

*If God were a theory, the study of theology
would be the way to understand (God).
But God is alive and in need of love and worship.*

- Abraham Joshua Heschel,
God in Search of Man, 1966

NINETEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

11:00 a.m.

September 29

**Asterisks indicate times in the service when we rise in body or in spirit.*
Bold type indicates when the congregation responds in unison.
If you or someone near you would like a large print bulletin
or assistive hearing device, please ask an usher.*

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE *'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus*

THE BELOVED COMMUNITY GATHERS

Greeting: The Lord be with you.
 And also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

CHORAL INTROIT *Now Let Us Sing*

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The world belongs to God.
The earth and all its people.
How good and how lovely it is
To live together in unity.
Love and faith come together,
Justice and peace join hands.
If the Lord's disciples keep silent
These stones would shout aloud.
God, open our lips
And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

***HYMN # 464** *Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee*

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Gracious God,
our sins are too heavy to carry,
too real to hide,
and too deep to undo.
Forgive what our lips tremble to name,
what our hearts can no longer bear,
and what has become for us
a consuming fire of judgment.

Set us free from a past that we cannot change;
open to us a future in which we can be changed;
and grant us grace
to grow more and more in your likeness and image;
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

***SILENT CONFESSION**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

HYMN # 574 *Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us*

The image shows three staves of musical notation for the hymn "Lord, Have Mercy Upon Us". The music is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a time signature of 2/2. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The lyrics are: "Lord, have mer - cy up - on us." on the first staff, "Christ, have mer - cy up - on us." on the second staff, and "Lord, have mer - cy up - on us." on the third staff.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

***THE PEACE**

Because God has forgiven us in Christ, let us also forgive one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

(Please exchange the peace with those around you with the words, "The peace of Christ be with you.")

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

HYMN # 457 *I Greet Thee, Whom My Sure Redeemer Art*

(VERSE 5)

***Our hope is in no other save in Thee;
Our faith is built upon Thy promise free;
Lord, give us peace, and make us calm and sure,
That in Thy strength we evermore endure.***

THE WORD

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

(Following Time with the Children, young children may be escorted by a parent or guardian to preschool Sunday School and childcare.)

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

PSALM READING

Psalm 77: 11-20

Page 467

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

1 Timothy 1: 12-17

Page 963

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MEDITATION

The Perfect Church

Pastor

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

From The Heidelberg Catechism, question one

What is your only comfort, in life and in death?

That I belong – with body and soul, in life and in death – not to myself but to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.

***HYMN # 244**

Let Us with a Gladsome Mind

THANKSGIVING

SHARING OF JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Praise Ye the Name of the Lord* Chancel Choir

***DOXOLOGY**

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below: Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ, whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

Eternal God, we bring offerings, not because you require them, but because we want to express our thanks; not to fulfill the law, but to demonstrate love; not to fund our pet programs, but to help others experience your justice and righteousness. Use these gifts to bring comfort to those who grieve, meaning to all whose vision is clouded, freedom to the oppressed, and food for all who hunger. Please accept and multiply these offerings to the benefit of everyone who receives and all who give. Amen.

SENDING

***HYMN # 319**

Spirit

***BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE

A Festal Fanfare (4th Concerto)