

SEPT 13 WORSHIP
16th Sunday After Pentecost

INVOCATION

L: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and our salvation. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (written by David Eck)

L: When life is full of challenges, it's easy to feel overwhelmed.

C: We begin to wonder where God is in the midst of our suffering.

L: Yet the Exodus story reminds us that God provides for us each and every day.

C: There is manna to be found. There is grace that sustains us when we need it the most.

L: Today, let us keep our eyes open for the many ways God gives us our daily bread.

C: Bread, not only to feed our bodies, but to nourish our weary minds and restless spirits.

HOME

Searching, deep within my heart you know I'm searching,
Tryin' to make a brand new start. Light the way.
Falling, God my soul is weary from this falling,
Been in the dirt for way too long. Make me clean.

Chorus: Jesus, Jesus, be my shelter from the storm.
Be my home.
Jesus, Jesus, be the love that keeps me warm
Be my home, be my home.

List'ning, it's noisy in this world but I am list'ning,
Trying hard to hear your voice. Speak to me.
Walking, to the grace that welcome me I'm walking,
Hoping you will set me free from my sin.

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From Love Feast.*

PRAYER OF THE DAY (written by David Eck)

L: The Lord is with you. **C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray...God of Abundance,

C: Your generosity is evident in our lives. Help us to trust that you will provide our daily bread: the manna of your love, forgiveness and mercy. Keep our spirits strong that we will always sing your praise, even on days that are dark and difficult. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen.

FIRST LESSON—Exodus 16:2-15

The whole Israelite community complained against Moses and Aaron in the desert. The Israelites said to them, “Oh, how we wish that the Lord had just put us to death while we were still in the land of Egypt. There we could sit by the pots cooking meat and eat our fill of bread. Instead, you’ve brought us out into this desert to starve this whole assembly to death.”

Then the Lord said to Moses, “I’m going to make bread rain down from the sky for you. The people will go out each day and gather just enough for that day. In this way, I’ll test them to see whether or not they follow my Instruction. On the sixth day, when they measure out what they have collected, it will be twice as much as they collected on other days.” So Moses and Aaron said to all the Israelites, “This evening you will know that it was the Lord who brought you out of the land of Egypt. And in the morning you will see the Lord’s glorious presence, because your complaints against the Lord have been heard. Who are we? Why blame us?” Moses continued, “The Lord will give you meat to eat in the evening and your fill of bread in the morning because the Lord heard the complaints you made against him. Who are we? Your complaints aren’t against us but against the Lord.”

Then Moses said to Aaron, “Say to the whole Israelite community, ‘Come near to the Lord, because he’s heard your complaints.’” As Aaron spoke to the whole Israelite community, they turned to look toward the desert, and just then the glorious presence of the Lord appeared in the cloud.

The Lord spoke to Moses, “I’ve heard the complaints of the Israelites. Tell them, ‘At twilight you will eat meat. And in the morning you will have your fill of bread. Then you will know that I am the Lord your God.’”

In the evening a flock of quail flew down and covered the camp. And in the morning there was a layer of dew all around the camp. When the layer of dew lifted, there on the desert surface were thin flakes, as thin as frost on the ground. When the Israelites saw it, they said to each other, “What is it?” (which is manna in Hebrew) They didn’t know what it was. Moses said to them, “This is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.” [CEB]

PSALM 34:1-10

Refrain: Taste and see that God is good.

Blessed are those who call God "home."

L: I will give thanks to God morning, noon and night;
I will sing a never-ending hymn of praise.

**C: Every breath I take is a celebration of the Almighty.
Those who are troubled should remember this and rejoice!**

L: Praise God with me;
We'll brag about God's character together!

**C: We'll ask the Wonderful Counselor for help.
God will answer our prayers and calm our fears. R.**

L: Those who look toward the Most High will be filled with light;
Their faces will never blush with shame.

**C: When we are suffering we'll cry out to God
Who hears us and sets us free from worry and distress.**

L: The angel armies guard and protect those who revere God.
Those who worship the Eternal One are truly satisfied.

**C: Lion cubs are hungry all the time;
But those who seek the Great Provider will be happy and content. R.**

Psalm paraphrase from The Psalms: Remixed by David Eck, © 2012. Used by permission.

SECOND LESSON—Philippians 1:21-30

Welcome the person who is weak in faith—but not in order to argue about differences of opinion. One person believes in eating everything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Those who eat must not look down on the ones who don't, and the ones who don't eat must not judge the ones who do, because God has accepted them. Who are you to judge someone else's servants? They stand or fall before their own Lord (and they will stand, because the Lord has the power to make them stand). One person considers some days to be more sacred than others, while another person considers all days to be the same. Each person must have their own convictions. Someone who thinks that a day is sacred, thinks that way for the Lord. Those who eat, eat for the Lord, because they thank God. And those who don't eat, don't eat for the Lord, and they thank the Lord too. We don't live for ourselves and we don't die for ourselves. If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we belong to God. This is why Christ died and lived: so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. But why do you judge your brother or sister? Or why do you look down on your brother or sister? We all will stand in front of the judgment seat of God. Because it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to me, and every tongue will give praise to God. So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God. [CEB]

GOSPEL— Matthew 18:21-35

For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace; and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.' When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the

landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last." [NRSV]

SERMON

COME, YOU THANKFUL PEOPLE, COME

Come, ye thankful people, come, raise the song of harvest home;
All is 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.

All the world is God's own field, fruit as praise to God we yield;
Wheat and tares together sown are to 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.

For the Lord our God shall come, and shall take the harvest home;
From the field shall in that day all offenses purge away,
Giving angels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast;
But the fruitful ears to store in the garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come, bring thy final harvest home;
Gather thou thy people in, free from sorrow, free from sin,
There, forever purified, in thy presence to abide;
Come, with all thine angels, come, raise the glorious harvest home.
(Public Domain) arr. Anne Schwabland

THE APOSTLES' CREED

L: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C: We believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. We 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. We 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.

THE PRAYERS

(written by David Eck)

Assist: Let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation. We pray for those whose souls are weary during this pandemic. God, give them the manna they need to make it through another day. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

We hold before God world leaders, scientists, medical personnel and essential workers who are guiding us through this difficult time in the life of our planet. Give them your wisdom and keep them strong and healthy. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

We hold before God our church, some of whom meet outdoors today while others are worshiping online. Although we may be divided by distance in this time of pandemic, we are united in our hearts. Bless us and inspire us as we seek to find new ways to be the church. God of mercy, hear our prayer.

We hold before God, those who suffer the ills of body, mind or spirit, especially Mark, Linnie's mom Ruth, as well as those who we name silently in our hearts. *(Pause)* God of mercy, hear our prayer.

L: Let us pray together

C: The Light of God surrounds us; the Love of God enfolds us; the Power of God protects us; the Presence of God watches over us; wherever we are, God is. All is well. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

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, forever and ever. Amen.

LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Light of the world, shine on us, shine in us, shine through us

Light of the word, shine on us, so the world may know

The one who came to give us life.

2. Bring us hope. 3. Make us whole.

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BENEDICTION (written by David Eck)

L: In good times and in bad, God is with us. In light and in darkness, God is with us. No matter where we roam, God is with us.

C: Amen.

L: Go in peace. Serve in the name of Christ.

C: Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DIAPER DRIVE for Beloved Asheville will happen during the month of September. These will be distributed to families who are having financial difficulties during the pandemic. You can drop them off at the church or make a donation on Beloved House's Facebook page or web site. Thank you!

LOVE FEAST, Pastor Dave's new worship recording is now available. You can download the mp3s on the church's web site or request a physical CD from Pastor Dave.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS are needed for both outdoor and online worship. Please let Pastor Dave know if you're willing to volunteer.

CHURCH CLEANERS and **YARD WORKERS** are also needed to help Pastor Dave and Gary keep our property looking fantastic. We have plenty of projects that need to be done and as the weather cools it's the perfect time to do them. Please see Pastor Dave for more details.

An introductory class to the **GOSPEL OF MARK** will begin Thurs, September 24. Pastor Dave will explore what is unique to this gospel before we begin using it for the lectionary readings starting in Advent. A study guide will be posted online for each class if you miss one.