

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 23, 2016

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

AS WE GATHER.....What makes for an acceptable sacrifice to God? What is the right kind of offering? From the very beginning of time, God's people, such as Abel, have offered to God the very best of all that they have and are. God looks for a heart of faith in His people and finds that heart of faith expressed in an offering of self as well as of goods. It is through Christ that all offerings find acceptance. As the writer of the Epistle to the Hebrews writes, "Through Him then let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that acknowledge His name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God" (Hebrews 13:15-16).

RINGING OF THE BELL

After the ringing of the bell the congregation prepares their hearts *in silence* for today's worship.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SONG "Red Book" 187 (All 3 verses) [Seek Ye First](#)

Seek ye first the Kingdom of God
and his righteousness,
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.

Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by ev'ry word
That proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, alleluia.

Ask, and it shall be given unto you.
Seek, and ye shall find.
Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, alleluia.

CALLING ON GOD

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

C: Amen

WE CONFESS.....

P: Since we are gathered here this morning to call upon God in prayer and praise, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the richness of God's mercy, seeking His grace.

Silent Reflection

C: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

RECEIVING FORGIVENESS

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore 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

You Are My All in All

You are my strength when I am weak
You are the treasure that I seek
You are my all in all
Seeking You as a precious jewel
Lord, to give up I'd be a fool
You are my all in all.
Jesus, Lamb of God.....Worthy is Your name
Jesus, Lamb of God.....Worthy is Your name

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame
Rising up again I bless Your name
You are my all in all
When I fall down You pick me up
When I am dry You fill my cup
You are my all in all.
Jesus, Lamb of God.....Worthy is Your name
Jesus, Lamb of God.....Worthy is Your name

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame
Rising up again I bless Your name
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When I get dry You fill my cup
You are my all in all
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us Pray..... Almighty and everlasting God, You are always more ready to hear than we are to pray and always ready to give more than we either desire or deserve.

C: Pour down on us the abundance of Your mercy, forgive us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and give us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask except by the merits and mediation of Jesus, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT *Abel is killed by his brother, Cain*

Genesis 4:1-15

Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, "I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord." And again, she bore his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep and Cain a worker of the ground. In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offer, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard. So Cain was very angry, and his face fell. The Lord said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it."

Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him. Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?" And the Lord said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood is crying to me from the ground. And now you are cursed from the ground, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. When you work the ground, it shall no longer yield to you its strength. You shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth." Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is greater than I can bear. Behold, you have driven me today away from the ground, and from your face I shall be hidden. I shall be a fugitive and a wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." Then the Lord said to him, "Not so! If anyone kills Cain, vengeance shall be taken on him sevenfold." And the Lord put a mark on Cain, lest any who found him should attack him.

EPISTLE *Paul reflects on his life and ministry*

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing. . . .

At my first defense no one came to stand by me, but all deserted me. May it not be charged against them! But the Lord stood by me and strengthened me, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed and bring me safely into his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL *A teaching parable and a loving action of Jesus*

Luke 18:9-17

[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and treated others with contempt: "Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee, standing by himself, prayed thus: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I get.' But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me, a sinner!' I tell you, this man went down to his house justified, rather than the other. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted."

Now they were bringing even infants to him that he might touch them. And when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. But Jesus called them to him, saying, "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it."

SERMON

"Growing Younger"

SERMON HYMN

"Green Book" 474

Children of the Heavenly Father

Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in his bosom gather,
Nestling bird or star in heaven
Such a refuge ne'er was given.

God his own doth tend and nourish,
In his holy courts they flourish,
From all evil things he spares them,
In his mighty arms he bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord his children sever;
From all evil things he spares them,
In his mighty arms he bears them.

Though he giveth or he taketh,
God his children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.

CREED

I believe in God, who has created all things and continues to create new life within us.....

I believe in Jesus, son of God, son of man, the Savior of the world. By His life, His death and resurrection, I can know the true depth of human possibility, and experience the true joy of an abundant life.....

I believe that the Holy Spirit is present, now and always, calling us to faith, giving us gifts and empowering us for service.....

I believe that the community of believers called the church can experience the fullness of life through the word, the sacraments, and all that we do. Amen.

OFFERING

The offerings gathered are a sign of our whole lives offered to God in humble gratitude for his greatest of all offerings, his Son offered for our salvation.

OFFERTORY

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. We pray for the whole Church, that through it, the goodness of God may be shared. We pray for those who lead the Church, that they may do so with devotion and humility. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for the nations of the world, asking that voices that call for peace may be heard and that the rich bounty of creation may be carefully developed and thoughtfully shared. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for our families and everyone in them. Especially we ask that there may be relationships between and among siblings that are marked with kindness. Remove any sense of envy from all of us, Lord, that we may rejoice in the gifts You have given to each of us. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for those whose work is dangerous and for those who feel that what they are doing is not noticed by others. Grant a sense of satisfaction to all people in their various positions, that together we may rejoice in times of prosperity and in times of adversity may support one another. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for those whose lives know burdens and challenges. This day we commend to Your benediction (especially.....) and all of Your children who are in need of the prayers here offered. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: These things and whatsoever else we should have asked of You, grant us by Your mercy, O God, for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

CLOSING SONG "Red Book" 235

This Little Light of Mine

This little Gospel light of mine, I'm going to let it shine;
This little Gospel light of mine, I'm going to let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Don't you try to blow it out; I'm going to let it shine;
Don't you try to blow it out; I'm going to let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hit it under a bushel? NO! I'm going to let it shine;
Hide it under a bushel? NO! I'm going to let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

All around the neighborhood; I'm going to let it shine;
All around the neighborhood; I'm going to let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Hold it high so all can see; I'm going to let it shine;
Hold it high so all can see; I'm going to let it shine;
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

DISMISSAL