FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 14, 2025
11:00 AM



As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Rev. Dr. Timothy T. Boggess

PRELUDE *Under the Starry Sky* Hans-André Stamm
(Fernando Cruz, alto and soprano saxophones)

CALL TO WORSHIP Judy Knudtson

The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance,
that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.
For Jesus welcomed sinners and ate with them.
Therefore, we boldly come to worship the God of mercy,
who seeks and saves the lost.
Let us rejoice in the grace of the Lord!

***HYMN 12** *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise* ST. DENIO

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
in light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might:
thy justice, like mountains high soaring above;
thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small.
In all life thou livest, the true life of all.
We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree,
then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light.
Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight.
All praise we would render; O help us to see
'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious and loving God,
we confess that we often stray from your path.
Instead, we choose our own way,
wandering into pride, selfishness, and fear.
We forget to listen for your voice,
neglecting the joy of your presence
and the safety of your fold.
Forgive us, Lord.
Find us and bring us home,
so that we may once again
join in the celebration of
your amazing grace.

(a moment for silent reflection)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

***SONG OF JOY 623** (vv. 1 & 2) *I've Got Peace Like a River*

I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river;
I've got peace like a river, in my soul. (twice)

I've got joy like a fountain;
I've got joy like a fountain;
I've got joy like a fountain, in my soul.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

ANTHEM *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* Thomas A. Dorsey/
(The Chancel Choir) arr. Ringwald

Precious Lord, take my hand,
bring me home through the night.
Through the dark, through the storm, to Thy light.
I have been to the mount, I have seen the Promised Land:
Precious Lord, take my hand.

Precious, Lord, take my hand,
bring Thy child home at last,
where the strife and the pain all are past:
I have dreamed a great dream that Thy love shall rule our land:
Precious Lord, take my hand.

Precious Lord, take my hand,
take Thy child unto Thee,
with my dream of a world that is free.
For that day when all flesh joins the glory Thou hast planned,
Precious Lord, take my hand.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

page 952

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 15:1-10

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *Tackled By Grace* Rev. Boggess

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Judy Knudtson

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.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *Let My People Go* Spiritual/arr. Phillips
(Trio: Fernando Cruz, Isaac Mingus, Steven Phillips)

***DOXOLOGY 608** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* PRAISE GOD (Hopson)

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore.

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from *A Declaration of Faith* (1977)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Judy Knudtson

Jesus Christ overthrew evil powers
that enslaved and degraded people,
yet he made no use of power to protect himself.
He healed those who were sick in body and mind,
yet he did not avoid pain and suffering for himself.
He commanded his followers to place loyalty to him
above loyalty to family and country,
yet he lived among them as a servant.

We recognize the work of God in Jesus' power and authority.
We also recognize the work of God in Jesus' lowliness.
In both his majesty and lowliness
Jesus is the eternal Son of God,
God himself with us.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 649** *Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares,
I have already come.
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Boggess

POSTLUDE Improvisation on *Lead On, O King Eternal* Steven Phillips

The postlude concludes our worship today. It's the custom of this congregation to sit and enter into this moment with gratitude and celebration.

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