**A Service of The Word**

**Tenth Sunday After Pentecost**

**July 28, 2024**

As you prepare for worship….

**“The most incredible thing about miracles is that they happen.”**

**G.K. Chesterton**

**Ringing of the Bell**

**The Prelude**

**Greetings and Welcome**

Whoever you are, and wherever you are on life’s journey, you are welcome here.

**Praise be to God!**

**\*Introit “Surely the Presence of the Lord”**

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place;**

**I can feel his mighty power and his grace.**

**I can hear the brush of angels’ wings,**

**I see glory on each face;**

**Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.**

**\*Call to Worship**

Beloved, may the grace and love of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you always.

**And also, with you.**

The foolish say, “There is no God. We are alone. We are on our own.”

**We gather to declare the glory of God.**

**We declare the glory of God in creation and in the world.**

The foolish say, “There is no God. Your life is your own. You owe nothing to no one.

**We gather as ones who have been baptized.**

**We belong to our Lord Jesus Christ. We are not our own.**

The foolish say, “There is no God. Fight your own battles.

The rule of the land is, ‘survival of the fittest.’

**We gather out of obedience.**

**We come to serve the One who gave up his life---even onto death.**

Let us pray,

**Our life is fleeting, Holy God. One day we were born; one day we will die. Bless us, we pray, with your living Word. Bless us, we pray, with your Holy Spirit. Awaken us to the nearness of your presence and to the hope that awaits us. We offer this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Hymn # 31“All Things Bright and Beautiful”**

**\*Prayer of Confession (Responsively)**

Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote that the loneliest people are those who are alone with their sin. The grace of the Gospel, he said, is that it tells us the truth: we are sinners. Now come as the sinner you are, to the God who loves you and is eager to forgive. Please pray with me.

**Loving God, I like to think of myself as a decent person. I don’t murder. I don’t swear. I don’t physically harm people. I try my best most of the time to do the right thing. And yet I know that I sin in word, thought, and deed. Like the Pharisees of old, I can be uppity. I tend to think the sins of others are worse than my own. I distance myself from the poor. I forget the lonely ones. Lord, help me to see the gravity of my sin and to know my need for your saving grace. I ask your forgiveness through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace from God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**By faith we have been saved! May all glory be given to God now and forevermore. Amen.**

\***Response #551 vss. 1 & 2 Pass Me Not, O Gentle Savior**

**Psalm 14 (Responsively) Patty Stuckmann (St. John’s) Peggy Isaacson (St. Paul’s)**

(From the earliest of times, there have always been those who have not acknowledged the presence of God in their lives. In the prayer we’re about to pray, the psalmist reminds us of the foolishness of not believing…….)

Fools say in their hearts, ‘There is no God. ‘They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds;  
there is no one who does good.

**The Lord looks down from heaven on humankind to see if there are any who are wise,  
who seek after God.**

They have all gone astray, they are all alike perverse; there is no one who does good, no, not one.

**Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread, and do not call upon the Lord?**

There they shall be in great terror, for God is with the company of the righteous.

**You would confound the plans of the poor, but the Lord is their refuge.**

O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion! When the Lord restores the fortunes of his people, Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.

**The Old Testament 2 Kings 4:42-44 Patty Stuckmann (St. John’s) Peggy Isaacson (St. Paul’s)**

(We are about to listen to a story from the biblical prophet, Elisha. A person brings an offering to the prophet. The prophet suggests that these twenty loaves will feed a hundred people which to many sounds preposterous. Listen….)

A man came from Baal-shalishah, bringing food from the first fruits to the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, ‘Give it to the people and let them eat.’ But his servant said, ‘How can I set this before a hundred people?’ So, he repeated, ‘Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the Lord, “They shall eat and have some left.”’ He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the Lord.

**For The Child in All of Us……“Behold, A Youth”**

**\*Hymn #286 “Spirit, Spirit of Gentleness”**

**The Gospel John 6:1-21 Patty Stuckmann (St. John’s) Peggy Isaacson (St. Paul’s)**

After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming towards him, Jesus said to Philip, ‘Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?’ He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. Philip answered him, ‘Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.’ One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ‘There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?’ Jesus said, ‘Make the people sit down.’ Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so, they sat down, about five thousand in all. Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also, the fish, as much as they wanted. When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, ‘Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.’ So, they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, ‘This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.’

When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

When evening came, his disciples went down to the lake, got into a boat, and started across the lake to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. The lake became rough because a strong wind was blowing. When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. But he said to them, ‘It is I; do not be afraid.’ Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land towards which they were going.

**Sermon “Holy Delight”**

**Ingathering of Prayer Concerns**

**Pastoral Prayer and Lord’s Prayer** (St. John’s: *debts/debtors;* St. Paul’s: sins/sin against us)

**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*/sins), as we forgive (*our debtors*/those who sin against us). And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**The Offering**

Our testimony of faith is that God’s blessings abound. Look up. Look around. Look within. The world is filled with the grandeur of God, and we are blessed recipients of Jesus’ grace, beauty, and love. Our offering is one of many ways we respond to the gifts we have received.

**\*Response # 785 “We Give You but Your Own”**

**We give you but your own, what-e’er the gift may be;**

**All that we have is yours alone, we give it gratefully.**

**Offertory Prayer**

**Merciful God, like those years ago who were fed and fully satisfied with bread, we announce to that we too are fed and fully satisfied with your Word. Your Word gives life to us. Your Word challenges us to live the upward call of faithfulness. Your Word is light in this world of darkness. Blessed are you, O God, in Jesus’ name. Amen.**

**\*Hymn # 473 “Blessed Assurance”**

**\*Commission and Benediction**

**\*Postlude**