

Service for the Lord's Day

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 27, 2014

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

(each person prays silently)

As we rejoice that Jesus gave us everything, as we remember nothing stands between us and God, we speak of that mysterious faith which is ours. Thank you, Spirit of God. Amen.

Gathering

PRELUDE

WELCOME

Cindy Ratliff

*INTROIT #322

"We Are One in Christ, Jesus"

Parker, 1996

July Hymn of the Month

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Come and worship, for we are God's people, rejoicing in God's graciousness.

God is always with us, there is nothing which can keep us apart.

Come to the One who tells stories; worship our God who keeps promises.

We rejoice with God who is with us at all times, for evermore.

Like a hidden treasure, or a precious pearl,

The realm of God is all we will ever need.

*HYMN #450

"Be Thou My Vision"

Parry, 1894

CALL TO CONFESSION

It is not our past which keeps us from God, for that is behind us. It's not our present, for God is with us today. And our future is held lovingly in God's hands. There is absolutely nothing which can separate us from God. 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

Why are we so foolish, Lord? Too often, we choose to worship power when we could serve others in humility. We toss and turn at night, because of all those things over which we have no control, when we could release them to you. No matter how many times we hear the news that death has lost its power over us, we dread that day and try everything we can to postpone it. For believing that our sins are more powerful than your mercy, forgive us, Mighty One. You cast out a net of grace so that all might be gathered into your kingdom.

Your Spirit carries the whispers of our hearts to you, and we are embraced with your hope, blessed with your love, safe in your plans. Love us today, O Lord. Amen

LORD HAVE MERCY

Kyrie Eleison

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

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Who has the right to judge us? Only Christ. Yet Christ died for us, Christ was raised for us, Christ reigns in power over us, and even today, Christ prays for us!

This is the love which binds us to God forever. There is nothing in this world, or beyond, which will keep us from being God's forgiven children. Thanks be to God. 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

Romans 8: 26-34

Bibles, p.148 / LG. p. 191

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

HYMN #519

"You Are My Strength When I Am Weak"

Jernigan, 1990

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Matthew 13: 44-52

Bibles, p.14 / LG. p. 18

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

SERMON

"The Kingdom of Heaven is, like Wow!"

Rev. Candice L. Klein

Responding

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

"Biblical visions and images of the rule of Christ, such as a heavenly city, the household of God, a new heaven and earth, a marriage feast, and an unending day, culminate in the image of the Kingdom. The Kingdom represents God's triumph over all that resists the divine will, and disrupts God's creation. Already, God's reign is present as commotion in the world, stirring hope in all people and preparing the world to receive its ultimate judgment and redemption." This we believe. Amen.

— *The Confession of 1967* 9.54

CELEBRATIONS AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

