

August 26 & 27, 2023

SERVICE OF THE WORD

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we welcome retired Rev. George Swanson as he encourages us in a life lived for the glory of God and the good of his people.

OPENING HYMN

"Christ Is Our Cornerstone"

Hymn 914

Christ is our cornerstone, on him alone we build;
with his true saints alone the courts of heav'n are filled.
On his great love our hopes we place of present grace and joys above.

Here may we gain from heav'n the grace which we implore,
and may that grace, once giv'n, be with us evermore
until that day when all the blest to endless rest are called away.

Oh, then, with hymns of praise these hallowed courts shall ring;
our voices we will raise the Three in One to sing
and thus proclaim in joyful song, both loud and long, that glorious name.

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

+ CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION +

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray:**

Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

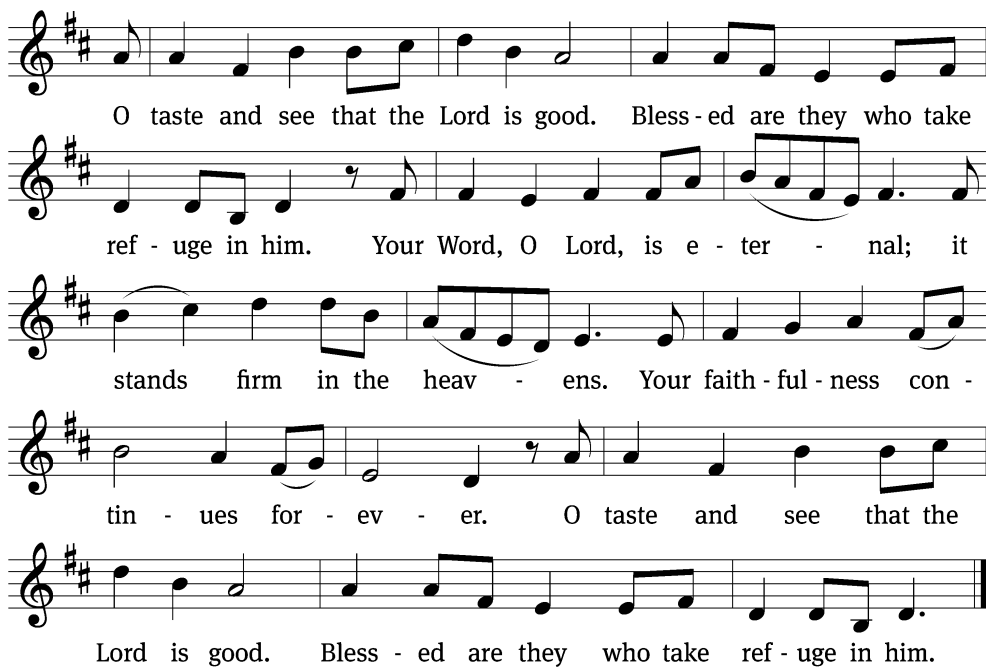
M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will. **Amen.**

+ PRAYER AND PRAISE +

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

HYMN (No Introduction)

"O Taste and See"



O taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless-ed are they who take
ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e - ter - nal; it
stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con -
tin - ues for - ev - er. O taste and see that the
Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, your Word is a lamp for our feet and a light on our path. Cause the light of your Word to shine brightly in our hearts by faith that we may know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly day by day; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 7:1–11

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD: “Stand at the gate of the LORD’s house and there proclaim this message:

“ ‘Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship the LORD. This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place. Do not trust in deceptive words and say, “This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD!” If you really change your ways and your actions and deal with each other justly, if you do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm, then I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your ancestors for ever and ever. But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless.

“ ‘Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name, and say, “We are safe” —safe to do all these detestable things? Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you? But I have been watching! declares the LORD.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



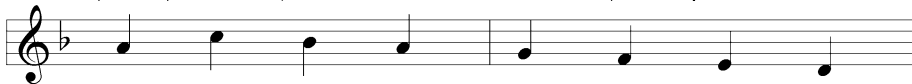
1 In hope - less - ness and near de - spair, I
 2 I see my heart's con - di - tion now, My
 3 I trem - ble as I feel your hand, Ex -
 4 For - giv - en, free of guilt and shame, Grant



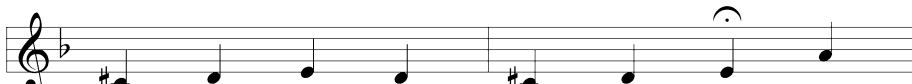
cry to you, my Sav - ior! My guilt is more than
 heart's di - verse af - fec - tions. Why do I love the
 pec - ting re - tri - bu - tion, Yet hear no curse or
 me some time to ren - der A gift to glo - ri -



I can bear. I have not earned your fav - or. You
 things you loathe; I'm torn in two di - rec - tions: Now
 re - pri - mand, But grace and ab - so - lu - tion: With
 fy your name, Love to re - flect your splen - dor: This



know me as I real - ly am: How
 prod - i - gal, now Phar - i - see. O
 you there is for - give - ness, Lord, You
 world must know what I have learned, That



much is truth, how much is sham; Why
 God, be mer - ci - ful to me; Who
 speak the sweet, con - sol - ing Word, And
 you be - stow what none has earned: The



should you heed my plead - ing?
 else but you can help me?
 I am sure you love me!
 joy of full for - give - ness!

SECOND READING

James 1:21–27

Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the word planted in you, which can save you.

Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. Anyone who listens to the word but does not do what it says is like someone who looks at his face in a mirror and, after looking at himself, goes away and immediately forgets what he looks like. But whoever looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues in it—not forgetting what they have heard, but doing it—they will be blessed in what they do.

Those who consider themselves religious and yet do not keep a tight rein on their tongues deceive themselves, and their religion is worthless. Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Psalm 119:105

Alleluia. Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Luke 6:39–49

He also told them this parable: “Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into a pit? The student is not above the teacher, but everyone who is fully trained will be like their teacher.

“Why do you look at the speck of sawdust in your brother’s eye and pay no attention to the plank in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, ‘Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye,’ when you yourself fail to see the plank in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the plank out of your eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother’s eye.

“No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars.

A good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and an evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For the mouth speaks what the heart is full of.

“Why do you call me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do what I say? As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built. But the one who hears my words and does not put them into practice is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation. The moment the torrent struck that house, it collapsed and its destruction was complete.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

"Speak, O Savior, I Am Listening"

Hymn 631

Speak, O Savior, I am list'ning, as a servant to his lord.
Let me show respect and honor to your holy, precious Word,
that each day, my whole life through, I may serve and follow you.
Let your Word e'er be my pleasure and my heart's most precious treasure.

Oh, what blessing to be near you and to listen to your voice;
let me ever love and fear you, let your Word still be my choice!
Many hardened sinners, Lord, flee in terror at your Word;
but to all who feel sin's burden you give peace and words of pardon.

Lord, your words are waters living where I quench my thirsty needs.
Lord, your words are bread life-giving; on your words my spirit feeds.
Lord, your words will be my light thro' death's cold and dreary night;
yes, they are my sword prevailing and my cup of joy unailing.

As I pray, dear Jesus, hear me; let your words in me take root.
May your Spirit e'er be near me that I bear abundant fruit.
May I daily sing your praise, from my heart glad anthems raise,
till my highest praise is given in the endless joy of heaven.

SERMON

"Be a 'Do-Bee,' Not a 'Don't Be'"

James 1:22

HYMN

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

Hymn 770

God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient Church's story, bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us scorn the Christ, assail his ways.
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Lord God, our maker and preserver, we praise and thank you for all that you give us day after day.

C: **We are not worthy of all the mercies you show us.**

M: You have given us your precious Word to nourish our souls and to protect us from the temptations of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature.

C: **We thank you for those who teach and preach your saving truth at this place and everywhere. Grant them a rich measure of patience, wisdom, and love.**

M: Heavenly Father, we pray that you shield us from every kind of danger: sudden catastrophe, terrors of crime, and the pain of disease. Watch over those who travel by land, sea, and air. Keep our loved ones from whatever perils may threaten them.

C: **Heal those who are sick, cheer those who are sad, calm those who are distressed, and comfort all who are old and infirm.**

M: Bless our land, our people, and those who hold offices of high trust. Keep our government and schools upright and strong for the advancement of good citizenship and useful vocations, that we may enjoy your gifts of peace, security, and well-being.

C: **Grant your blessing to every nation on earth. Where there are wars, may there be peace. Where there is hatred, let it be healed. Where there is poverty, danger, or disaster, come with your almighty power to help and restore.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring to you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: We bring these requests before you in the name of Jesus our Lord, and ask you to hear us. Take all that we have, our bodies and minds, our time and skills, our ministries and offerings, and use them to your glory.

C: **We give ourselves to you that we may serve you in whatever way is pleasing in your sight. Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass 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 and ever. Amen.

CLOSING PRAYER

M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways”

Hymn 705

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his statutes still!

Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!

Order my footsteps by your Word, and make my heart sincere;
let sin have no dominion, Lord, but keep my conscience clear.

Assist my soul, too apt to stray, a stricter watch to keep,
and should I e'er forget your way, restore your wand'ring sheep.

Make me to walk in your commands— 'tis a delightful road—
nor let my head or heart or hands offend against my God.

OFFERING

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Join us **Saturday, September 9**, for our annual Church-School Picnic!

We worship at 4 p.m. with our school children singing. Feel free to wear your St. John t-shirt to worship and the picnic!

We picnic at 5ish.

Wondering how you can help?

- Set-up at 10 am on Saturday, September 9
- Bring side dishes and desserts
 - families with the last name A-L bring Side Dishes
 - families with the last name M-Z bring Desserts
- Set up food
- Take down/clean up

We hope to see you there!

Please reach out to Sheryl Linnemann with any questions,
sheryl359@gmail.com.