

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING UP TO GOD AND ONE ANOTHER

P: As Christians, we do not make the claim that we know everything that there is to know about God. Much of who God is and why God acts is a mystery. One aspect of God that we do know, however, is that God is loving, merciful and forgiving. Each week we celebrate this known attribute of God by confessing our sin and receiving God's forgiveness. Today is no different. Let us take a few moments of silence to reflect upon our need for God's forgiveness.

Silent Reflection

C: Lord, forgive us today for our arrogant ways. We think that we can live life without You and Your grace. We have lived as if You did not matter and as if we mattered the most. Let Your amazing love have its way with us today. Strengthen our faith through this forgiveness, we want to do better.

P: God is merciful. God never fails to help those who call upon Him in faith. Through this gift of the forgiveness of sins, you also receive the assurance that God is near. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I announce God's goodness to you. Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE "Red Book" 78 (vs. 1 and 3 only)

How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the worlds thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
Sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin;

Refrain:

Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
How great thou art! How great thou art!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us Pray.....O God, the strength of those who hope in you: Be present and hear our prayers; and because in the weakness of our mortal nature we can do nothing good without you, give us the help of your grace, so that in keeping your commandments we may please you in will and deed; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament: Ezekiel 17:22-24

The Lord is able to uproot and then replant

Thus says the Lord GOD: "I myself will take a sprig from the lofty top of the cedar and will set it out. I will break off from the topmost of its young twigs a tender one, and I myself will plant it on a high and lofty mountain. On the mountain height of Israel will I plant it, that it may bear branches and produce fruit and become a noble cedar. And under it will dwell every kind of bird; in the shade of its branches birds of every sort will nest. And all the trees of the field shall know that I am the LORD; I bring low the high tree, and make high the low tree, dry up the green tree, and make the dry tree flourish. I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it."

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Whatever we do.....our aim should be to please our Lord

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, if indeed by putting it on we may not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL: Mark 4:26-34

Jesus shares the parable of the

And he said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground. He sleeps and rises night and day, and the seed sprouts and grows; he knows not how. The earth produces by itself, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. But when the grain is ripe, at once he puts in the sickle, because the harvest has come."

And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."

With many such parables he spoke the word to them, as they were able to hear it. He did not speak to them without a parable, but privately to his own disciples he explained everything.

APOSTLE'S CREED

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
And was born of the virgin Mary.**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate.

Was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

And is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

The holy Christian Church,

The communion of saints,

The forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body,

And the life everlasting. Amen.

SERMON

Who is in Control?

HYMN "Red Book" 172 (All 4 verses)

Praise To The Lord

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation;
O my soul, praise him for he is thy health and salvation;
All ye who hear, Now to his temple draw near,
Joining in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,
Shelters thee under his wings, yea, so gently sustain eth:
Hast thou not seen How thy desires have been
Granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper they work and defend thee;
Surely his goodness and mercy here daily attend thee:
Ponder a new What the Almighty can do
Who with his love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the amen Sound from his people a gain:
Gladly for ever adore him.

OFFERING

We offer our thanksgiving for what God has first given us—ourselves, our time, our possessions

OFFERTORY

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

After each portion of the prayers, these words are spoken:

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer**

PRAYER FOR OUR GRADUATES

LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN "Red Book" 118 (All 4 verses) Joyful, Joyful

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, hail Thee as the sun above,
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away;
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All Thy works with joy surround Thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, center of the unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the Joy Divine.

Mortals, join the mighty chorus which the morning stars began;
Father love is reigning over us, Brother love binds man to man.
Ever singing, march we onward, victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music lifts us sunward in the triumph song of life.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and.....+ give you peace.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.