

Sunday Worship Service – August 24, 2025

Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost

Words of Welcome by Pastor

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Statement

Confession & Forgiveness*

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**
Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God, **you free us to love others,**
but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way.
You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace,
but we turn away from the abundant life you offer.
You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity,
but we grow weary in doing what is right.
In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us.
Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

We belong to Christ Jesus and we are all God's children.
In the cross of ☩ Christ,
and through the power of the Holy Spirit,
our sins are forgiven.
Clothed with Christ, we are a new creation. **Amen.**

#844 Gathering Hymn "*Praise to the Lord*"

1. **Praise to the Lord, all of you, God's servants.**
Blessed be the name of our God now and ever,
From the rising up of the sun, may the Lord be praised,
Praise to the name of the Lord!
2. **There is none like our God in the heav'ns or on earth,**
Who lifts the poor from the dust seating them with the mighty,
Who stoops to raise the weak and low: may the Lord be praised,
Praise to the name of the Lord!
3. **Praise to the Lord, all of you, God's servants.**
Blessed be the name of our God now and ever,
From the rising up of the sun, may the Lord be praised,
Praise to the name of the Lord!

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

Come to Christ, our rock. **Our refuge and our strength.**

Come to listen for God. **Our wisdom and our truth.**

Come to receive the spirit. **The breath of life itself.**

Prayer of the Day¹

Guiding God, open our ears to hear your voice; open our minds to perceive your wisdom; and open our eyes to recognize your healing love and your powerful presence. Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 58:9b-14

In this passage from Isaiah, God promises those who have returned from exile that where justice and mercy prevail, the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness. It is a day for new beginnings.

If you remove the yoke from among you, the finger-pointing,
the wicked speech; if you open your heart to the hungry,
and provide abundantly for those who are afflicted,
your light will shine in the darkness,
and your gloom will be like the noon.

The Lord will guide you continually and provide for you,
even in parched places. God will rescue your bones.

You will be like a watered garden, like a spring of water that won't run dry.

They will rebuild ancient ruins on your account;

the foundations of generations past you will restore.

You will be called Mender of Broken Walls, Restorer of Livable Streets.

If you stop trampling the Sabbath,

stop doing whatever you want on my holy day,

and consider the Sabbath a delight, sacred to the Lord, honored,

and honor it instead of doing things your way,

seeking what you want and doing business as usual,

¹ Abingdon Worship Annual 2016

then you will take delight in the Lord.
 I will let you ride on the heights of the earth;
 I will sustain you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob.
 The mouth of the Lord has spoken.

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

Psalm: Psalm 103:1-8

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—
 who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;
who redeems your life from the grave
and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;
 who satisfies your desires with good things
 so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
O Lord, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.
 You made known your ways to Moses
 and your works to the children of Israel.
Lord, you are full of compassion and mercy,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Second Reading: Hebrews 12:18-29

Using images of Moses, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not

escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, “Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.” This phrase, “Yet once more,” indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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 13:10-17

In the gospel from Luke, Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding “sabbath work” to include setting people free from bondage.

The holy gospel according to Luke, the 13th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.
 A woman was there who had been disabled by a spirit for eighteen years.
 She was bent over and couldn’t stand up straight. When he saw her,
 Jesus called her to him and said, “Woman, you are set free from your
 sickness.” He placed his hands on her and she straightened up at once and
 praised God.

The synagogue leader, incensed that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath,
 responded, “There are six days during which work is permitted.
 Come and be healed on those days, not on the Sabbath day.”

The Lord replied, “Hypocrites! Don’t each of you on the Sabbath untie your
 ox or donkey from its stall and lead it out to get a drink? Then isn’t it
 necessary that this woman, a daughter of Abraham, bound by Satan for
 eighteen long years, be set free from her bondage on the Sabbath

day?" When he said these things, all his opponents were put to shame, but all those in the crowd rejoiced at all the extraordinary things he was doing.

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

Sermon

#611 Hymn of the Day *"I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"*

1. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found him in a resting place, and he has made me glad.
2. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live."
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.
3. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;
look unto me; your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav'ling days are done.

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 and 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. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession*

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.

You call your church to proclaim liberation and freedom to all. Give wisdom to bishops, synod councils and staff, and congregation leaders as they pursue a more just and equitable church and society.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You inspire all creation to sing and bless your holy name. Send healing rains to parched places and relief to flooded lands. Lead us to enact policies to rebuild ruined ecosystems and habitats. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You work vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. Strengthen the resolve of world leaders and local officials in the way of love and mercy, so that all persons may experience abundant life.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You satisfy your people with good things. In your steadfast love, receive the cries of all who are bent over under the weight of addiction, isolation, and mental or physical illness. Manifest your healing presence in their midst.

God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

You call us to delight in the sabbath. Invigorate worship planners and leaders with creativity to aid this assembly in fresh and faithful prayer and praise. Enable all who gather here to be nourished and renewed.

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 of the Peace

Offering and Offering Prayer*

Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
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.

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 worshippers)*

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.**

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion*

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*

The love of God abound in you;

the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts;
 and the life of the Spirit
 ✠ bless you and give you peace. **Amen.**

#886 Sending Hymn “*Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing*”

1. **Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise,
 the glories of my God and king, the triumphs of his grace!**
2. **My gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,
 to spread through all the earth abroad the honors of your name.**
3. **The name of Jesus charms our fears, and bids our sorrows cease,
 sings music in the sinner’s ears, brings life and health and peace.**
4. **He speaks, and list’ning to his voice, new life the dead receive,
 the mournful, broken hearts rejoice, the humble poor believe.**
5. **Look unto him, your Savior own O fallen human race!
 Look and be saved through faith alone, be justified by grace!**
6. **To God all glory, praise, and love be now and ever giv’n,
 by saints below and saints above, the church in earth and heav’n.**

Sending

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Sources:

Bible passages (except where otherwise indicated) from

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition (NRSVUE) adapted for inclusive language.

Those parts of this worship service marked with an asterisk (*) are adapted from:

<https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/TextsAndResources/2025-8-24/0#texts>