

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
 July 25, 2021
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PRELUDE

In the Father's House (Asbury)
What a Friend We Have in Jesus
Lord, listen to your Children Praying

GREETING**CALL TO WORSHIP**¹

Pastor: We gather as God's beloved children –
All people: *however glad we are, however out of sorts we are.*
 Pastor: We come together as a people whom Jesus calls into community –
All people: *So, this becomes a place where all are welcome.*
 Pastor: We have come to give God thanks, to pray and sing, to be with each other –
All people: *Together, as one body in Christ, let us worship God.*

HYMN

*Sweet Hour of Prayer*²

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CALL TO CONFESSION (Based on 2 Chronicles 6)

Pastor: King Solomon stood before the altar of the Lord and prayed. He confessed the sins of God's people and sought the Lord's mercy and forgiveness. He prayed, "Give attention to my prayer and pleas for mercy, O Lord... Then, hear from heaven and forgive the sins of your people..." Let us follow this example set by King Solomon, whose wisdom was "greater than the wisdom of all people" by offering a prayer of confession.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION³

All people: *Lord God, your love for humankind, present in the beginning of all things, extends throughout history and touches even our lives. Your love sees failings and forgives. Your love feels pain and wipes away our tears. Your love knows grief and comforts the sorrowful. Your love sees sin and still loves the sinner. Forgive us when we fail to live lives that reflect your love. Forgive us the many times when we take for granted all that have done for us. Transform us, through your Spirit, and empower us to serve you this day and all days. Amen.*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Based on James 4:5)

Pastor: Believe the promise God's amazing grace: "If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
All people: *By God's mercy, we are forgiven.*
By God's mercy, we are made whole.
By God's mercy, we are equipped to serve others.
Thanks be to God!
Amen!

A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN**EPISTLE READING 1****EPISTLE READING 2****GOSPEL READING**

James 5:13-18
1 Thessalonians 5:12-28
Luke 11:1-4

¹ Neel, Beth Merrill. Calls to Worship. <https://holdfasttowhatisgood.com/liturgy/call-to-worship/>

² Walford, William (1845) Words and Music: Public Domain.

³ The Spiritual Life: Prayers of Confession. <https://slife.org/prayers-for-repentance/>

SERMON*On the Wings of Prayer***Rev. Laura C. Bair****OFFERING INVITATION** (Based on John 10:10)

Liturgist: Jesus said, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." As we have been granted great abundance, let us offer up a share of those blessings and dedicate them to God in prayer.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: With what we give, O God, we demonstrate our deepest love. Receive our gifts – our very best – as sweet offerings to you. May they be the blessing to others that they have been for us. Amen.

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: God be with you.

Congregation: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

Congregation: We lift them to God.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Congregation: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Pastor: Eternal God, who created the heavens and earth and gave breath to every living thing, we thank you for all the gifts of creation and for the gift of life itself. We thank you for all that sustains life, for all people of faith in every generation who have given themselves to your will, and especially for Jesus Christ, whom you have sent from your own being as our Savior. We praise you for Christ's birth, life, death, and resurrection, and for the calling forth of your church for its mission in the world. Gifted by the presence of your Holy Spirit, we offer ourselves to you as we remember with humble gratitude, how on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Congregation: "This is my body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Pastor: In the same way, Jesus also took the cup, after supper, saying:

Congregation: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Pastor: By eating this bread and drinking this cup, we proclaim Christ's death, celebrate Christ's resurrection, and await Christ's coming again.

Pastor: Come, Holy Spirit, come. Bless these common elements of food and cup, and all who share in this feast. Through this meal, make us the body of Christ, the church, your servant people, that we may be salt, and light, and leaven, for the furtherance of your will in all the world. Amen.

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

Pastor: These are the gifts of God, for the people of God.

All things are now ready.

Through the broken bread, we participate in the body of Christ.

Through the cup of blessing, we participate in the new life Christ brings.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

All: Eternal God, you have called your people from the east and west and the north and south to feast at the table of Jesus Christ. We thank you for Christ's presence and for the spiritual food of Christ's body and blood. By the power of your Holy Spirit, keep us faithful to your will. Go with us into the streets, to our homes, and to our places of employment and leisure, that wherever we are gathered or scattered, we may be the servant church of the servant Christ, in whose name we rejoice. Amen.

BENEDICTION (Based on Colossians 3:12-14)

Pastor: Nourished by the body and blood of Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, may you go forth as God's own children, clothing yourselves with compassion, kindness, and patience, forgiving each other as the Lord has forgiven you, and crown all these things with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

All people: Amen.

POSTLUDE

Father Almighty, Bless Us

SANCTIFYING AND PERFECTING GRACE

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Sweet Hour of Prayer

1. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! that calls me
 2. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! the joys I
 3. Sweet hour of prayer! sweet hour of prayer! thy wings shall

from a world of care, and bids me at my
 feel, the bliss I share of those whose anx - ious
 my pe - ti - tion bear to him whose truth and

Fa - ther's throne make all my wants and wish - es known.
 spir - its burn with strong de - sires for thy re - turn!
 faith - ful - ness en - gage the wait - ing soul to bless.

In sea - sons of dis - tress and grief, my soul has
 With such I has - ten to the place where God my
 And since he bids me seek his face, be - lieve his

of - ten found re - lief, and oft es - caped the
 Sav - ior shows his face, and glad - ly take my
 word, and trust his grace, I'll cast on him my

WORDS: William Walford, 1845
 MUSIC: William B. Bradbury, 1861

SWEET HOUR
 LMD