

# Tenth Sunday After Pentecost

## August 6, 2023 ~ 10:30 a.m.

### The Gathering

#### WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome Dr. Dean Nicholas 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: "Children of the Heavenly Father", Arr. By James Mansfield

### Gathering Around the Word

#### CALL TO WORSHIP

Come to our God, all who hunger for life:

**for it is God who nourishes us at the Table of Grace**

Come to our God, all who are worn out by life:

**for it is God who provides the rest we need.**

Come to our God, all who are weighed down:

**for it is our God who carries our burdens with us.**

HYMN: "We Are God's People" #546 vs. 1 & 3

Vs. 1 We are God's people, the chosen of the Lord Born of His Spirit, established by His Word. Our Cornerstone is Christ alone, and strong in Him we stand. O let us live transparently and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.	Vs. 3 We are God's Body of which the Lord is Head. Called to obey Him, now risen from the dead. He wills us be a family Diverse yet truly one. O let us give our gifts to God, and so shall His work on earth be done
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#### CALL TO RECONCILIATION

Fretful, agitated, longing for more and more of this and that, we spend our lives in a never-ending, never-fulfilled search for that which satisfies. But Christ knows that we will only find the end of our journey in God, and so invites us to that peaceful place known as God's heart. May we let go of our burdens of anger, hurt and sin so we can find our rest.

#### UNISON PRAYER OF FORGIVENESS

**We are so skilled at being in control, at taking charge, Sabbath-Taking God, that we are not very good at resting. We think we have to be constantly busy, so we have no time for you. We are trained to be extremely productive, and so create our harried, stress-filled lives.**

**Forgive us, Shalom Giving God. Help us to let go of our distractions, so you can act in us; calm**

**our creaturely activity, so you can re-create us; help us to follow Jesus, not only into discipleship, but into our rest with you.**

*Silence is kept.*

#### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

It sounds so simple, we think it is too simple. But which is the burden you would choose: hate or love; anger or forgiveness; pain or peace? God invites us to receive the gifts which make it possible to have lives of faithful obedience.

**This is the good news: God forgives us and takes our burdens from us. We would let go of them and welcome hope, joy, grace into our lives. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

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

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Consecration" by John Ness Beck, Janice Kennedy, soloist

### The Word

SCRIPTURE

Matthew 12:1-14 [NSRVUE]

SERMON

"Lord of the Sabbath."

#### **Matthew 12:1-14**

**12** At that time Jesus went through the grain fields on the Sabbath; his disciples were hungry, and they began to pluck heads of grain and to eat. <sup>2</sup> When the Pharisees saw it, they said to him, "Look, your disciples are doing what is not lawful to do on the Sabbath." <sup>3</sup> He said to them, "Have you not read what David did when he and his companions were hungry? <sup>4</sup> How he entered the house of God, and they<sup>[a]</sup> ate the bread of the Presence, which it was not lawful for him or his companions to eat, but only for the priests? <sup>5</sup> Or have you not read in the law that on the Sabbath the priests in the temple break the Sabbath and yet are guiltless? <sup>6</sup> I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. <sup>7</sup> But if you had known what this means, 'I desire mercy and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. <sup>8</sup> For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath." <sup>9</sup> He left that place and entered their synagogue; <sup>10</sup> a man was there with a withered hand, and they asked him, "Is it lawful to cure on the Sabbath?" so that they might accuse him. <sup>11</sup> He said to them, "Suppose one of you has only one sheep and it falls into a pit on the Sabbath; will you not lay hold of it and lift it out? <sup>12</sup> How much more valuable is a human being than a sheep! So it is lawful to do good on the Sabbath." <sup>13</sup> Then he said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and it was restored, as sound as the other. <sup>14</sup> But the Pharisees went out and conspired against him, how to destroy him.

### Responding to the Word

THE LORD'S SUPPER

#### **Great Prayer of Thanksgiving**

The Lord be with you.

**and also with you.**

People of God, lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the One who invites us to rest in the heart of the Trinity.**

People of God, give thanks to the One who offers you rest.  
**We bring our thanksgiving to God, who sings to us of peace.**

OFFERING

**Prayer of Dedication/Offering**

*You invite us to offer our pain, our burdens, our troubles to you, and we do so easily. Yet when you challenge us to offer our abundance for others, we resist and grumble. Help us to be as welcoming, as caring, as generous as you, Loving God, as we share our gifts with you and the world. Amen.*

HYMN:” Since Jesus Came Into My Heart” #639 vs. 1

What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought. Since Jesus came into my heart! I have light in my soul for which long I have sought Since Jesus came into my heart! Since Jesus came into my heart, Since Jesus came into my heart Floods of Joy o'er my soul like the sea billows roll, Since Jesus came into my heart.
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**Sending the Word**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE: Benediction Medley: Let It Be Said of Us/Take the Name of Jesus With You, Arr. Don Wytzen