

The Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost
September 1, 2024

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Hymns are found in the blue *Hymnal 1982* in your pew.
The 'S' numbers are located at the front of the hymnal.

The service begins in quiet and prayer.

Prelude: *Be Thou my Vision, Op. 21*

arr. Paul Manz (1919-2009)

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn 372: *Praise to the Living God!*

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

People **Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Gloria, Hymn S-280: *Glory to God*

(10:00 am only)

People **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

Collect of the Day

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: Graft in our hearts the love of your Name; increase in us true religion; nourish us with all goodness; and bring forth in us the fruit of good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. **Amen.**

The First Lesson: *Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9*

Moses said: So now, Israel, give heed to the statutes and ordinances that I am teaching you to observe, so that you may live to enter and occupy the land that the Lord, the God of your ancestors, is giving you. You must neither add anything to what I command you nor take away anything from it, but keep the commandments of the Lord your God with which I am charging you.

You must observe them diligently, for this will show your wisdom and discernment to the peoples, who, when they hear all these statutes, will say, "Surely this great nation is a wise and discerning people!" For what other great nation has a god so near to it as the Lord our God is whenever we call to him? And what other great nation has statutes and ordinances as just as this entire law that I am setting before you today?

But take care and watch yourselves closely, so as neither to forget the things that your eyes have seen nor to let them slip from your mind all the days of your life; make them known to your children and your children's children.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 15

- 1 Lord, who may dwell in your tabernacle? *
who may abide upon your holy hill?
- 2 Whoever leads a blameless life and does what is right, *
who speaks the truth from his heart.
- 3 There is no guile upon his tongue;
he does no evil to his friend; *
he does not heap contempt upon his neighbor.
- 4 In his sight the wicked is rejected, *
but he honors those who fear the Lord.
- 5 He has sworn to do no wrong *
and does not take back his word.
- 6 He does not give his money in hope of gain, *
nor does he take a bribe against the innocent.
- 7 Whoever does these things *
shall never be overthrown.

The Second Lesson: *James 1:17-27*

Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing.

If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Hymn 659: *O Master, let me Walk with Thee*

Reader The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

The Gospel: *Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23*

When the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they thoroughly wash their hands, thus observing the tradition of the elders; and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash it; and there are also many other traditions that they observe, the washing of cups, pots, and bronze kettles.) So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not live according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" He said to them, "Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written, 'This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching human precepts as doctrines.' You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition."

Then he called the crowd again and said to them, "Listen to me, all of you, and understand: there is nothing outside a person that by going in can defile, but the things that come out are what defile. For it is from within, from the human heart, that evil intentions come: fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, folly. All these evil things come from within, and they defile a person."

Reader The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

The Sermon

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Please stand or kneel

Knowing that God hears our prayers when they are made in sincerity and humility, we pray for our church and our world in our time of need. *A brief silence* Create in us clean hearts, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Help us to align the works of our hands with your divine heart of love and compassion.

People **God of love, hear our prayer.**

God of grace, we know that all good gifts come from you, the unchanging Lord of light. We give thanks for your wondrous creation which nourishes and sustains us. Save us from being dulled to the life and love that surrounds us on every side. In the course of our busy and hectic lives, help us to rejoice in the day that you have made and be glad in it. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

God of community, we give you thanks for this congregation of prayer and support and for the good work you give us to do in your name. Guide and sustain our many ministries as we work to make life better for those in need in our community and around the world. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

God of labor, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good. As we seek a proper return for our own labor, make us mindful of the rightful aspirations of other workers, and arouse our concern for those who are out of work. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

God of peace, guide the nations of the world in the way of justice and truth. We pray that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

God of healing, we pray for the poor and the sick, the weak and the vulnerable. Be their protector, healer, and vindicator, easing the sufferings of body, mind, and spirit. Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble, including those on our prayer list, those whose suffering is known to you alone, and all those we name in our hearts. *Pause* Give them the comfort of your healing presence, and restore them to the wholeness and peace that only you can provide. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

In a moment of silence, let us pray for those who are dear to us. *Silence* Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them and love one another as he loves us. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

God of eternity, we commend to your mercy all who have died, remembering especially Janet F. White, in whose memory the flowers are given this morning, and all those we love but see no longer. *Silence* We thank you for giving them to us, their family and friends, to know and to love as companions on our earthly pilgrimage. Surround them with your presence, give to them eternal rest, and let light perpetual shine upon them. **God of love, hear our prayer.**

God of justice and mercy, you know our wants, and you know our true needs. May you attend to our prayers, direct our hearts in the way of justice and mercy, and enlighten our minds that we may know your holy will. We ask this through the just one, Jesus Christ, your servant and our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the power of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence*

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone; and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Offertory Voluntary: *Constance* Jonathan Gardner (b. 1972)
Jonathan Gardner, Guitar and Vocals; Melissa Gardner, Mandola

Constance went down to Memphis town to a school she was to run. Help the children know letters, numbers, and grow in the love of the Father's Son.

Constance stayed down in Memphis town to help the people there. A sickness so vile had struck for a while and gave the people a scare.

While others had fled, Constance she bled like the Father's only son. And as the fever took hold, there was Mary in gold saying "Sister, well done."

To help them all, she heeded the call, a voice that was not vague. With her sisters she went, to where they felt sent to those with the American plague.

Constance stayed down in Memphis town, a city with too much strife. She provided care, for poor folk there and for them gave her life.

Offertory Hymn 656: *Blest are the Pure in Heart*

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING Eucharistic Prayer A

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant offers our thanks to God for the grace and mercy made available to us in Christ.

Sanctus: *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the
high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The people stand or kneel as the Celebrant gives thanks for the reconciling work of Christ through his passion and resurrection and prays over the bread and wine.

Celebrant Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith.

People **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues with the Eucharistic prayer.

Celebrant By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit of all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A period of silence is kept.

Fraction Anthem

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People **Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.**

Please come forward and stand or kneel at the rail. The priest will place the bread in your outstretched palm (Consecrated rice wafers are available for those with wheat allergies - simply ask the priest). You may dip (intinct) the bread in the wine in the small cup held by the Eucharistic minister. Alternatively, you may indicate your desire to drink from the common chalice by consuming the bread and remaining at the rail after the Eucharistic minister passes; another Eucharistic minister will bring the large chalice over for you to drink from directly. Please know that Christ is fully present in both the bread and the wine - there is no requirement to receive both. If you do not wish to receive communion, you may come forward, cross your hands over your chest, and receive a blessing.

Communion Voluntary: *What Wondrous Love* arr. Jonathan Gardner
Jonathan Gardner, Guitar and Vocals; Melissa Gardner, Mandola

Communion Hymn 318: *Here, O my Lord*

When Lay Eucharistic Visitors are taking Holy Communion to those unable to be with us in person, we say the following

Celebrant In the name of this congregation, we send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

People **We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.**

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

Celebrant Let us pray.

People **Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

The Blessing

Closing Hymn 436: *Lift up Your Heads*

Dismissal

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: *Speed the Plow / Portsmouth Hornpipe* Traditional
Jonathan Gardner, Guitar; Melissa Gardner, Mandola