

**Sunday Worship Service – Aug 17, 2025**  
**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**Welcome**

**Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Statement**

**Introduction to the Theme of the Bible Readings<sup>1</sup>**

Those who have gone before us show us what it means to live lives of faith by following Jesus no matter what the obstacles may be. God wants us, also, to be faithful witnesses to the power of Christ in our lives, that we too may bring God's justice into the brokenness of our world.

**Prayer of Confession**

God of justice and mercy, **forgive our short-sightedness in life.**  
**We jump to conclusions and offer quick fixes for things that need more attention, especially our relationships with others.**  
**Grant us mercy, and the heart to grant others mercy.**  
**Forgive us, and grant us the patience to forgive others.**  
**Slow us down from the fast-paced world around us**  
**that wants us to act quickly,**  
**and help us to be more in tune with your ways. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

**Words of Forgiveness**

Our loving God gives us hope. The hope of the Gospel.  
 Christ secured our heritage by enduring the cross and reconciling us to God.  
 In the name of Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven.  
 + Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit,  
 that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

**# 876 Gathering Hymn *"Let the Whole Creation Cry"***

- 1. Let the whole creation cry, "Glory to the Lord on high!"**  
**Heav'n and earth, awake and sing, "Praise to our almighty king!"**  
**Praise God, angel hosts above, ever bright and fair in love;**  
**sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God rejoice.**

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<sup>1 1</sup> The Abingdon Worship Annual 2016 Compilation © 2015 Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

2. **Servants striving for the Lord, prophets burning with the word,  
those to whom the arts belong add their voices to the song.  
Pow'rs of knowledge and of law, to the glorious circle draw;  
all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"**
3. **Men and women, young and old, raise the anthem loud and bold,  
and let children's happy hearts in this worship take their parts;  
from the north to southern pole let the mighty chorus roll:  
"Holy, Holy, Holy One; glory be to God alone!"**

### **Greeting**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

### **Call to Worship**

This is a place where saints worship.

**This is a place where we experience the Holy Spirit.**

This is a place where faith abounds.

**This is a place where doubts are welcome.**

This is a place where Christ is with us.

**This is a place where the Spirit challenges us.**

Come worship as we experience together faith, doubts, and challenges as  
God loves us, Christ equips us, and the Holy Spirit empowers us.

### **Prayer of the Day**

God of creation, like a gardener, you have planted and cared for us –  
nurturing the soil of our lives, and pruning our branches, that we might  
bring forth tender new shoots. You give us life and call us to bear good  
fruit, and to live in love and service to the world. Help us run the race you  
have set before us, that we might join that great cloud of witnesses whose  
faith gave them the strength to show the world what it means to follow  
Jesus. Amen.

### **First Reading: Jeremiah 23:23-29**

Am I a God near by, says the Lord, and not a God far off? Who can hide in  
secret places so that I cannot see them? says the Lord. Do I not fill heaven  
and earth? says the Lord. I have heard what the prophets have said who

prophecy lies in my name, saying, “I have dreamed! I have dreamed!” How long? Will the hearts of the prophets ever turn back—those who prophecy lies and who prophecy the deceit of their own heart? They plan to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, just as their ancestors forgot my name for Baal. Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let the one who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? says the Lord. Is not my word like fire, says the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Reading: Hebrews 11:29-12:2**

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment. They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented— of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground. Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the

pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

p.188 **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

**Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia.**

**Alleluia, alleluia**

**Gospel Reading: Luke 12:49-56**

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said, “I came to cast fire upon the earth. How I wish that it was already ablaze! I have a baptism I must experience. How I am distressed until it’s completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, I have come instead to bring division. From now on, a household of five will be divided—three against two and two against three. Father will square off against son and son against father; mother against daughter and daughter against mother; and mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

Jesus also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud forming in the west, you immediately say, ‘It’s going to rain.’ And indeed it does. And when a south wind blows, you say, ‘A heat wave is coming.’ And it does.

Hypocrites! You know how to interpret conditions on earth and in the sky. How is it that you don’t know how to interpret the present time?

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

**#697 Hymn of the Day “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”**

*Refrain:*      **Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea;  
daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

1. I am weak but thou art strong: Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.

*Refrain*

2. Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares?  
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.

*Refrain*

3. When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;  
guide me gently, safely o'er to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore.

*Refrain*

### A New Creed<sup>2</sup>

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church, to celebrate God's presence,  
to live with respect in creation, to love and serve others,  
to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our judge and our hope.  
In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.  
We are not alone. Thanks be to God.**

### Prayers of Intercession<sup>3</sup>

Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God,  
for God is near. Prayer petitions will end with "God of grace" and the  
congregation is invited to respond by saying: **"receive our prayer."**

*A brief silence.*

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<sup>2</sup> *Voices United: The Hymn and Worship Book of the United Church of Canada*, p.918, The United Church Publishing House, 1996.

<sup>3</sup><https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/TextsAndResources#texts>

Raise up faithful leaders for your church around the world. Inspire global missionaries with a spirit of accompaniment, as they walk alongside our partners in the gospel in solidarity, interdependence, and mutuality. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Safeguard rivers and lakes from pollution. Sustain the work of conservationists, policy makers, and advocacy groups seeking to protect fresh water sources. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Bridge divisions across partisan lines. Strengthen cooperative efforts among lawmakers who enact policies that protect our neighbors who are most vulnerable. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Embrace all who suffer in isolation: for those who are incarcerated or detained, those who are fleeing from unsafe environments, and those who are sick or homebound. Reassure them of your care in all times and places. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Guide the leaders of Bread of Life Lutheran and Eastside United. In these late summer weeks, inspire their planning for a new year ahead of ministry. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration and support for their work. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

With thanksgiving, we remember the cloud of witnesses who surround us. By the example of their faith, enable us to run with perseverance the race set before us, until that day when we join their unending praise. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion. Amen.

### **Sharing the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you!**

## Offering Prayer

Generous God, may these gifts give hope to those in despair and justice to the oppressed, as we bring them before you in living out your word. Here the poor and broken are lifted up. May it be so in all your kingdom, we pray, as we dedicate ourselves to you. Amen.

## p.190 **Great Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is a right, good and joyful thing, always and everywhere,  
to give thanks to you.

As you gave our ancestors in faith food and water in the desert,  
even when they turned away from you,  
you have promised to free us from all divisions and to give us eternal life.  
And so with your creatures on earth and all the heavenly chorus,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

p.190 **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Holy are you, and holy is Jesus, your anointed one,  
who invites us to place our trust in you, rather than in earthly treasures.

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, Jesus took the cup,  
 Gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
 This cup is the covenant in my blood,  
 Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us, and on these gifts of bread and wine.  
 May they remind us that we are one in Christ,  
 no longer divided by race or country or any other earthly sign.  
 For all these gifts, we give our thanks and praise. Amen.

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,  
 your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
 Give us today our daily bread.  
 Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
 Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
 For the kingdom, the power,  
 and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

### **Communion** (for online viewers)

The body of Christ given for you. (*eat bread*)  
 The blood of Christ shed for you. (*drink wine*)

### **Communion Distribution**

#### **p.191 *Lamb of God***

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
 Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;  
 grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.**

### **#674 Communion Hymn “*Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*”**

- 1. Let us talents and tongues employ, reaching out with a shout of joy:**



bread is broken, the wine is poured, Christ is spoken and seen and heard.  
 Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
 pass the Word around: loaves abound! *(repeat refrain)*

2. Christ is able to make us one, at the table he sets the tone,  
 teaching people to live to bless, love in word and in deed express.  
 Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
 pass the Word around: loaves abound! *(repeat refrain)*
3. Jesus calls us in, sends us out bearing fruit in a world of doubt,  
 gives us love to tell, bread to share. God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere!  
 Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,  
 pass the Word around: loaves abound! *(repeat refrain)*

### Communion Blessing

#### Prayer after Communion<sup>4</sup>

Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name. Amen.

### Announcements

#### Blessing<sup>5</sup>

Go forth and bear fruit of justice and righteousness.  
 Go forth and bear the fruit of mercy and peace.  
 Go forth and bear the fruit of hope and joy.  
 Go forth and bear the fruit of the kingdom of God.  
 In the name of + God our Creator, Jesus our healer,  
 and the Holy Spirit our Comforter. Amen.

#### #815 Sending Hymn *"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"*

1. I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to follow Jesus.  
 God set the stars to give light to the world.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/TextsAndResources#texts>

<sup>5</sup> The Abingdon Worship Annual 2019 Compilation © 2018 Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

**The star of my life is Jesus.**

*Refrain:*     **In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

2.     **I want to see the brightness of God. I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,  
and show me the way to the Father. (Refrain)**
  
3.     **I'm looking for the coming of Christ. I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
we shall know the joy of Jesus. (Refrain)**

Go in peace, inspired by Christ to love and serve. **Thanks be to God!**

**Sources:**

Bible passages (except where otherwise indicated) from Common English Bible (CEB).