

 $SERVICE \, \text{OF} \, CELEBRATION \, \text{AND} \, COVENANT \, RENEWAL$

Ordinary Time 23 July 2023 Let us not be carried about by every wind of doctrine; and in the present reeling of opinions, let us remember that it is Thy Word alone which shall never pass away. We must not forget that though doubted, decried, and disowned, the Bible is the Word of God with power to recall a lost world from its state of exile and degeneracy and to dethrone sin from its ascendancy. —Thomas Chalmers

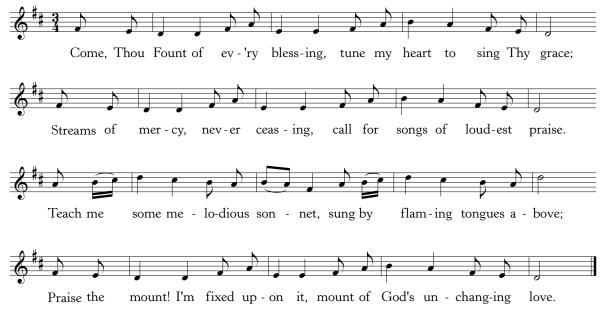
GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

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-2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is God breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Sung Response—Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing, Vs. 1



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

Call to Worship—from Psalm 25:1-2, 9-10

Pastor: To you, O Lord, we lift up our souls.

All: O our God, in You do we trust; let us not be put to shame.

- Reader 1: Make us to know Your ways, O Lord; teach us Your paths.
- Reader 2: Lead us in Your truth and teach us, for you are the God of our salvation; for you do we wait all the day long.

All: He leads the humble in what is right and teaches the humble His way.

Pastor: All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.

Congregational Psalm—From Heav'n O Praise The Lord (Psalm 148)



Text: Psalm 148:1-14, *The Book of Psalms for Singing*, Copyright © 1973 Crown and Covenant Publications; Music: ST. CATHERINES, Horatio R. Palmer, 19th century.

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—O Lord Most High (Psalm 9)



Text: from Psalm 9:1-2, 7-11, 18-19, The Psalter, 1912; Music: Nathan George, 2013.

Scripture Reading—Deuteronomy 8:11-13, 17-18

Take care lest you forget the Lord your God by not keeping His commandments and His rules and His statutes, which I command you today, lest, when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them, and when your herds and flocks multiply and your silver and gold is multiplied and all that you have is multiplied, then your heart be lifted up, and you forget the Lord your God.... Beware lest you say in your heart, 'My power and the might of my hand have gotten me this wealth.' You shall remember the Lord your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may confirm His covenant that He swore to your fathers, as it is this day.

Elder:This is the Word of the Lord.All:Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—Teach Me, O Lord, Your Way Of Truth (Psalm 119)



Text: Psalm 119:33-40, The Psalter, 1912; Music: TALLIS' CANON, Thomas Tallis, 1560.

Reading of the Word—2 Timothy 2:14-26

¹⁴ Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. ¹⁵ Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. ¹⁶ But avoid irreverent babble, for it will lead people into more and more ungodliness, ¹⁷ and their talk will spread like gangrene. Among them are Hymenaeus and Philetus, ¹⁸ who have swerved from the truth, saying that the resurrection has already happened. They are upsetting the faith of some. ¹⁹ But God's firm foundation stands, bearing this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of the Lord depart from iniquity."

²⁰Now in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver but also of wood and clay, some for honorable use, some for dishonorable.²¹ Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

²²So flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart. ²³ Have nothing to do with foolish, ignorant controversies; you know that they breed quarrels. ²⁴ And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil, ²⁵ correcting his opponents with gentleness. God may perhaps grant them repentance leading to a knowledge of the truth, ²⁶ and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will.

Pastor:This is the Word of the Lord.All:Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—How Firm A Foundation, Vs. 1



Text: "K" in Rippon's Selection of Hymns, 1787; Music: FOUNDATION, Traditional American Melody.

Sermon—Rightly Handling the Word

-Pastor, George Grant

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 Psalm 119:9-12

Pastor: Lord, we do now come confessing our sin. How can we keep our way pure?

All: By guarding it according to Your Word.

Pastor: But we have not sought You whole-heartedly.

All: We have wandered from Your commandments!

Pastor: May we store up Your Word in our hearts, that we might not sin against You.

All: Blessed are you, O Lord; teach us Your statutes!

Assurance of Pardon-from Psalm 25:8, 11-13; Romans 1:16-17

Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He instructs sinners in the way. For Your name's sake, O Lord, pardon our guilt, for it is great. Who is the man who fears the Lord? Him will He instruct in the way that he should choose. His soul shall abide in well-being.

Pastor: This is the promise of God.

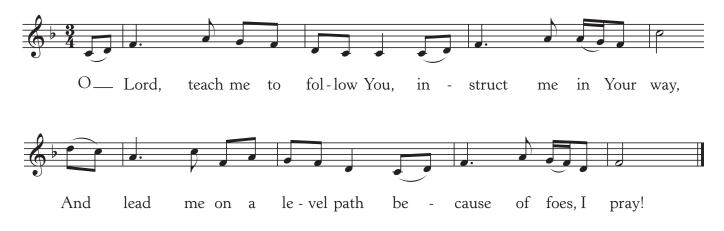
All: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pastor: Therefore, I am not ashamed of the Gospel.

All: It is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

Pastor: For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith."

Sung Response—O Lord, Teach Me To Follow You (Psalm 27), Vs. 1



Text: Psalm 27:11; Music: LOUISE, Robert M. Copland, 1972.

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

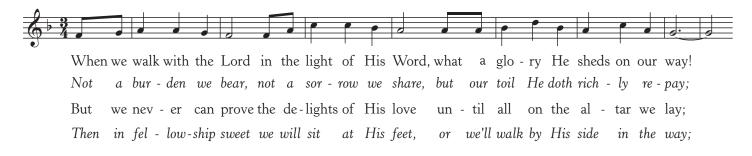
This table is open to all baptized Christians who have made a profession of faith. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine or grape juice.

Congregational Hymn—Light Of The Anxious Heart



Music: SELMA, Robert Archibald Smith, 1825.

Congregational Hymn—Trust and Obey





a - bides with us still, and with all While we do His good will, He who will trust and o - bey. Not frown or a cross, but is blest if we trust and o - bey. a grief or а loss, not а For the fa - vor He shows, for the joy He be-stows, are for them who will trust and o - bey. What He says we will do, where He sends we will go; nev - er fear, on - ly trust and o - bey.



Text: John H. Sammis, 1887; Music: TRUST AND OBEY, Daniel B. Towner, 1887.

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—The Church's One Foundation



Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; Music: AURELIA, Samuel J. Wesley, 1864.

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—Isaiah 9:2

"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined." Go forth therefore in the light of His Word. Amen.

Sung Response—Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing, Vs. 3



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

Announcements

Worship Notes:

This morning's sermon text once again finds the Apostle Paul dispensing fatherly wisdom to Timothy. He warns the young pastor not to become embroiled in foolish controversies (vss. 16-17, 23), but instead to ground himself in God's Word (vs. 15). If he were dispensing his advice in the present day, I can imagine him using some of the language in this morning's hymns and psalms. He might point out that all who truly know the name of the Lord "place their trust in the Word of truth." He could observe that those "with whom God's Word abides" are joyous, and that "when we walk with the Lord, in the light of His Word" our way is filled with glory and fellowship. He might urge us to turn to the Scriptures in times of confusion or concern, praying from the psalms, "Teach me, O Lord, Thy way of truth" and "O Lord, teach me to follow You." He might encourage us that a firm foundation has been laid for our faith "in His excellent Word." Perhaps he might even comfort us with the hope that, though the church might be torn by schism and distressed by heresies, Christ has made us a new creation "by water and the Word." —Henry C. Haffner

Key words:Remind, Words, Handling, Foundation, Ignorant, Teach, Knowledge, TruthKeystone verse:Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need
to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth. (2 Timothy 2:15)



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