



# FIFTEENTH SUNDAY

## AFTER PENTECOST

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2020

— *Gathering* —

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME

Rev. Michele R. Goff

### OPENING SENTENCES

Our God is majestic in holiness, awesome in splendor, and worthy of our highest praise.

***Who is like the Lord?***

Our God blew back the waters, prepared a path through the sea, and appeared as a pillar of fire to light the pilgrim way.

***Who is like the Lord?***

The Lord is our strength and our salvation.

***Let us sing to the Lord who triumphs gloriously!***

### MUSIC

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Liturgist, Steve Lowe

Let us pray:

Almighty God, you call your church to witness that in Christ we are reconciled to you. Help us so to proclaim the good news of your love, that all who hear it may turn to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

### CONFESSION

Recognizing that we fail to fulfill our calling as a covenant people, let us tell the truth to the one who receives us with mercy.

***Merciful God, we are quick to ask for grace when we have fallen short, for patience when we have stubbornly turned away from you. Why are we slow to show the same mercy to others? We keep track of wrongs and cling to old hurts, rather than offering the forgiveness that could free others and ourselves. We strive to be more faithful, Lord; we want to be more loving. So, we kneel before you once again to ask for patience and grace. Transform us, we pray. Pour out your mercy upon us, until it flows forth from us through acts of love.***

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Siblings in Christ, even as we confess our shortcomings, we have confidence. For we stand before the God to whom we belong, in life and in death, and whose mercy knows no limits.

***Praise to the Lord who forgives us!***

— *Word* —

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

### SCRIPTURE

Our epistle lesson for today is from Paul's letter to the Romans chapter 14, verses 1 through 12.

The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. Listen to the word of the Lord.

This is the word of the Lord. ***Thanks be to God.***

Our gospel reading is from the gospel according to Matthew chapter 18, verses 21 through 35.

Hear the word of God.

Keep these words in your heart. The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. ***Thanks be to God.***

## ASCRPTION OF PRAISE

## MUSIC

— Response —

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With one mind in Christ, and one heart in the Spirit, let us pray to the Lord of heaven and earth.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for the church . . .  
Let us live as new and holy people, delivered from sin and death by the grace of Christ through the waters of our baptism. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for the earth . . .  
Stretch out your hand to stop the rising waters; lead us away from death and destruction into the land of promise you provide. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for all nations . . .  
Lead all peoples, by the light of your presence, to walk in freedom, to work for justice, to seek your purpose, and to live in peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for this community . . .  
Allow us to learn from our sisters and brothers, respecting different patterns and practices of life, doing everything to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In the name of Jesus, we pray for loved ones . . .  
Bless those for whom we pray: heal their diseases, deliver them from trouble, renew their strength, and satisfy them with goodness as long as they live. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Trusting that God hears all of our prayers even before we ask, we offer our own prayers now in silence.  
(*pause*) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Enable us, O God, by the power of your Spirit, to live our lives in a way that is worthy of the gospel, to the glory of the name that is above all names, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER—UNISON

***Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever, Amen.***

## MUSIC

## INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

We continue to do the work of the church. We are thankful for your dedicated commitment.

I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, to present yourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God. Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

## PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Merciful and gracious God, you abound in steadfast love and faithfulness. With gratitude, we bring our gifts to you. Bless these gifts and bless our lives that together we may share your mercy and grace for the world you dearly love. **Amen.**

— Sending —

## BLESSING AND CHARGE

The blessing of the one God—Spirit, Son, and Father—be with you now and always. **Alleluia!**

Lead a life worthy of your calling, giving glory to God in all things. **Amen.**

## MUSIC

***"Serving God, Honoring Creation, Embracing Differences"***

