

July 25, 2021 Worship

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome

Songs: *We Fall Down; You Are My All in All*

Call to Worship:

L: Come, people of God, and give thanks to the God who claims you!

C: We have been blessed in Christ.

L: Once we were far off,

C: But now we have been brought near.

L: Once we were strangers and aliens,

C: But now, in Christ, we have become one family.

L: There is only one body, one God who unites.

C: We will speak the truth in love. Come, Holy Spirit!

L: Be strong in the Lord and the strength of God's power.

C: The Spirit will keep us standing firm.

L: Pray at all times, keep alert, and persevere.

C: And speak boldly the hope we have in Christ!

L: As one body of Christ, we worship together in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

A: Amen!

Songs: *Ancient Words; Holy Spirit*

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 4:1-16

Children's Message

Message: *One*

Songs: *How Great Is Our God*

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offering

God has granted us grace, according to Christ's immeasurable gift. Although it is one we can never repay, may our lives be a continual offering of praise and thanksgiving, returning all that we have to you, and to your highest purpose. Amen.

Confession

L: We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

L: Loving God,

C: You have offered us the world and yet we turn to our own distractions, believing we know better. We have not lived as your beloved children, born of one spirit, and belonging to one family. Instead we cut ourselves off from what is unfamiliar, intimidating, or different. Forgive us for our limited vision. Forgive us for not trusting in

you and your promise to never give up on us. Forgive us also for the sins we lift up in silence ...

L: We have been adopted into God's family, an identity which cannot be taken from us. God is love, God is patient, God is merciful. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority alone, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins. You are forgiven in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit! We owe eternal thanks to the lover of our souls for continually reaching for us and holding us fast in an embrace of forgiveness, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

A: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and call to mind that on the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his

disciples, saying; Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Come now, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love. Christ turns no one away; neither shall we. Gather at the table of mercy, and be joined to one another in the bonds of love in which our Savior holds us.

Communion

Song: *Fill Me Now*

Prayers and The Lord's Prayer

C: 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Ministry Opportunities

Blessing

Go out from here and live lives worthy of the one calling which we all share. In humility, gentleness and patience, speak only what is true and loving and so grow into the unity that is ours in Christ. And may God the creator reshape your hearts; May Christ Jesus, the bread of

life, sustain you always; and may the Holy Spirit unite you in the bond of peace. We go in peace in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

A: Amen!

Song: *You You Are God*

Dismissal

L: This worship service is over. Now let the service to others begin. Let us go in peace to love and serve our Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Next Sunday: Ephesians 6:10-20

A few questions to consider throughout the week ...

- How many Lords, faiths, baptisms, and Gods are there?
- Do we all have the same gifts?
- Why do we have different gifts?
- What gift are you using for a community of faith?