

# Service for the Lord's Day

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

September 6, 2015

Enter this place in humbleness. For this is the House of the Lord.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

(each person prays silently)

*Jesus, Healer of the hopeless, sow justice in our hearts, so the poor might find a friend in us.  
Sow generosity in our hands, so the hungry might find their daily bread in us.  
Sow peace in our spirits, so the angry might find a sea of gentleness in us. Amen.*

## Gathering

PRELUDE

Selected

WELCOME

Steve Lowe

\*INTROIT #610

*“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (v.1)*

Wesley, 1739

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

What good is it if we say we love all people, but give special treatment to a few?

*God calls us to love others as deeply as we love ourselves, with no strings attached.*

What good is it if we say we want God to show mercy towards us, but are quick to judge others?

*God calls us to forgive our sisters and brothers, to let mercy triumph over judgment.*

What good is it if we say we trust God in every moment, but live guided by our fears?

*We will speak and act as those who trust God to come and live in our fearful hearts.*

For both the stranger and the guest,

*The Lord prepares a table. We have come to worship this God!*

\*HYMN #610

*“O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” (v.2-5)*

CALL TO CONFESSION

We find it easier to play favorites, rather than treating everyone equally. We find it simpler to classify others as 'them,' instead of discovering what makes them beloved to God. Let us confess together all we have done, and not done, which brings hurt to others, and harm to ourselves. Let us pray first silently, then together using the words in the bulletin.

SILENT PRAYER

(A time of silence for personal prayer)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*How casually we say we trust you, Holy One, and how quickly our fears prove otherwise. We find you at the side of the poor, while we cozy up to the rich and famous. You stand behind*

*the counter serving the hungry at the soup kitchen, while we are stocking our freezers and pantries till they overflow. We look down at those whose hands are dirty, but your hand of mercy pulls them into your embracing love. Forgive us, O Lord, and please continue to do good to us even when we have trouble doing good for others. Surround us with your love; surround us with your grace; surround us with your peace; surround us with the Spirit of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. And guide us to begin again, to try again, to follow you, again. Amen.*

LORD HAVE MERCY

Kyrie Eleison

*“Lord, have mercy upon us,  
Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us.”*

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Be strong, do not fear. For God comes, to fill your parched souls with living water, to open your eyes to the grace which is yours. In the name of the Christ, we are forgiven!

*God comes, for no other reason than to save us. This is indeed good news. Thanks be to God. We are forgiven! 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.*

#580

## Proclaiming

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

FIRST SCRIPTURE

Isaiah 35: 4-8

Bibles, p. 623 /LG. p. 811

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

HYMN #453

*“Open Your Ears, O Faithful People”*

Jabusch, 1966

SECOND SCRIPTURE

Mark 7: 24-37

Bibles, p. 40 / LG. p. 52

The Word of the Lord

*Thanks be to God*

SERMON

*“Ephphatha,” “Be Opened”*

Rev. Candice L. Klein

## Responding

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*“I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day*

