

Order of Service
Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
July 25, 2021

Prelude & Announcements

WELCOME

In this time and place, we gather on the unceded ancestral lands of the shísháhlh Nation.
With people from many places and times, we come to this house of prayer.

In this time and place, we meet in the presence of the living God.
The living God who creates us and all that is.

In this time and place, the risen Christ stands in our midst.,
The risen Christ who accompanies us and all people.

In this time and place, God's Holy Spirit breathes in and through us.
The Holy Spirit who transforms us and all life.

In this time and place, together, one people of God.
In the name of God, Source of all being, Eternal Word and Holy Spirit. Amen.

GATHERING

Order for Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy. **Amen.**

Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.
Silence is kept for reflection

God, our provider, **help us.**
**It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways
when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live.
We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you.
We take offense at your teachings and your ways.
Turn us again to you, for where else can we turn?
Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.**

Beloved people of God: In Jesus, the manna from heaven, we are fed and nourished.
By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough.
Through Jesus, † the bread of life, we are shown God's mercy:
we are forgiven and loved into abundant life. **Amen.**

Hymn - # 461 All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

- 1 All who hunger gather gladly;
holy manna is our bread.
Come from wilderness and wand'ring.
Here in truth we will be fed.
You that yearn for days of fullness,
all around us is our food.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.
- 2 All who hunger, never strangers;
seeker, be a welcome guest.
Come from restlessness and roaming.
Here in joy we keep the feast.
We that once were lost and scattered
in communion's love have stood.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.
- 3 All who hunger, sing together,
Jesus Christ is living bread.
Come from loneliness and longing.
Here in peace we have been fed.
Blest are those who from this table
live their days in gratitude.
Taste and see the grace eternal.
Taste and see that God is good.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, you have placed within the hearts of all your people a longing for your word and a hunger for your truth. Grant that we may know your Son to be the true bread of heaven and share this bread with all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

WORD

First Reading 2 Kings 4:42-44

⁴²A man came from Baal-shalishah (“bay-ul-SHAL-uh-shuh.”), bringing food from the first fruits to [Elisha,] the man of God: twenty loaves of barley and fresh ears of grain in his sack. Elisha said, “Give it to the people and let them eat.” ⁴³But his servant said, “How can I set this before a hundred

people?” So he repeated, “Give it to the people and let them eat, for thus says the LORD, ‘They shall eat and have some left.’”⁴⁴He set it before them, they ate, and had some left, according to the word of the LORD.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading Ephesians 3:14-21

¹⁴For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, ¹⁵from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name. ¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia verse

**Alleluia, alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia!**

The Gospel of John 6:1-21 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias. ²A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick. ³Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. ⁴Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near. ⁵When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?” ⁶He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do. ⁷Philip answered him, “Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.” ⁸One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him, ⁹“There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?” ¹⁰Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all. ¹¹Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted. ¹²When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.” ¹³So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets. ¹⁴When the people saw the sign that he had done, they began to say, “This is indeed the prophet who is to come into the world.”

¹⁵When Jesus realized that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

¹⁶When evening came, his disciples went down to the sea, ¹⁷got into a boat, and started across the sea to Capernaum. It was now dark, and Jesus had not yet come to them. ¹⁸The sea became rough because a strong wind was blowing. ¹⁹When they had rowed about three or four miles, they saw Jesus

walking on the sea and coming near the boat, and they were terrified. ²⁰But he said to them, “It is I; do not be afraid.” ²¹Then they wanted to take him into the boat, and immediately the boat reached the land toward which they were going.

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Music and reflection

Hymn - #729 The Church of Christ, in Every Age

- 1 The church of Christ, in ev'ry age
beset by change, but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.
- 2 Across the world, across the street,
the victims of injustice cry
for shelter and for bread to eat,
and never live before they die.
- 3 Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.
- 4 For he alone, whose blood was shed,
can cure the fever in our blood,
and teach us how to share our bread
and feed the starving multitude.
- 5 We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord;
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating word.

Affirmation of Faith: A Pilgrim's Creed

Let us together affirm our faith.

We are a community of faith.

**We share a vision of God: a God whose spirit is love,
accessible to all yet beyond our knowing, the source of all being,
the way leading to wholeness, the spirit which pervades everything.**

**We are reborn in the Spirit, followers of that Way shown by Jesus:
to love God with our whole being; to love our neighbours as ourselves;
to treat others as we would have them treat us; to strive for justice and peace;**

**to have respect and compassion for every person and for the whole of creation;
to forgive those who do us harm; to love one another as Christ has loved us.**

We journey together on this Way towards reconciliation with the whole creation.

We break bread together and pray together.

We reach out to one another for strength beyond our own.

This is our community. This is our faith.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Rooted in Christ and sustained by the Spirit, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church. Bless the ministries of our neighboring congregations. Empower churches throughout the world and encourage missionaries who accompany global neighbors. Kindle in us a spirit of collaboration, that all people may know your loving works. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for creation. Send rain to lands here at home and around the earth experiencing drought and come to the aid of those enduring sweltering heat. Nurture all food crops grown for the nourishment of your people and sustain aquatic habitats and fish populations. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for those who govern. Cast out arrogance, selfishness, and corruption and instruct those who lead to practice compassion and humility. Inspire them with a vision of the common good and a commitment to ensure that all who hunger are fed. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for those bowed down by heavy burdens: those who are unemployed or underemployed, those unable to find affordable housing, and those struggling with food insecurity and those who are ill. Console those who grieve and hear the cries of those who call to you for healing (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for this assembly. Deepen our resolve to use what we have to serve those in need. When we worry that we do not have enough resources for ministry, assure us of your abundance. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for those who have died. As you sustained them through all their days, so dwell in our hearts, that we may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We lift these and all our prayers to you, O God, confident in the promise of your saving love; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us,

✠ be upon you now and forever. **Amen.**

Hymn - #547 Sent Forth by God's Blessing

1 Sent forth by God's blessing,
our true faith confessing,
the people of God from this dwelling take leave.
The supper is ended.
Oh, now be extended
the fruits of this service in all who believe.
The seed of Christ's teaching,
receptive souls reaching,
shall blossom in action for God and for all.
Your grace shall incite us,
your love shall unite us
to work for your kingdom and answer your call.

2 With praise and thanksgiving
to God ever-living,
the tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face—
our faith ever sharing,
in love ever caring,
embracing God's children, the whole human race.
With your feast you feed us,
with your light now lead us;
unite us as one in this life that we share.
Then may all the living
with praise and thanksgiving
give honor to Christ and his name that we bear.

Dismissal

Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude