

# THIRTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

August 14, 2016

## PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

**AS WE GATHER.....**Not everyone who claims to speak on behalf of God actually does. There have been many false prophets over the centuries, and there are many still today who would fill people with “vain hopes” speaking “visions of their own mind” (Jeremiah 23:16). In contrast, God invites His people to trust what He says is His Holy Word. This is the faith exemplified in the lives of the saints who have trusted in what God says more than in what their eyes could see. This simple trust is especially important for us who follow Jesus; after all, sometimes His works mystify: His Word that kills and makes alive; and division that results in union (Luke 12:51).

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CALLING ON GOD

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

**C: Amen**

P: My soul longs for Your salvation;

**C: I hope in Your Word.**

P: My eyes long for Your promise;

**C: I ask, “When will You comfort me?”**

P: In Your steadfast love give me life,

**C: that I may keep the testimonies of Your mouth.**

*Psalms 119:81,82,88*

### OPENING UP TO GOD

P: Almighty God, merciful Father,

**C: We confess to You and before one another that we are sinful by nature and have turned away from You in our thinking, our speaking, and our doing, as well as in our failure to think, speak and act when needed. To counter the destruction we have worked in our own lives and in the lives of the people around us, we have turned our itching ears to the voices of false prophets who only offer cold comfort. Now admitting the futility of all other helps, we cry to You for real mercy, asking that Your forgiveness for Jesus’ sake be spoken over us.**

### *Silent Reflection*

P: Beloved in the Lord, God has heard your confession and speaks His gracious absolution to you through me. As a called and ordained servant of Jesus and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

## SONG OF PRAISE

## Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

Lord, I lift Your name on high.  
Lord, I love to sing Your praises.  
I'm so glad You're in my life,  
I'm so glad You came to save us.

### *chorus*

You came from heaven to earth to show the way,  
from the earth to the cross my debt to pay.  
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky.  
Lord, I lift Your name on high.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us Pray.....Gracious Father, though many speak falsely in Your name, Your Word is truth. United with Your Word made flesh in our Baptism, we have new life spoken into us. Keep us steadfast in this faith through all the days of our journey here, and bring us on the Last Day with all Your saints to celebrate the joys of Your kingdom, which never ends; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

## FIRST LESSON: Jeremiah 23:16-29 Beware of untrustworthy prophets!

Thus says the Lord of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the Lord. They say continually to those who despise the word of the Lord, 'It shall be well with you'; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, 'No disaster shall come upon you.'"

For who among them has stood in the council of the Lord to see and to hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened?

Behold, the storm of the Lord! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked.

The anger of the Lord will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart. In the latter days you will understand it clearly.

"I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied.

But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds.

"Am I a God at hand, declares the Lord, and not a God afar off? Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the Lord. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the Lord. I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal?"

Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the Lord. Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"

**SECOND LESSON: Hebrews 11:17-31;12:1-3** *The great cloud of witnesses—saints who lived by faith*

By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered p Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, of whom it was said "Through Isaac shall your offspring be named." He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as if on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. . . .

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

**GOSPEL: Luke 12:49-53** *Jesus disrupts our status quo by dividing so He can unite us*

[Jesus said:] "I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**SERMON HYMN**

**Trust and Obey**

When we walk with Lord.....In the light of His Word,  
What a glory He sheds on our way  
While we do His good will.....He abides with us still,  
And with all who trust and obey  
Trust and obey, for there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey

Not a shadow can rise, not a cloud in the skies,  
But His smile quickly drives it away;  
Not a doubt or a fear.....not a sigh or a tear,  
Can abide while we trust and obey.  
Trust and obey, for there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey

Then in fellowship sweet.....We will sit at His feet,  
Or we'll walk by His side in the way  
What He says we will do.....where He sends, we will go,  
Never fear, only trust and obey.  
Trust and obey, for there's no other way  
To be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey

**SERMON**

**Detecting a Counterfeit**

**APOSTLE'S CREED**

C: I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
Born of the virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come 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

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY**

## **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

P: Let us pray. Living and speaking God, when other voices arrest our attention with words of false hope or cold comfort, let us hold fast to Your Word of Truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Mighty and ruling Lord, the leaders of humanity need Your wisdom to protect and serve the people in their care. Grant that they may call upon You for help in every time of need. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Humble and serving King, You took on the form of a servant and were made in every respect like us, Your human brothers and sisters. Come in this way to all people who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. Come and be with them. Rejoice over them with the songs of Your healing love. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Friendly and fellowshiping Savior, we are gathered in Your presence and surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses—men, women, and children who live loved by You and who love us and all people with Your love. Bring each of us in Your own time to live with You among that great company of all the saints. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus, Our Lord.

## **CLOSING HYMN “Green Book” 499**

## **Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,  
Teach me ever to adore Thee, may I still thy goodness prove.

Here I raise my Ebenezer, hither by thy help I'm come;  
And I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.

O to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be;  
Let that grace now like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee.  
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.

## **BENEDICTION**

## **DISMISSAL**