**

- 1 (Jesus gave his mandate:)
share the good news
(that he came to save us)
and set us free. *Refrain***

- 2 (Let none be forgotten)
throughout the world.
(In the triune name of God)
go and baptize. *Refrain***

- 3 (Help us to be faithful,)
standing steadfast,
(walking in your precepts,)
led by your Word. *Refrain***

Text: Tanzanian traditional; tr. Howard S. Olson, b. 1922

AFFIRMATION OF OUR FAITH

We affirm our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

You may be seated

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn together in the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray with confidence for the church, God's good creation, and all who are in need.

A brief silence

God of every generation, give the church a sense of purpose and belonging. Sustain and build up leaders and lay people as we accompany one another in our life with Christ.

Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

God of creation, you named humans as co-creators with you. Where the earth cries out in pain, bring wholeness. Guide governments and industry, that environmental laws and practices seek to heal and not harm. Bring relief and justice to people and places suffering from climate catastrophe(*especially*)

Merciful God,

Receive our Prayer

Sovereign God, we pray for local communities of every kind: rural and urban; established and new. Lead those in authority to seek the good of all through their words and actions and to mentor others in honest and generous ways.

Merciful God,

Receive our Prayer

On this Labor Day weekend we remember and give thanks for all who have fought for workers' rights around the world. Continue to improve working conditions and establish fair wages so that all people may thrive.

Merciful God,

Receive our Prayer

Healing God, you draw near to all who are hurting. Be with all who desire relief from chronic and acute illness, cancer, and post-traumatic stress disorder. Strengthen healthcare workers, therapists, and caregivers. Tend to those who are close to our hearts. We pray especially for our loved ones in need of care, Martha, Brian, Julie, David, James, Guy, Diane, and Jerry.

Merciful God,

Receive our Prayer

God of new life, protect students and teachers for a new school year. Bring an end to school shootings and cycles of violence. Move us to do all that is necessary to ensure a safe future for our children.

Merciful God,

Receive our Prayer

What else do the people of God want to lift up to God this day?

Merciful God,

Receive our prayer.

Comforting God, console us as we mourn our departed. We hold fast to the promise that death has been defeated by our Savior Jesus Christ.

Merciful God,

Receive our Prayer

We lift up these prayers to you, gracious God. Receive them into your holy keeping.

Amen

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Let's share God's peace with one another.

THE MEAL

Lord, we give you today what is already yours. You provide so much for us. Thank you for giving us the ability to give and cheerful hearts to do it. We continue with the offering

OFFERING HYMN –Give Thanks TFF #292

**Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart,
give thanks to the Holy One,
give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son.**

**And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
let the poor say, "I am rich,"
because of what the Lord has done for us.
And now let the weak say, "I am strong,"
let the poor say, "I am rich,"
because of what the Lord has done for us.
Give thanks!**

*Text: Henry Smith
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OFFERTORY – "Make Me a Servant"

**Make me a servant, humble and meek.
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be;
Make me a servant, make me a servant,
Make me a servant today.**

OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, Source of every gift of your creation.
By these gifts and with our lives, help us to serve one another and all in need,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy” – Heritage Mass

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;

**and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the
kingdom and the power and the glory, forever and ever. AMEN.**

COMMUNION INVITATION

Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, here is your God.

You may be seated

COMMUNION HYMN / KRISTAN YOUN

You are invited to stand as you are comfortable

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Holy God,

you have welcomed us to this meal and fed us with dignity at your table.

**Send us now to welcome others and to be at peace with one another,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen

THE SENDING

BENEDICTION

God almighty, God most merciful ✠ bless you, keep you, and give you peace. **Amen**

CLOSING HYMN –God Be with You Till We Meet Again ELW #536

**1 God be with you till we meet again;
by good counsels' guide, uphold you,
with a shepherd's care enfold you;
God be with you till we meet again.**

Refrain

**Till we meet, (till we meet,
till we meet, (till we meet again,
till we meet at Jesus' feet; (till we meet,
till we meet, (till we meet,
till we meet, (till we meet again.)
God be with you till we meet again.**

**2 God be with you till we meet again;
holy wings securely hide you,
daily manna still provide you;
God be with you till we meet again. *Refrain***

**3 God be with you till we meet again;
when life's perils thick confound you,
put unfailing arms around you;
God be with you till we meet again. *Refrain***

Text: Jeremiah E. Rankin, 1828-1904, alt.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

**Bethany's Mission Statement –
Accepting
Serving
Loving . . .
We Share God's Embrace**

Pastor	The Rev. Sandy Jones
Accompanist:	Kristan Youn
Lector	Tom Aaby
Communion	Barbara Brown & Laurie Greer
Ushers	Cheryl Krummel & Maggie Beard
Fellowship:	Maggie Beard
Production	Carla Roberts