



**Traditional Service**  
**The Seventeenth Sunday After Pentecost**

**September 24, 2023**

***The Service for the Lord's Day***

*WE GATHER*

PRELUDE Prelude on "Evan"

arr. Gordon Young

WELCOME

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: The heavens tell of the glory of God;

**People: And the firmament proclaims God's handiwork.**

Leader: Let our words and the meditation of our hearts, be acceptable to you, Lord;

**People: for you, O God, are our rock and our redeemer!**

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

\*GATHERING HYMN

#471

O Praise the Gracious Power (Verses 1-4)

CHRISTPRAISE RAY

**1** O praise the gracious power  
that tumbles walls of fear  
and gathers in one house of faith  
all strangers far and near.  
We praise you, Christ!  
Your cross has made us one!

**2** O praise persistent truth  
that opens fisted minds  
and eases from their anxious clutch  
the prejudice that blinds:  
We praise you, Christ!  
Your cross has made us one!

\*Please stand if you are able.

**3** O praise inclusive love,  
encircling every race,  
oblivious to gender, wealth,  
to social rank or place:  
We praise you, Christ!  
Your cross has made us one!

**4** O praise the word of faith  
that claims us as God's own,  
a living temple built on Christ,  
our rock and cornerstone:  
We praise you, Christ!  
Your cross has made us one!

## *WE CONFESS*

### CALL TO CONFESSION

### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

**Gracious and Loving God, you called us to be your servant and covenantal people. Yet we resist the very things that define us as your people. We serve and worship many powers besides you in the world; we misuse your name to give authority to our desires; we work ourselves and others to sickness and death; we succumb to anger, envy, indifference, and hostility. Forgive us, Lord; help us to rejoice in both the promises and responsibilities of your covenant, that we may truly be your servant people, and others may see and know you through us. Through Christ our Lord we pray.**

### ASSURANCE OF PARDON

## *WE LISTEN*

### CHILDREN'S SERMON

### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE Ephesians 4:1-3, 17-32

Linda Filipovits

Leader: The word of the Lord;

**People: Thanks be to God.**

### SERMON

The Rev. J.C. Austin

**"An Off-Road Faith: Learning Anger's Real Name"**

## *WE RESPOND*

\*SERMON HYMN

Great is Thy Faithfulness

#276

FAITHFULNESS

**1** Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;  
Thou changest not, Thy compassions they fail not;  
As Thou hast been Thou forever will be.

**Refrain:**

Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Great is Thy faithfulness!  
Morning by morning new mercies I see;  
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided;  
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

**2** Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,  
Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. **(Refrain)**

**3** Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,  
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!  
**(Refrain)**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (The Apostles' Creed)**

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND 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 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**

Call to Give

Offertory I Believe

Mark Miller

Chancel Choir

I believe in the sun  
I believe in the sun  
Even when, even when it's not shining

I believe in God  
I believe in God  
Even when, even when God is silent

I believe in love  
I believe in love  
Even when, even when I don't feel it

**\*Doxology**

**#592**

**Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow**

**OLD HUNDREDTH**

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

**\*SENDING HYMN**

**#389**

**O Jesus, I Have Promised**

**NYLAND**

**1** O Jesus, I have promised  
To serve Thee to the end;  
Be Thou forever near me,  
My Master and my Friend;  
I shall not fear the battle  
If Thou art by my side,  
Nor wander from the pathway  
If Thou wilt be my Guide.

**2** O let me feel Thee near me!  
The world is ever near;  
I see the sights that dazzle,  
The tempting sounds I hear;  
My foes are ever near me,  
Around me and within;  
But Jesus, draw Thou nearer,  
And shield my soul from sin.

**3** O let me hear Thee speaking  
In accents clear and still,  
Above the storms of passion,  
The murmurs of self will.  
O speak to reassure me,  
To hasten or control;  
O speak, and make me listen,  
Thou Guardian of my soul.

**4** O Jesus, Thou hast promised  
To all who follow Thee  
That where Thou art in glory  
There shall Thy servant be.  
And Jesus, I have promised  
To serve Thee to the end;  
O give me grace to follow,  
My Master and my Friend.

**\*BENEDICTION**

**POSTLUDE** Allegro maestoso and Fugue (excerpt) from *Sonata No. 2*

**Felix Mendelssohn**