

WELCOME!

We are glad to welcome you today as we gather together to worship God! Please be sure you complete the salmon insert inside your bulletin and turn it in to the usher at the time of communion.

This bulletin will assist you in participating in worship. All parts spoken by the congregation are listed in **bold print and preceded by "C:"**

There are also instructions printed in *italics* that will indicate other helpful descriptions of the service. Large Print Hymns are available. Please see an usher.

Thank you for turning off your cell phones or putting them on "silent" during the service.



*We are committed to **invite** and **welcome** all to Jesus Christ, to **equip** all with an active faith that works in real life, and together go into the world to **serve** in Jesus' name.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ORGAN PRELUDE: "Folk Song"

by Percy Whitlock*

Please stand

INVOCATION, CONFESSION and FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

[Silence for reflection and self-examination]

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us, and for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

HYMN 853 "When Morning Gilds the Skies"

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

HYMN OF PRAISE "This Is the Feast"



Refrain This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our



God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -



ia. (1) Wor thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.



Refrain This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our



God. Al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu - ia. al - le - lu -



21
ia. (2) Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and



25
hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.



29
Refrain This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our



32
God. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu -



36
ia. (3) Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and



40
join in the hymn of all cre - a - - tion:



44
Bless-ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might be to God and the



48
Lamb for - ev - er. A - - men.

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 11:18-20

It was the Lord who made it known to me, and I knew; then you showed me their evil deeds. But I was like a gentle lamb led to the slaughter. And I did not know it was against me that they devised schemes, saying, "Let us destroy the tree with its fruit, let us cut him off from the land of the living, so that his name will no longer be remembered!" But you, O Lord of hosts, who judge righteously, who try the heart and the mind, let me see your retribution upon them, for to you I have committed my cause.

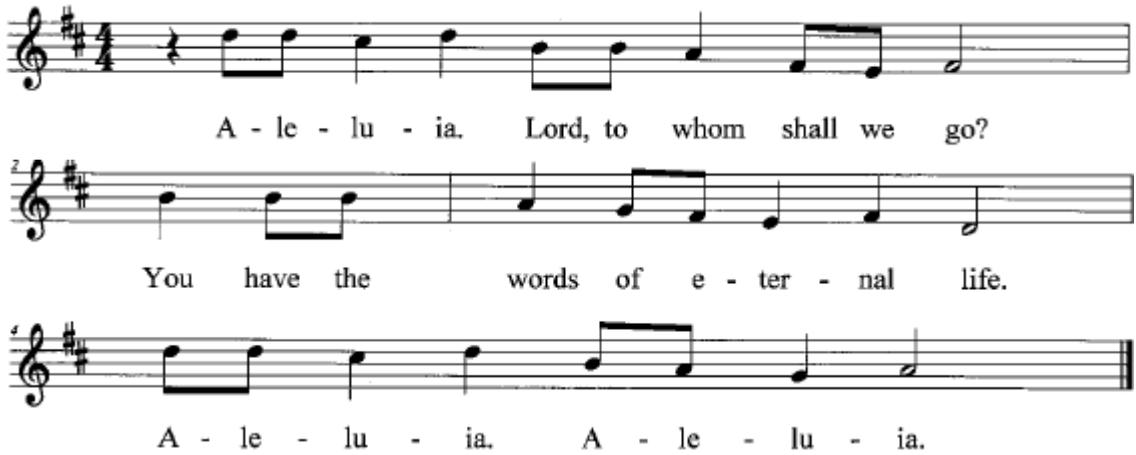
R: The Word of our Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: James 3:13—4:3, 7-8a

Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom. But if you have bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not be boastful and false to the truth. Such wisdom does not come down from above, but is earthly, unspiritual, devilish. For where there is envy and selfish ambition, there will also be disorder and wickedness of every kind. But the wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without a trace of partiality or hypocrisy. And a harvest of righteousness is sown in peace for those who make peace. Those conflicts and disputes among you, where do they come from? Do they not come from your cravings that are at war within you? You want something and do not have it; so you commit murder. And you covet something and cannot obtain it; so you engage in disputes and conflicts. You do not have, because you do not ask. You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, in order to spend what you get on your pleasures. Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.

R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



A - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of e - ter - nal life.
A - le - lu - ia. A - le - lu - ia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to the ninth chapter of Mark.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37

They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, "The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again." But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, "What were you arguing about on the way?" But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all." Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me."

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Patti Morlock

HYMN 650 "In Christ there Is No East or West"

APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Response: P: ...Lord in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

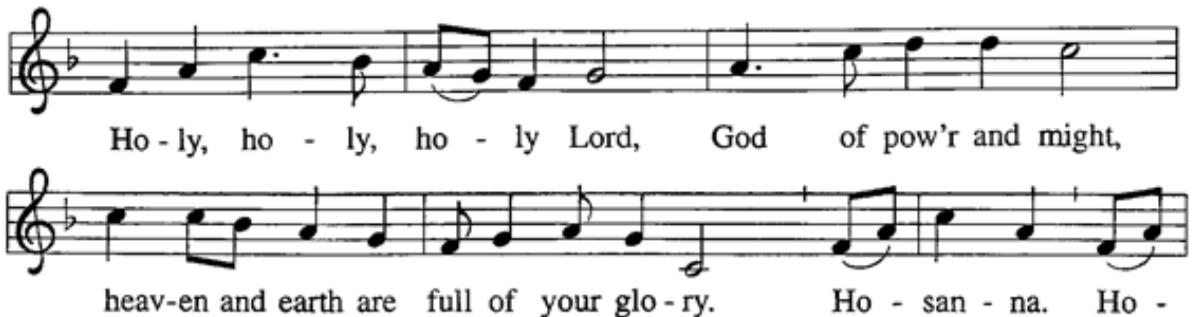
C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...
...and join their unending hymn:

HOLY HOLY HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians who believe that Christ is present in the wine and bread for forgiveness, life, and salvation are welcome to partake of communion. Please indicate to the server if you would prefer to receive grape juice. All children and adults who prefer to receive a blessing instead of communion are welcome to come forward. Please indicate you would prefer to receive a blessing by keeping your hands folded.

BLESSING, PRAYER and BENEDICTION

HYMN 543 "Go, My Children, with My Blessing"

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: "Paeon"

by Percy Whitlock*

** The prelude and postlude are both by English organist and composer Percy Whitlock (1903-1946). Educated at London's Royal College of Music, he served as organist at several churches and cathedrals in England. He wrote music for many instruments, but most of his output was for organ.*

Listening for the Promise

Weekly Devotional

17th Sunday after Pentecost – September 19, 2021

“...and were afraid to ask him.” (Mark 9:32)

The disciples of Jesus did not dare to ask him any questions. Do you have any questions about Jesus? With so many questions, where on earth would one begin?

It takes courage to ask questions. No one wants to look dumb in front of others. Have you ever risked a question in a bible study, at work or school, only to be laughed at with that silly, stupid question, where everyone obviously already knew the answer? Jesus takes a child in his arms and says, “To be first means to be last. To receive a child receives me and him who sent me.” Wait....what? Who is this Jesus? What does all this mean for you and me?

When Jesus begins to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must be betrayed, and suffer, and die, well it’s quite a jolt. It’s a jolt to be told that this Messiah, must be betrayed, suffer, die, and then rise again. It’s crazy unthinkable. The disciples did not ask him anything because they were afraid. I hope you aren’t afraid to ask Jesus the deepest questions, “Who are you? Who are you for the world? Who are you for me?”

If you are full of questions, then this Gospel is for you! The disciples in Mark are not there as examples for us to copy, rather they are there to encourage us. It’s encouraging to know those closest to Jesus had questions. They had difficulty figuring out who Jesus was. Though Jesus asked them, “Who do you say that I am?” they must have asked him many times, “Who are you?”

This is encouraging for those of you who are thinking this is all very confusing. If Jesus Christ is the Son of God, who is the God that he is? What has being a disciple of Jesus gotten me into? I can’t believe I’ve been following Jesus most of my life and there are still things I don’t understand.

Well, don’t be afraid to ask your deepest questions. Jesus will not reject you for your questions any more than Jesus rejected his first disciples for their fear to ask questions. Go ahead. Bring your doubts and questions to him. Open your heart and ask him. There is nothing to fear from the one who loves you and has called you to be his disciple. Don’t be afraid to ask. **Amen.**