

Sunday Worship Service – August 30, 2026
14th Sunday After Pentecost
ELWB (red book) – Holy Communion – Setting 8 (p.184-192)

Welcome by the Pastor

Land Acknowledgment Statement & Welcome Statement

Introduction to the Bible Readings

Prayer of Confession*

O God, you are who you are, sacred and indefinable. Forgive us when we try to put you in a box or frame you in our own image. Help us as we allow your divine image to define and shape us. Speak mercy and grace to us, when we deny the path before us, and guide us with your shepherding love, when we are unsure of how to follow. Strengthen us and give us courage to say: “YES! Here I am, ready to love and serve.” In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness*

Remember the wonderful works of God, the amazing peace of Christ, and the powerful love of the Spirit. For in this Holy Trinity of grace, we are forgiven, reunited, and reconciled with God and with one another in the name of the + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen

#879 Gathering Hymn “*For the Beauty of the Earth*”

- 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:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.**
- 2. For the wonder of each hour of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow’r, sun and moon and stars of light:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.**
- 3. For the joy of ear and eye, for the heart and mind’s delight,
for the mystic harmony linking sense to sound and sight:
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:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.
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:
Christ, our God, to thee we raise this our sacrifice of praise.

p. 184 **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*

In mutual compassion and authentic love,
we gather as the family of God.
We offer our gifts, our hope, and our lives,
to build up this community of faith.
We bring our songs of gratitude and joy,
to bless God with our worship and praise.

p.185 **Canticle of Praise "Glory to God"**

Refrain:

**Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

1. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Glory to God in the highest, the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

2. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

Refrain:

**Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

3. 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. Amen. Amen.**

Final Refrain:

**Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.
Glory to God in the highest, the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.**

Prayer of the Day*

***Holy God, we come this day, into this sacred moment and this sacred space,
aware that you are always with us. Open our hearts, minds, and ears to
hear your voice in our lives. Surround us with your wondrous love that we
may be wise enough to understand your call and brave enough to follow
your path. In joyous gratitude, we pray. Amen.***

Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 15:15-21

In the Old Testament reading, the prophet Jeremiah's delight in the word of God is contradicted by the heaviness of God's hand upon him and God's seeming unfaithfulness. God's tough love to Jeremiah says that if he repents, he will be allowed to continue in his strenuous ministry. Jeremiah is strengthened by the simple words, "I am with you."

A reading from Jeremiah, the 15th chapter:

You understand, God! Remember me and act on my behalf.
Bring judgment on those who torment me. In your mercy, spare my life.
Consider how I'm insulted on your account. When your words turned up,
I feasted on them; and they became my joy, the delight of my heart,
because I belong to you, God of heavenly forces. I didn't join the festive
occasions; I took no delight in them. I sat alone because your hand was
upon me and you had filled me with curses. Why am I always in pain?
Why is my wound incurable, so far beyond healing? You have become for
me as unreliable as a spring gone dry!

Therefore, God proclaims: If you return to me, I will take you back and let
you stand before me. If you utter what is worthwhile, not what is

worthless, you will be my spokesman. They will turn to you, not you to them! I will make you a sturdy bronze wall against these people. They will attack you, but they won't triumph, because I am with you to protect and rescue you, declares God. I will rescue you from the hand of the wicked; I will redeem you from the grasp of the violent.

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

Psalm 26:1-8

Judge me, Holy One!

I have truly lived by my integrity.

I have trusted you, never wavering.

Examine me, prove me, test my mind and feelings.

Your faithful love is always with me

and I live by your truth.

I never sit with criminals,

nor consort with deceitful people.

I hate the assembly of evildoers,

nor do I consort with the wicked.

I wash my hands in innocence

to process around your altar, Holy One;

to hear the sound of praise

and proclaim all your wonders.

I love the house where you dwell,

the place where your glory abides.

New Testament Reading: Romans 12:9-21

In the New Testament reading from Romans, Paul presents benchmarks for faithful relationships with Christians and non-Christians. Love is the unflagging standard of our behavior. When we encounter evil, we do not resort to its tactics but seek to overcome it with good. While Christians cannot control the actions and attitudes of others, we seek to live at peace with all people.

A reading from Romans chapter 12 beginning at the 9th verse:

Love should be shown without pretending. Hate evil, and hold on to what is good. Love each other like the members of your family. Be the best at

showing honor to each other. Don't hesitate to be enthusiastic—be on fire in the Spirit as you serve God! Be happy in your hope, stand your ground when you're in trouble, and devote yourselves to prayer. Contribute to the needs of God's people, and welcome strangers into your home. Bless people who harass you—bless and don't curse them. Be happy with those who are happy, and cry with those who are crying. Consider everyone as equal, and don't think that you're better than anyone else. Instead, associate with people who have no status. Don't think that you're so smart. Don't pay back anyone for their evil actions with evil actions, but show respect for what everyone else believes is good.

If possible, to the best of your ability, live at peace with all people. Don't try to get revenge for yourselves, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath. It is written, "Revenge belongs to me; I will pay it back," says God. Instead, if our enemy is hungry, feed them; if they are thirsty, give them a drink. By doing this, you will pile burning coals of fire upon their head. Don't be defeated by evil, but defeat evil with good.

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: Matthew 16:21-28

In last Sunday's gospel reading we heard Peter confessing that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (16:16). In today's reading, Jesus reveals the ultimate purpose of his ministry. These words prove hard to accept, even for a disciple whom Jesus has called a "rock."

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 16th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

From that time Jesus began to show his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem and suffer many things from the elders, chief priests, and legal

experts, and that he had to be killed and raised on the third day. Then Peter took hold of Jesus and, scolding him, began to correct him: "God forbid, Lord! This won't happen to you." But Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are a stone that could make me stumble, for you are not thinking God's thoughts but human thoughts."

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "All who want to come after me must say no to themselves, take up their cross, and follow me. All who want to save their lives will lose them. But all who lose their lives because of me will find them. Why would people gain the whole world but lose their lives? What will people give in exchange for their lives? For the Human One is about to come with the majesty of his Father with his angels. And then he will repay each one for what that person has done. I assure you that some standing here won't die before they see the Human One coming in his kingdom."

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

Sermon: YES!

#798 Hymn of the Day "Will You Come and Follow Me" (v.1-2,4-5)

1. "Will you come and follow me if I but call your name?
Will you go where you don't know and never be the same?
Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known,
will you let my life be grown in you and you in me?"
2. "Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name?
Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same?
Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare?
Will you let me answer pray'r in you and you in me?"
4. "Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name?
Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same?
Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around,
through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?"
5. Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name.
Let me turn and follow you and never be the same.
In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show.
Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

A Contemporary Creed

We believe in God, creator of infinite wisdom and power,
whose love points the direction of the universe
and whose concern is for all of us.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
Jesus is the true gift of love, the reason for our hope,
and the promise of forgiveness and eternal life.
We trust Jesus.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, God present with us,
keeping us aligned to the truth of scripture and the example of Jesus.

We believe that our relationship to God is born out of grace
and acted out through deeds of love and mercy
through the church of Christ.

We can experience the true love of God in prayer, the sacraments,
the Word, and the companionship of all believers.

We desire that the realm of God would come to all people
and the joy of Christ would be ours forever. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession¹

With bold trust in God's unfailing provision, we pray for the church,
those in need, and all of God's creation. *A brief silence.*

For the church in every land, that its mission and ministry is anchored in the
love of Christ. When threats or challenges arise, teach us to take up our
cross and follow you in faith. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the well-being of your creation, that all that lives and grows on the
earth may thrive. Bring relief to areas ravaged by droughts, floods, fires,
storms, and other disasters. Strengthen and embrace all touched by the
landslide in Nepal. Accompany all who grieve, who suffer, who are in pain.
Be near to those who watch and wait. Support all who seek to provide care,
who sit with the grieving, who search for the living.
Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

¹ <https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/DayTexts>

For the nations and all in authority, that they seek to live in peace with one another. Bless the work of international and diplomatic organizations and all who work to bring peace to a world scarred by violence.

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all those in need, that they be satisfied. Ensure all your children have safe access to food, water, shelter, and medical care. Bring healing to all who bear wounds in body, mind, and spirit (*especially*).

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For Bread of Life & Eastside United, gathered here to serve you, that we remain strong in faith and united in purpose. Guide our leadership teams, committees, study groups, and other meetings toward honesty and humility, always seeking genuine love. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and answer, O God, as you have promised. All this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our healer. Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

Offering Prayer*

Creator God, in remembrance of your wonderful works and your overflowing abundance, we bring gifts that we have received from your hand. Generous One, in gratitude for your miraculous deeds, we bring these offerings of praise. Loving Spirit, in joyous trust, we place these blessings in your keeping to bless a world in need of your love.

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, 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 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.**

Eucharistic Prayer

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 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.**

#659 Communion Hymn "*Will You Let me be Your Servant*"

- 1. Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**
- 2. We are pilgrims on a journey, we are trav'lers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.**
- 3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**
- 4. I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you.**

I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.

- 5. Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

Communion Blessing

Prayer after communion

Announcements

Blessing

Love, as Jesus has loved you.

Serve, as Jesus served.

Heal, as Jesus healed.

Go now with the peace that passes all understanding.

In the name of the + Creator, Healer, and Comforter. Amen.

#551 Sending Hymn "*Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve*"

- 1. The Spirit sends us forth to serve; we go in Jesus' name
to bring glad tidings to the poor, God's favor to proclaim.**
- 2. We go to comfort those who mourn and set the burdened free;
where hope is dim, to share a dream and help the blind to see.**
- 3. We go to be the hands of Christ, to scatter joy like seed
and, all our days, to cherish life, to do the loving deed.**
- 4. Then let us go to serve in peace, the gospel to proclaim.
God's Spirit has empowered us; we go in Jesus' name.**

Sending

Go in peace, to love and serve God through word and deed.

Thanks be to God!

Sources:

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

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

The Abingdon Worship Annual 2020, 2017 © 2019, 2016 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN