

Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost

August 13, 2023 ~ 10:30 a.m.

The Gathering

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Conference Moderator Tom Hathaway to the Pulpit

INVOCATION

God of many names, mother of all creation, father of all that is, womb of life, and wellspring of all that we can ever know, we invite your presence here as we seek to embody your loving spirit and create your presence among us. We are in need and we turn to you to be with us as we practice creating the kin-dom of heaven here on earth.

PRELUDE:” Prelude in C” by Louis Vierne

Gathering Around the Word

CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather to worship our God,
who speaks the words of peace we need in chaotic times.
We gather to follow Jesus,
who encourages to never fear, for he is near.
We gather to be filled with the Spirit,
who anoints us so we can go to serve our world.

HYMN: “There's a Church Within Us, O Lord” # 551 vs. 1-4

Verse 1 There's a church within us, O Lord There's a church within us, O Lord Not a building but a soul Not a portion but a whole There's a church within us, O Lord	Verse 2 There's potential within us, O Lord Somethings stirring within us, O Lord Somethings straining to have birth To be visible on earth There's potential within us, O Lord
Verse 3 There's a fire within us, O Lord A new life's a burnin, O Lord A fire for new life Combating present earth There's a fire within us, O Lord	Verse 4 There's some building to be done, O Lord There's some building to be done, O Lord Not with steel, not with stone Not a portion but one own There's the church to be built, O Lord

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

The deepest longing of our hearts is to be forgiven and embraced by our God. As we confess our sins, God speaks peace to us and makes us whole. Join me, as we pray together, saying,

UNISON PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

In truth, God of silence and seas, we are more adept at making waves than calming storms. We find it easier to push people out of the boat, rather than make room for those who are different from us. And our lives are such a whirlwind of activity, that we do not notice your presence or hear your sheer silence singing your shalom to us.

Have mercy on us, God of patience. Grab hold of us to keep us from drowning in our oceans of temptations. Give us the words to speak of your hope to others. Fill our hearts with the love of Jesus Christ, which is nearer to us than we dare to imagine.

Silence is kept.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Immediately, immediately! your sins are forgiven, your life is restored, and grace becomes your guide through this life.

Thanks be to God! We are not left alone, but take heart in the forgiving love of our God. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER and THE LORD'S PRAYER ["Sins"]

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" (Prayer of St. Francis)

Performed by Mary and Cindy Lasonczyk

The Word

SCRIPTURE

Psalm 105:1-6; Romans 10:5-15; Matthew 14:22-33

SERMON

"What is Church?"

<p>Psalms 105:1-6 ¹ O give thanks to the LORD; call on his name; make known his deeds among the peoples. ² Sing to him, sing praises to him; tell of all his wonderful works. ³ Glory in his holy name; let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice. ⁴ Seek the LORD and his strength; seek his presence continually. ⁵ Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles and the judgments he has uttered, ⁶ O offspring of his servant Abraham, children of Jacob, his chosen ones.</p>	<p>Romans 10:5-15 ⁵ Moses writes concerning the righteousness that comes from the law, that "the person who does these things will live by them." ⁶ But the righteousness that comes from faith says, "Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' " (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷ "or 'Who will descend into the abyss?' " (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸ But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), ⁹ because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord</p>	<p>Matthew 14:22-33 ²² Immediately he made the disciples get into a boat and go on ahead to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but by this time the boat, battered by the waves, was far from the land, for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And early in the morning he came walking toward them on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out in fear. ²⁷ But immediately Jesus spoke to them</p>
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	<p>and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”</p> <p>¹⁴ But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? ¹⁵ And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, “How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!”</p>	<p>and said, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.”</p> <p>²⁸ Peter answered him, “Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water.” ²⁹ He said, “Come.” So Peter got out of the boat, started walking on the water, and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he noticed the strong wind, he became frightened, and, beginning to sink, he cried out, “Lord, save me!” ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” ³² When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”</p>
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Responding to the Word

OFFERING

Prayer of Dedication/Offering

Not only with our lips, but with our lives and with our treasure we will proclaim that you are in our midst, Loving God. Take these gifts, and use them so all might know that your love, your life, your hope, your healing is near to them. Amen.

HYMN:” My Hope is Built” #92 vs. 1 & 4

<p>Vs. 1 My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus' blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name. Refrain On Christ the solid Rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand. All other ground is sinking sand.</p>	<p>Vs. 4 His oath, His covenant, His blood, support me in the whelming flood. When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. Refrain On Christ the solid Rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand. All other ground is sinking sand.</p>
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Sending the Word

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: "My Tribute" (To God Be the Glory)by William H. Doane