

OFFERING INVITATION

Liturgist: In gratitude to God for all our blessings, let us bless others with a portion of all we have been given. Let us present our offerings to God, with a song and prayer.

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

DOXOLOGY

Praise God

Blue Hymnal, #46

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow:
Praise God all creatures here below;
Praise God above ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.*

(An Offering Collection Box is located on the table in the back of sanctuary, by the exit door)

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

All people: Gracious God, we offer these gifts to you as an expression of our gratitude and love. May they be used to nurture wisdom, foster peace, and serve those in need. As we dedicate these offerings, help us to embody the spirit of humility and service that Christ has witnessed among us. In Christ's name, we pray. Amen.

HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

Blue Hymnal, #595

COMMISSION & BLESSING (Book of Common Worship)

Pastor: Go forth into the world in peace. Be of good courage.
Hold fast to what is good. Render to no one evil for evil.
Strengthen the fainthearted, support the weak, help the afflicted.
Honor all people.

Love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.
May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit nourish you, animate you and lead you —
this day and forever more.

All people: Amen.

POSTLUDE & CANDLE EXTINGUISHING

September 22, 2024
Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

PREWORSHIP MUSIC

Mr. Kevin Crone, Music Director

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Rev. Laura C. Baker

PRELUDE & CANDLELIGHTING

Acolyte

CENTERING WORDS

Breathe in and invite the Spirit of Wisdom to fill your soul.
Breathe out, recalling the Spirit of Love that connects you with all God's children.

(Please stand in body and/or spirit)

CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: Happy are those who follow the ways of the Lord.

Congregation: God's ways are just and merciful.

Liturgist: Those who follow God's ways are continually nourished in faith.

Congregation: In all that they do, they prosper.

Liturgist: Come, let us open our hearts to God's compassionate love.

Congregation: Let us celebrate God's mercy and justice.

OPENING PRAYER

All: Lord, be with us this day and every day that stretches before us. As we face the journey ahead, we seek your wisdom and your strength. Help us to put our priorities in order. Erase the envy from our minds and the biases from our hearts. Heal our spirits and fill our lives with the refreshing brooks of your peace. Enable us to follow your ways all the days of our lives. Amen.

HYMN

Your Words to Me are Life and Health

Blue Hymnal, #324

CALL TO CONFESSION (1 John 1:8, 9)

Liturgist: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

All: Divine Source of Understanding, discord rages across the airwaves and baits us on our social media feeds. We are tempted to doubt your holy wisdom. Confusion swirls within our daily lives, contributing to the discord in our world. Our selfish desires consume our attention, blocking your voice and the needs of others from our view. May your peace still the whirlwind within our minds and help us hear your holy wisdom as we walk our journey of faith. And may kindness,

compassion, humility, respect, and love spring forth from our tongues, each and every day. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

Liturgist: The grace of God can transform our hearts, even amidst the seductive cacophony of noise surrounding. The wisdom of God beckons to our souls, revealing our world in a different light.

All people: In due season, we will yield the fruit of faith in our adventure with God. Thanks be to God! Amen!

HYMN OF PRAISE *My Tribute (To God be the Glory)* Blue Hymnal, #39

(The congregation may be seated, as the children & youth come forward)

JESUS SAID, “LET THE CHILDREN COME”

HYMN *Ours The Journey* Blue Hymnal, #458

PSALTAR READING Psalm 1

Liturgist: The truly happy person doesn't follow wicked advice, doesn't stand on the road of sinners, and doesn't sit with the disrespectful.

Congregation: Instead of doing those things, these persons love the Lord's instruction, and they recite God's instruction day and night!

PULPIT Side: They are like a tree replanted by streams of water, which bears fruit at just the right time and whose leaves don't fade. Whatever they do succeeds.

LECTERN Side: That's not true for the wicked!

They are like dust that the wind blows away.

Liturgist: And that is why the wicked will have no standing in the court of justice - neither will sinners in the assembly of the righteous.

Congregation: The Lord is intimately acquainted with the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked is destroyed.

All people: The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE READING James 3:13-4:3

GOSPEL READING Mark 9:30-37

SERMON Rev. Dr. Carrie Call

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Liturgist: Gracious God, as autumn unfolds around us, we are reminded of your steadfast love that endures through all seasons. Like trees planted by streams of water, may we be rooted in your wisdom and bear good fruit in due season.

All people: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Liturgist: We pray for our nation as we approach elections. Grant our leaders and candidates the humility to serve rather than to be served. May they seek the wisdom that comes from above — pure, peace-loving and full of mercy.

All people: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Liturgist: We lift up to you the conflicts and crises in our world. Bring your peace to areas of strife, comfort to those who suffer, and justice to the oppressed.

All people: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Liturgist: We pray for your church, that we may embody the servant leadership of Christ. Help us to welcome the children and the vulnerable, to care for the least among us, and to resist selfish ambition.

All people: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Liturgist: We remember those in our community who are struggling — the sick, the lonely, the unemployed. May our hands be your hands, reaching out in love and support.

All people: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Liturgist: As we enter this season of harvest, we thank you for your abundant blessings. Like the woman of noble character, may we use our resources wisely and generously for the good of others.

All people: Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Liturgist: Guide us, O Lord, in the coming weeks and months. May we resist envy and selfish ambition, draw near to you, and pursue the righteousness that comes from heavenly wisdom. We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray, saying:

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All people: 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 sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

ANTHEM *Bless the Lord, O My Soul* (Ippolitof-Ivonof) Chancel Choir