

**The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
September 26, 2021**

GATHERING The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

The words are included as you ponder today's prelude shared this morning by Mark.

EvLW # 557 Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun

1. Awake, my soul, and with the sun thy daily stage of duty run;
shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise to pay thy morning sacrifice.
2. All praise to thee, who safe hast kept and hast refreshed me while I slept.
Grant, Lord, when I from death shall wake, I may of endless light partake.
3. Lord, I my vows to thee renew. Disperse my sins as morning dew;
guard my first springs of thought and will; and with thyself my spirit fill.
4. Direct, control, suggest, this day, all I design or do or say,
that all my pow'rs, with all their might, in thy sole glory may unite.
5. Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

EvLW # 848 *Give to Our God Immortal Praise!*

1. Give to our God immortal praise! Mercy and truth are all his ways.
Wonders of grace to God belong; repeat his mercies in your song.
2. God sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and darkness and the grave.
Wonders of grace to God belong; repeat his mercies in your song.
3. Give to the Lord of lords renown; the King of kings with glory crown.
His mercies ever shall endure when lords and kings are known no more!

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Generous God, your Son gave his life that we might come to peace with you. Give us a share of your Spirit, and in all we do empower us to bear the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29

What constitutes legitimate need and legitimate leadership is the focus of this reading. God provides manna in the wilderness, yet the people crave meat. What is truly needful? God bestows the spirit on seventy elders, yet two men not designated as leaders prophesy in the power of God's spirit. What constitutes real leadership?

The rabble among them had a strong craving; and the Israelites also wept again, and said, "If only we had meat to eat! We remember the fish we used to eat in Egypt for nothing, the cucumbers, the melons, the leeks, the onions, and the garlic; but now our strength is dried up, and there is nothing at all but this manna to look at."

Moses heard the people weeping throughout their families, all at the entrances of their tents. Then the Lord became very angry, and Moses was displeased. So Moses said to the Lord, "Why have you treated your servant so badly? Why have I not found favor in your sight, that you lay the burden of all this people on me? Did I conceive all this people? Did I give birth to them, that you should say to me, 'Carry them in your bosom, as a nurse carries a sucking child, to the land that you promised on oath to their ancestors'? Where am I to get meat to give to all this people? For they come weeping to me and say, 'Give us meat to eat!' I am not able to carry all this people alone, for they are too heavy for me. If this is the way you are going to treat me, put me to death at once—if I have found favor in your sight—and do not let me see my misery."

So the Lord said to Moses, "Gather for me seventy of the elders of Israel, whom you know to be the elders of the people and officers over them; bring them to the tent of meeting, and have them take their place there with you."

So Moses went out and told the people the words of the Lord; and he gathered seventy elders of the people, and placed them all around the tent. ²⁵Then the Lord came down in the cloud and spoke to him and took some of the spirit that was on him and put it on the seventy elders; and when the spirit

rested upon them, they prophesied. But they did not do so again.

Two men remained in the camp, one named Eldad, and the other named Medad, and the spirit rested on them; they were among those registered, but they had not gone out to the tent, and so they prophesied in the camp. And a young man ran and told Moses, “Eldad and Medad are prophesying in the camp.” And Joshua son of Nun, the assistant of Moses, one of his chosen men, said, “My lord Moses, stop them!” But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the Lord’s people were prophets, and that the Lord would put his spirit on them!”

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 19:7-14

The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

Who can detect one’s own offences? Cleanse me from my secret faults.

Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offence.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

SECOND READING

James 5:13-20

Marks of the Christian community include praying for those who are sick and in need, celebrating with those in good health, restoring those who have strayed, confessing sins to one another, and offering forgiveness to each other.

Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord. The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective. Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth yielded its harvest.

My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another, you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner’s soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL

Mark 9:38-50

The holy gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus teaches his disciples about ministry that involves service and sacrifice. His disciples are slow to realize that these words apply to them as well as to others.

John said to [Jesus,] “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us. For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward.

“If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck, and you were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.

“For everyone will be salted with fire. Salt is good; but if salt has lost its saltiness, how can you season it? Have salt in yourselves and be at peace with one another.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

EvLW # 434 *Jesus Shall Reign*

1. Jesus shall reign where'er the sun does its successive journeys run;
his kingdom stretch from shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.
2. To him shall endless prayer be made, and praises throng to crown his head;
his name like sweet perfume shall rise with ev'ry morning sacrifice.
3. People and realms of ev'ry tongue dwell on his love with sweetest song;
and infant voices shall proclaim their early blessings on his name.
4. Blessings abound where'er he reigns: the pris'ners leap to lose their chains,
the weary find eternal rest, and all who suffer want are blest.
5. Let ev'ry creature rise and bring peculiar honours to our king;
angels descend with songs again, and earth repeat the loud amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

We pray for the church and its ministry. Bless the newly baptized and encourage them in their journey of faith. Sustain all members of the body of Christ in lives of prayer, service, and worship. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for natural wonders of your creation for rain and sun, for rich farmland and magnificent mountains. Restore damaged forests, waterways and natural habitats and lead us to be good stewards of what you have provided. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in authority. Especially for the newly elected members of Parliament. Give them wise minds and compassionate hearts. Strengthen in them a desire to protect the vulnerable and care for those underserved. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for those who have requested prayer and those who included family, friend and stranger in prayers here today. Especially we pray for Beryl, Carol, Daryl, Elethia, Ferolyn, Hans, Jordon, Pat, and those we name quietly in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are struggling with cancer, dementia, or any other disease. Provide them with peace and resilience for the days ahead. Sustain caregivers with energy and patience. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the leaders of this congregation and all who consider St James their faith home. Bless us and our neighbourhoods through their ministry and grant them the passion to continue in service in your name. Help us reconnect, listen, learn and better understand your plans together. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for all your saints, those we have loved and known and those from every time and place. Continue to guide us by their example and reassure us of your promised salvation. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with us all.

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING

Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

Great and wonderful are your deeds, O God of the universe; just and true are your ways, O Ruler of all the nations. Who can fail to honour you, Lord, and sing the glory of your name?

Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

**For you alone are the Holy One and blessed is the one whose name is the Word of God.
All praise and thanks to you, holy God!**

Salvation belongs to our God and to Christ the Lamb forever and ever.

LORD'S PRAYER Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

SENDING God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING SONG EvLW # 767 *Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me*

1. Lord, take my hand and lead me upon life's way;
direct, protect, and feed me from day to day.
Without your grace and favour I go astray;
so take my hand, O Saviour, and lead the way.
2. Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear;
for you, the Rock of Ages, are always near.
Close by your side abiding, I fear no foe,
for when your hand is guiding, in peace I go.
3. Lord, when the shadows lengthen and night has come,
I know that you will strengthen my steps toward home,
then nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend!
So, take my hand and lead me unto the end.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE HYMN**EvLW # 675 *O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True***

These lyrics are included for your consideration as Mark gifts us with this postlude.

1. O Christ, our light, O Radiance true, shine forth on those estranged from you,
and bring them to your home again, where their delight shall never end.
2. Fill with the radiance of your grace the wand'rers lost in error's maze.
Set free all those whose hearts and minds some deep delusion haunts and binds.
3. Lord, open all reluctant ears and take away the needless fears
of those who tremble to express the faith their inmost hearts confess.
4. Lord, let your mercy's gentle ray shine down on others strayed away.
To those in conscience wounded sore show heaven's waiting, open door.
5. Make theirs with ours a single voice uplifted, ever to rejoice
with wond'ring gratitude and praise to you, O Lord, for boundless grace.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

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| Mon | Sep 27 | Zechariah 6:9-15 | 1 Peter 1:3-9 | Psalm 5 |
| Tue | Sep 28 | Zechariah 8:18-23 | 1 John 2:18-25 | Psalm 5 |
| Wed | Sep 29 | Zechariah 10:1-12 | Matthew 18:6-9 | Psalm 5 |
| Thu | Sep 30 | Genesis 20:1-18 | Galatians 3:23-29 | Psalm 8 |
| Fri | Oct 01 | Genesis 21:22-34 | Romans 8:1-11 | Psalm 8 |
| Sat | Oct 02 | Genesis 23:1-20 | Luke 16:14-18 | Psalm 8 |
| Sun | Oct 03 | Genesis 2:18-24 | Mark 10:2-16 | Psalm 8 (5) Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12 |

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