

# Service for the Lord's Day

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 20, 2014

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

(each person prays silently)

*You we praise, Teller of parables, for your presence never abandons us.  
There is no cobwebbed corner that is not claimed by your loving grace. Amen.*

## Gathering

PRELUDE

WELCOME

John Tieken

\*INTROIT #4      **"Holy God, We Praise Your Name"** (v. 1 & 4)

Walworth, 1858

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

The Creator has planted seeds in all of us,

*May we nurture good deeds and loving-kindness to everyone we encounter.*

Jesus is calling us to bear spiritual fruit,

*May we bless and build up others for the reign of God, and the glory of God.*

The Holy Spirit moves in us, encouraging us to grow

*May we be nurtured, may we be blessed and may we grow in this time of worship,  
because the Spirit of God is alive in us!*

\*HYMN #403

**"Open Now the Gates of Beauty"**

Winkworth, 1863

CALL TO CONFESSION

When we fail to live as God's people, we are like flowers which give way to weeds. But God seeks us out, not to condemn us, but to comfort, to forgive, and to bring us home. Let us confess our sins together. We will pray first silently, then together using the words in the bulletin.

SILENT PRAYER

(A time of silence for personal prayer)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*Great and Holy Shepherd, we confess that we do not follow the ways of the world you created, but instead follow the ways of the world we have created, in which we put ourselves above others, believing that our needs and desires are more important than anyone else's. We put worldly success, fame and happiness above the needs of others, especially the people we do not see. Forgive us, merciful Lord. Call us back into your intention at our creation, to love others and to love you, to be good stewards of all you have given us, and to*

*participate in your love-designed creation. Help us to turn away from the temptations of the world, and to turn back to you. In the name of Jesus, who leads us into life, we pray. Amen.*

LORD HAVE MERCY

Kyrie Eleison

*"Lord, have mercy upon us,  
Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us."*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Where can we go from the Spirit? Where can we hide from God's presence? Dear ones, there is no place we can go where we will be forgotten by God.

*There is no place we can fall into that God cannot find us. God restores us, and sets our feet back on right paths. We are forgiven, loved, and restored. We will go and share the Good News, that God loves us madly! Amen.*

\*GLORIA PATRI      *Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

#579

## Proclaiming

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE

Genesis 28: 10-19

Bibles, p.24/ LG. p. 30

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

HYMN #322

**"We Are One in Christ, Jesus"**  
*July Hymn of the Month*

Parker, 1996

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13: 24-30, 36-43

Bibles, p.14 / LG. p.17

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

SERMON

**"Weeds Among Wheat"**

Rev. Candice L. Klein

## Responding

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

"Fear God. Honor the emperor."

*"Scripture tells us that, in the as yet unredeemed world in which the church also exists, the State has by divine appointment, the task of providing for justice and peace. It fulfills this task by means of the threat and exercise of force, according to the measure of human judgment and human ability. The church acknowledges the benefit of this divine appointment in gratitude and reverence before God. It calls to mind the Kingdom of God,*

