

September 6, 2020
14th Sunday after Pentecost
Sacrament of Holy Communion

Preludes

Communion Hymn Suite
O God of Earth and Altar

Richard Warner
James Mansfield

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

L: We gather here, where God would teach us:

P: So we may learn to be more compassionate.

L: We gather here, where Jesus would teach us:

P: So we may be taught how to be more loving.

L: We gather here, where the Spirit imparts wisdom:

P: So we would learn to welcome all to this Table.

Musical Introit #506 – *Look Who Gathers at Christ’s Table!*

Copeland

(verse one)

Look who gathers at Christ’s table! Hear the stories that they bring.
Some are weeping; some are laughing; some have songs they want to sing.

Others ask why they’re invited, burdened by the wrong they’ve done.

Christ insists they all are welcome. There is room for everyone.

(verse four)

Bring your joy and bring your sadness, and prepare to be surprised
by the host whose hands are wounded, who will open wide your eyes
when he blesses bread and breaks it— truth and manna from above!—
and then passes wine that wakens in your heart the taste of love.

Text by Thomas H. Troeger

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Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

God of mercy, you ask us to love one another and you are willing to teach us how. Yet, we find this command so hard to carry out; this lesson so difficult to learn. When someone is rude to us, we curse them. When another buys something we want but can’t afford, we are jealous. When a friend gets the recognition we wanted, we whisper about them behind their backs. When we disagree with others, our minds jump to conclusions about them. Forgive us, God of grace, and free our hands from the grudges we are holding. Through Christ, we can become the people you intend us to be: loving, gentle, merciful and compassionate.

Time of Silent Reflection

Assurance of Pardon

First Scripture Reading – Psalm 119:33-40

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end. ³⁴Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart. ³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it. ³⁶Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain. ³⁷Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways. ³⁸Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you. ³⁹Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good. ⁴⁰See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life.

Readings of Poetry

Rev. Chip Steele

Second Scripture Reading – Romans 13:8-14

⁸Owe no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. ⁹The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery; You shall not murder; You shall not steal; You shall not covet”; and any other commandment, are summed up in this word, “Love your neighbor as yourself.” ¹⁰Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore, love is the fulfilling of the law. ¹¹Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Sermon – “Love Does No Wrong to a Neighbor”

Rev. John Wahl

Prayers of the People

Call to Offering

Offertory

Light of the Morning

David Paxton

Prayer of Dedication

Invitation to the Lord’s Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

L: May God our Teacher be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Now is the time to offer your hearts to God.

P: And so, we turn our hearts to your grace.

L: Join in this sacrament of thanks and praise to our God.

P: We join with all people throughout the world in praise.

We praise you, Holy God, giver of the bread of life; provider of the cup of salvation. We give thanks for your good creation: for all of its light and mystery and wonder. You also created us in your own image. Then, taking on human form, you came to live among us so that we might see you face-to-face and learn of your forgiveness firsthand.

God our righteousness, through your child, Jesus, our brother, came to lead us out of the shadows, to teach us your ways, to gather us as your family, to carry us into your kingdom. As we come to this table, which you have prepared for us, we remember his faith, his pain, his sacrifice, and his new life.

Move over the gifts of this table, and on all those who are gathered for this meal. As the bread of hope heals our brokenness, may we go forth to be reconciled to those we have harmed. As the cup of grace quenches our thirst for hope, may we reach out to those whom the world has forgotten. As your mercy fills our empty souls, may we bring peace to our world. And when the day comes when all pain has ended, all barriers are torn down, and all people live in harmony, we will gather at your holy feast and sing praises forever to you, O God, holy three in One.

The Lord's Prayer

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Unison Prayer after Communion

Holy God, send us out from our Lord's Table to answer his summons to new life and to follow him with gladness. Set our feet in his holy way, that our lives may be signs of his life and all we do may show forth his love. AMEN.

Benediction

Postlude

Postlude in G Minor

George Blake