

September 13, 2020 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (on-line worship service)

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND PASTORAL GREETING

VIRTUAL PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRELUDE *“Was Gott Tut, das Ist Wohlgetan, Variation II”*
Johann Gottfried Walther

RINGING OF THE BELL

CALL TO WORSHIP

Henry Augustine

Our God is majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, and worthy of our highest praise.

Who is like the Lord?

Our God blew back the waters, prepared a path through the sea, and appeared as a pillar of fire to light the pilgrim way.

Who is like the Lord?

The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

Let us sing to the Lord who triumphs gloriously!

HYMN

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

#307

Music: John Hughes, 1907

Text: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1930, alt.

*God of grace and God of glory, on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church’s story; bring its bud to glorious flower.*

*Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.*

*Cure thy children’s warring madness; bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss thy kingdom’s goal,
lest we miss thy kingdom’s goal.*

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore.

Let the gift of thy salvation be our glory evermore.

*Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Henry Augustine

Merciful God, we are quick to ask for grace when we have fallen short, for patience when we have stubbornly turned away from you.

Why are we slow to show the same mercy to others? We keep track of wrongs and cling to old hurts, rather than offering the forgiveness that could free others and ourselves.

We strive to be more faithful, Lord; we want to be more loving.

So, we kneel before you once again to ask for patience and grace.

Transform us, we pray. Pour out your mercy upon us, until it flows forth from us through acts of love.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MEDITATIVE MUSIC *“Why Cast Down, My Heart, Within Me”*

Samuel Scheidt

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Eleanor Stearns

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Esther 4: 14

For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father's family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.'

Matthew 18: 1-5

At that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' He called a child, whom he put among them, and said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.'

RESPONSE

Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Thanks
be to God. (Deut. 6:6)

SERMON

“For Such a Time As This”

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE and THE LORD’S PRAYER

HYMN

“Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples”

#757

Music: *English County Songs*, 1893; harm. Ralph Vaughan Williams

Text: H. Kenn Carmichael, 1985

***Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,
to help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,
to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.***

***God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race
to live as stewards of the earth, responding to God’s grace.
But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife.
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.***

***May we in service to our God act out the living word,
and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord
to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.***

CHARGE AND BLESSING

POSTLUDE

“Was Gott Tut, das Ist Wohlgetan, Variation I”

Johann Gottfried Walther