



**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**July 23, 2023**

**Opening Hymn #574**  
***Come, Ye Thankful People, Come***

1. Come, ye thankful people, come;  
Raise the song of Harvest-home.  
All be safely gathered in  
Ere the winter storms begin;  
God, our Maker, doth provide  
For our wants to be supplied,  
Come to God's own temple, come;  
Raise the song of Harvest-home.

2. All the world is God's own field,  
Fruit unto His praise to yield;  
Wheat and tares together sown,  
Unto joy or sorrow grown;  
First the blade and then the ear,  
Then the full corn shall appear.  
Lord of harvest, grant that we  
Wholesome grain and pure may be.

3. For the Lord, our God, shall come  
And shall take His harvest home;  
From His field shall in that day  
All offences purge away;  
Give His angels charge at last  
In the fire the tares to cast,

But the fruitful ears to store  
In His garner evermore.

4. Even so, Lord, quickly come  
To Thy final Harvest-home;  
Gather Thou Thy people in,  
Free from sorrow, free from sin,  
There, forever purified,  
In Thy garner to abide.  
Come with all Thine angels, come,  
Raise the glorious Harvest-home.

### **Invocation**

**P:** In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

### **Confession and Absolution**

**P:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

**C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

**P:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

**C: Amen**

## **Kyrie & Gloria in Excelsis – sing**

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

1. Glory to God, we give you thanks and praise;  
Of heav'nly joy and peace on earth we sing.  
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,  
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King.

2. Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,  
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.  
O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won,  
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within

3. Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,  
At God's right hand in majesty most high:  
Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,  
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.

### **Prayer of the Day**

**P:** Let us pray...

... through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

### **The First Lesson – Isaiah 44:6-8**

<sup>6</sup>Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. <sup>7</sup>Who is like me? Let him proclaim it. Let him declare and set it before me, since I appointed an ancient people. Let them declare what is to come, and what will happen. <sup>8</sup>Fear not, nor be afraid; have I not told you from of old and declared it? And you are my witnesses! Is there a God besides me? There is no Rock; I know not any."

## Psalm of the Day- Psalm 119:57-64

### *Antiphon - WS pg. 38*

*Antiphon – Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.*

57 The LORD is my | portion;\*

**I promise to | keep your words.**

58 I entreat your favor with | all my heart;\*

**be gracious to me according to your | promise.**

59 When I think | on my ways,\*

**I turn my feet to your testi- | monies;**

60 I hasten and do | not delay\*

**to keep your com- | mandments.**

61 Though the cords of the wicked en- | snare me,\*

**I do not for- | get your law.**

62 At midnight I rise to | praise you,\*

**because of your just and righ- | teous decrees.**

63 I am a companion of all who | fear you,\*

**of those who keep your | precepts.**

64 The earth, O LORD, is full of your | steadfast love;\*

**teach me your | statutes!**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\***

**and to the Holy | Spirit;**

**as it was in the be- | ginning,\***

**is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

*Antiphon – Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord.*

### **The Second Lesson – Romans 8:18-27**

<sup>18</sup>For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. <sup>19</sup>For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. <sup>20</sup>For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope <sup>21</sup>that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of

the glory of the children of God. <sup>22</sup>For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. <sup>23</sup>And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. <sup>24</sup>For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? <sup>25</sup>But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. <sup>26</sup>Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. <sup>27</sup>And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

### **The Gospel – Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43**

<sup>24</sup>[Jesus] put another parable before them, saying, “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field, <sup>25</sup>but while his men were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. <sup>26</sup>So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared also. <sup>27</sup>And the servants of the master of the house came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? How then does it have weeds?’ <sup>28</sup>He said to them, ‘An enemy has done this.’ So the servants said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’ <sup>29</sup>But he said, ‘No, lest in gathering the weeds you root up the wheat along with them. <sup>30</sup>Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Gather the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’” . . .

<sup>36</sup>Then he left the crowds and went into the house. And his disciples came to him, saying, “Explain to us the parable of the weeds of the field.” <sup>37</sup>He answered, “The one who sows the good seed is the Son of Man. <sup>38</sup>The field is the world, and the good seed is the children of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the evil

one,<sup>39</sup> and the enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the close of the age, and the reapers are angels.<sup>40</sup> Just as the weeds are gathered and burned with fire, so will it be at the close of the age.<sup>41</sup> The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will gather out of his kingdom all causes of sin and all law-breakers,<sup>42</sup> and throw them into the fiery furnace. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.<sup>43</sup> Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears, let him hear.”

**P:** Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it.

### **The Alleluia – sing**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**These words are written that we may believe**

**That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **Confession of Faith – Apostles’ Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The holy Christian Church,  
The communion of saints,  
The forgiveness of sins,**

**The resurrection of the body,  
And the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Hymn of the Day #446**  
*Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray*

1. Rise, my soul, to watch and pray,  
From thy sleep awaken;  
Be not by the evil day  
Unawares o'ertaken.  
For the Foe,  
Well we know,  
Oft his harvest reapeth  
While the Christian sleepeth.

2. Watch against the devil's snares  
Lest asleep he find thee;  
For indeed no pains he spares  
To deceive and blind thee.  
Satan's prey  
Oft are they  
Who secure are sleeping  
And no watch are keeping.

3. Watch! Let not the wicked world  
With its pow'r defeat thee.  
Watch lest with her pomp unfurled  
She betray and cheat thee.  
Watch and see  
Lest there be  
Faithless friends to charm thee,  
Who but seek to harm thee.

4. Watch against thyself, my soul,  
Lest with grace thou trifle;  
Let not self thy tho'ts control  
Nor God's mercy stifle.

Pride and sin  
Lurk within  
All thy hopes to scatter;  
Heed not when they flatter.

5. But while watching, also pray  
To the Lord unceasing.  
He will free thee, be thy stay,  
Strength and faith increasing.  
O Lord, bless  
In distress  
And let nothing swerve me  
From the will to serve Thee.

6. Therefore let us watch and pray,  
Knowing He will hear us  
As we see from day to day  
Dangers ever near us,  
And the end  
Doth impend--  
Our redemption neareth  
When the Lord appeareth.

### **Sermon Text – Romans 8:18-27**

#### **Sermon**

***The Word of the Gospel Bestows the Righteousness of Christ  
and Brings Forth Faith***

#### **Offertory – sing**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.

#### **Offering of Thankful Hearts**



## **Prayer of the Church**

P: Redeemer and Lord of hosts, the future is in Your hands. Remove all fear from us, and keep us mindful that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed in us.

**In holy conversation We speak to God in prayer,  
And at His invitation Our deepest thoughts we share.**

P: O Lord, You are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Be patient with those who do not repent or believe. Send Your Holy Spirit to bring them into saving faith.

**We come, His will obeying, As children bringing needs:  
And to support our praying, His Spirit intercedes.**

P: We give You thanks for all who serve as instruments of Your compassion, those who care for the elderly at home, and those who work in retirement and nursing facilities. Grant that we also may serve as Your hands, feet and voices to give comfort and company to the lonely.

**These holy conversations Begin in child-like ways;  
We bring our supplications And words of thanks and praise.**

P: We commend to You all who endure the bondage of decay through infirmity and weakness [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]. Deliver them according to Your will, and strengthen and preserve their faith, that they may rejoice that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed in us.

**With care our Father listens To ev'ry thought expressed,  
Then answers our petitions In ways He knows are best.**

P: Lord of heaven and earth, we give thanks that Your Son, Jesus Christ, died to redeem the world and restore creation. Until new life supplants the groanings of this age, lead us to steward Your creation well, not in waste but in wise and diligent use with thanksgiving.

**As holy conversation, In silence or by word,  
In ev'ry situation Through Jesus, we are heard.**

P: Guide the leaders of all nations, that they would work for peace and justice in the face of conflict and discord. By, or despite, their efforts, protect the weak and defenseless.

**So let us pray securely, Expressing hopes and fears  
With confidence that surely Our Father ever hears.**

P: Lord God, You have called us according to Your purpose. You cause all things to work together for our good. Keep us safe until that day when You gather us with the saints into Your kingdom, which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

### **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 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**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

**Sermon Hymn #233**  
***Come, Holy Ghost, Creator Blest***

1. Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,  
Vouchsafe within our souls to rest;  
Come with Thy grace and heavenly aid  
And fill the hearts which Thou hast made.

2. To Thee, the Comforter, we cry,  
To Thee, the Gift of God Most High,  
The Fount of life, the Fire of love,  
The soul's Anointing from above.

3. The sevenfold gifts of grace are Thine,  
O Finger of the Hand Divine;  
True promise of the Father Thou,  
Who dost the tongue with speech endow.

4. Thy light to every thought impart  
And shed Thy love in every heart;  
The weakness of our mortal state  
With deathless might invigorate.

5. Drive far away our wily Foe  
And Thine abiding peace bestow;  
If Thou be our protecting Guide,  
No evil can our steps betide.

6. Make Thou to us the Father known,  
Teach us the eternal Son to won  
And Thee, whose name we ever bless,  
Of both the Spirit, to confess.

7. Praise we the Father and the Son  
And Holy Spirit, with them One;  
And may the Son on us bestow  
The gifts that from the Spirit flow! Amen.

### **Prayer**

**P:** Let us pray...

... through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

### **The Benediction**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine  
upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance  
upon you and give you peace.

**C: Amen**

### **Closing Hymn #376** *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

1. Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee;  
Let the water and the blood  
From Thy riven side which flowed  
Be of sin the double cure,  
Cleanse me from its guilt and power.

2. Not the labors of my hands  
Can fulfil Thy Law's demands;  
Could my zeal no respite know,  
Could my tears forever flow,  
All for sin could not atone;  
Thou must save, and Thou alone.

3. Nothing in my hand I bring,  
Simply to Thy cross I cling;  
Naked, come to Thee for dress;  
Helpless, look to Thee for grace;  
Foul, I to the fountain fly,--  
Wash me, Savior, or I die!

4. While I draw this fleeting breath,  
When mine eyelids close in death,  
When I soar to worlds unknown,  
See Thee on Thy judgment-throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in Thee!

### **Silent Prayer**

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