

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Ordinary Time 8 September 2024 Those ages wherein the Spirit of God is most, is where Christ is most preached. —Richard Sibbes

The gift of the Spirit is the crowning achievement of Christ's work. It is His coming in exaltation to the church in the power of the Spirit. —Richard Gaffin

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

It is God Himself who calls His people to worship. We do not call ourselves, but it is the King who opens His gates and beckons us into His courts.

Gospel Invitation—Joel 2:32

And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Sung Response—Come, Christians, Join To Sing, Vs. 1



Text: Christian Bateman, 1843; Music: MADRID, Traditional Spanish melody, arr. David Evans, 1927.

Call to Worship—from Psalm 116:1-4, 13, 17

Pastor: Love the Lord, because He has heard our voice and our pleas for mercy.

All: Because He inclined His ear to us, therefore we will call on Him as long as we live.

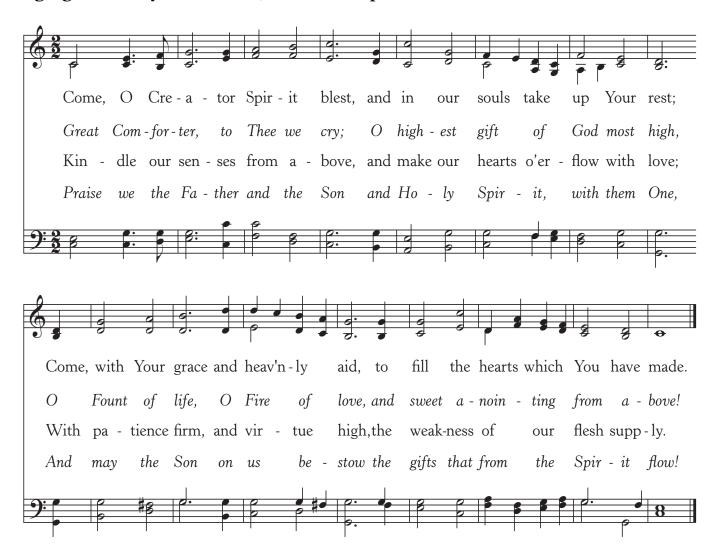
Reader 1: The snares of death encompassed me; the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me; I suffered distress and anguish.

Reader 2: Then I called on the name of the Lord: "O Lord, I pray, deliver my soul!"

All: We will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.

Pastor: We will offer to You the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the Lord. Praise the Lord!

Congregational Hymn—Come, O Creator Spirit Blest



Text: Rhabanus Maurus, c. 800, tr. Edward Caswall, 1849; Music: TRURO, *Psalmodia Evangelica*, 1789.

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

The Bible is the means by which God graciously reveals Himself to His people—so we listen, read, and study with expectant hearts. God particularly entreats us in His Word to sing psalms. And while all Scripture is appropriate for hymns and spiritual songs, there is a specific exhortation for us to make use of the Psalter as the church's songbook.

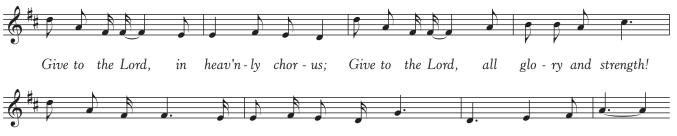
Congregational Psalm—The Voice Of The Lord Is Over The Waters (Psalm 29)



The voice of the Lord is the wa - ters. The God of glo - ry thun-ders free! - ver The voice of the Lord will break down the The God of glo - ry thun-ders free! ce - dars. The God of glo - ry thun-ders free! The voice of the Lord is flam - ing in fire.



The voice of the Lord is the wa - ters. His voice is full of maj - es - ty! The voice of the Lord will break down the ce - dars. Be - fore His voice the migh - ty flee! The voice of the Lord the for - ests. is shak - ing Cry a - loud in glo ry!



Give to the Lord, the glo - ry due His name. Wor - ship the Lord



Text: based on Psalm 29:1-9, Nathan George, 2013; Music: Nathan George, 2013.

Scripture Reading—Genesis 11:1-9

Now the whole earth had one language and the same words. And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks, and burn them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone, and bitumen for mortar. Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves, lest we be dispersed over the face of the whole earth." And the Lord came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of man had built. And the Lord said, "Behold, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do. And nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them. Come, let us go down and there confuse their language, so that they may not understand one another's speech." So the Lord dispersed them from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city. Therefore its name was called Babel, because there the Lord confused the language of all the earth. And from there the Lord dispersed them over the face of all the earth.

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—Come Down, O Love Divine



Text: Bianco da Siena, 15th century, tr. Richard Littledale, 1867; Music: DOWN AMPNEY, Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906.

Reading of the Word—Acts 2:1-21

When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

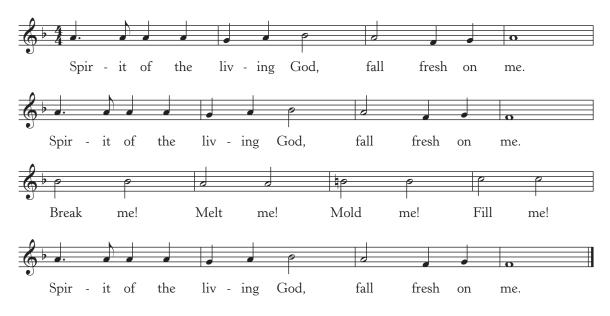
⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷ And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹ both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God." ¹² And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" ¹³ But others mocking said, "They are filled with new wine."

¹⁴ But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵ For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ 'And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams; ¹⁸ even on My male servants and female servants in those days I will pour out My Spirit, and they shall prophesy. ¹⁹ And I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; ²⁰ the sun shall be turned to darkness and the moon to blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day. ²¹ And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.""

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—Spirit Of The Living God



CCLI #2844402 ©1963 Birdwing Music; Text: Daniel Iverson, 1926; Music: IVERSON, Daniel Iverson, 1926.

Sermon—Christ's First-fruits

-Pastor, James Crampton

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, AND RECONCILIATION

The people of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

Confession of Sin—based on Malachi 3:1-3, 5

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. The Lord whom we are seeking will suddenly come to His temple; and the

messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, He is coming, says the Lord of hosts.

All: But who can endure the day of His coming, and who can stand when He appears? For He is like

a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap.

Pastor: He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold

and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord.

All: We have been sorcerers and adulterers, and we have sworn falsely. We have oppressed the hired

worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless. We have thrust aside the sojourner, and we

have not feared You.

Assurance of Pardon—Hebrews 9:24-26; 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Himself.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: This is the Word of the Lord.

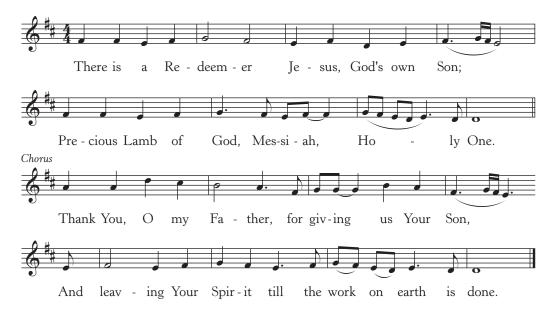
Pastor: Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: He is the Father of mercies and God of all comfort.

Pastor: He comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with

the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

Sung Response—There Is A Redeemer, Vs. 1



HEAVENLY GIFT—EUCHARISTO

As God beckons His people to the bounty of His table, they make joyous profession of their fealty to Him.

Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God: The Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,

Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell.

On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

From whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy church—both visible and invisible;

The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. *Amen.*

Sursum Corda

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty,

Creator of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, we praise You, Triune God, and we join our voices with the

angels, the archangels, and the whole company of Heaven in this hymn of eternal praise:



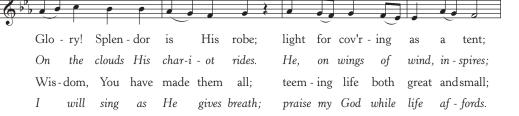
Text: Traditional, based on Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9; Music: CLOVERCROFT SANCTUS, Henry C. Haffner, 2019.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S TABLE

This table is open to all baptized Christians who have made a profession of faith. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine or grape juice.

Congregational Psalm—Bless The Lord O My Soul (Psalm 104)







Text: paraphrase of Psalm 104, Nathan George, 2001; Music: Nathan George, 2011.

Congregational Hymn—Breathe On Me, Breath Of God



Text: Edwin Hatch, 1878, Music: TRENTHAM, Robert Jackson, 1888.

GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE, PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS

Our praying, serving, and giving are essential aspects of worship. It is here that our faith moves from our heads and hearts into our lives and callings.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession—The Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

Congregational Hymn—Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing



Text: Robert Robinson, 1758; Music: NETTLETON, Asahel Nettleton, 1825.

GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

Benediction—2 Corinthians 13:14

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. *Amen.*

Sung Response—Gloria Patri



Text: Lesser Doxology, 2nd century; Music: Nathan George, 2015, harm. Henry C. Haffner, 2015.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

If it seems like we just recently sang many of the psalms and hymns in this morning's service, you're absolutely correct! Many of these pieces were chosen for the service on May 19 to align with the church calendar (May 19 was Pentecost Sunday this year). This week, the story of Pentecost from Acts 2 is our sermon text. Once again, we'll celebrate the coming of the "Great Comforter," "highest gift of God most high." Echoing the language of "a mighty, rushing wind" and "tongues of fire" in the Pentecost narrative, Psalms 29 and 104 describe God riding on the winds and His voice as "flaming in fire." We thank the Lord for bestowing this "holy flame" on us, just as He did on the disciples in the upper room. We pray for the Spirit to "fall fresh on us," and we thank the Lord for promising the Spirit's help "until the work on earth is done." We take comfort in the promise that the Spirit will purify us, molding our wills and affections to those of God, and we trust that even when we wander from His ways Jesus' Spirit will draw us home to Him. As we walk through this service, let's pray that we will leave this morning filled with the "breath of God," glowing with the "fire divine" that ignited in the hearts of the first Christians in Jerusalem two thousand years ago. —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Holy Spirit, Fire, Pentecost, Language, Mighty Work, Call, Save

Keystone Verse: And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave

them utterance. (Acts 2:4)



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All Biblical quotes taken from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.