

TITHES & OFFERING

(While the music is playing, please bring your offerings forward and place them in the plate.)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE *Chrysteena Saehler*

MESSAGE SONG

"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"
LSB 655 (sts. 1-3)

MESSAGE OF THE DAY "THE HEART OF THE MATTER" *The Rev. Matthew Lane*

BLESSING OF STAFF AND STUDENTS

ALL CHILDREN SING "Jesus Loves Me"

(Please stand)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P. Together let us pray as our Lord 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

BENEDICTION

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

C. Amen.

(Please sit)

CLOSING SONG

"How Precious Is the Book Divine" (sts. 1-4)

1. How precious is the Book Divine,
By inspiration giv'n!
Bright as a lamp its teachings shine
To guide our souls to heav'n.

2. Its light, descending from above,
Our gloomy world to cheer,
Displays our Savior's boundless love
And brings His glories near.

3. It shows to us our wand'ring ways
And where our feet have trod,
And brings to view the matchless grace
Of our forgiving God.

4. On all the straight and narrow way
Its radiant beams are cast,
A light whose never weary ray
Grows brightest at the last.

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P. Go in peace and serve the Lord!

C. Thanks be to God!

* * * **TO GOD BE THE GLORY** * * *

Pastor The Rev. Matthew Lane
Children's Message Chrysteena Saehler
Music Nancy Simonson; Children Sing
Elder Wayne Meyer
Worship Assistant Bill Kirkpatrick
Lector(s) FLS Children
Soundboard Neal Weeg
Greeters Cameron & Nicholas Duskin,
Duane Schlobohm
Ushers Dale Kelm, Larry Hagre

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THE CONNECTION

August 25, 2024 9:30am

PRELUDE / WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS *(please fill out Friendship Pads)*

WORSHIP SONG "Thy Word Is a Lamp" (sts. 1-2)

Refrain: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet
and a light unto my path. (2x)

1. When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
Still You're there right beside me,
And nothing will I fear as long as You are near.
Please be near me to the end. *Refrain:*

2. I will not forget Your love for me and yet
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side,
And I will love You to the end. *Refrain:*

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(Please stand)

INVOCATION

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

C. Amen

CONFESSION OF SINS AND FORGIVENESS

P. Almighty God, have mercy on us for Christ's sake.

C. Almighty God, I am unworthy of You and Your grace and mercy. I have sinned against You in thought, word and deed. And I cannot free myself from this condition. Therefore, I take refuge in Your loving-kindness; and I ask for Your forgiveness. We ask for Your forgiveness.

P. Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for you and for His sake He forgives you. As a called and ordained servant of the Lord, and on His behalf, I say to you, "You are forgiven." In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

(Please sit)

FIRST READING *Isaiah 29:11-19*

¹¹The vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed. When men give it to one who can read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed." ¹²And when they give the book to one who cannot read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot read."

¹³And the Lord said:

"Because this people draw near with their mouth
and honor me with their lips,
while their hearts are far from me,

and their fear of me is a commandment taught by men,

¹⁴therefore, behold, I will again
do wonderful things with this people,
with wonder upon wonder;

and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish,
and the discernment of their discerning men shall be hidden."

¹⁵Ah, you who hide deep from the LORD your counsel,
whose deeds are in the dark,
and who say, "Who sees us? Who knows us?"

¹⁶You turn things upside down!

(continued...)

Shall the potter be regarded as the clay,
that the thing made should say of its maker,

"He did not make me";

or the thing formed say of him who formed it,

"He has no understanding"?

¹⁷Is it not yet a very little while
until Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field,
and the fruitful field shall be regarded as a forest?

¹⁸In that day the deaf shall hear
the words of a book,
and out of their gloom and darkness
the eyes of the blind shall see.

¹⁹The meek shall obtain fresh joy in the LORD,
and the poor among mankind shall exult in the
Holy One of Israel.

L. Here ends the first reading.

SECOND READING *Hebrews 12:1-3*

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

³Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

L. Here ends the second reading.

(Please stand)

GOSPEL READING *Mark 7:1-13*

¹When the Pharisees gathered to [Jesus], with some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem, ²they saw that some of his disciples ate with hands that were defiled, that is, unwashed. ³(For the Pharisees and all the Jews do not eat unless they wash their hands, holding to the tradition of the elders, ⁴and when they come from the marketplace, they do not eat unless they wash.

(continued...)

And there are many other traditions that they observe, such as the washing of cups and pots and copper vessels and dining couches.) ⁵And the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, "Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat with defiled hands?" ⁶And he said to them, "Well did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written,

"This people honors me with their lips, but their heart is far from me; ⁷in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men."

⁸You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men."

⁹And he said to them, "You have a fine way of rejecting the commandment of God in order to establish your tradition! ¹⁰For Moses said, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' ¹¹But you say, 'If a man tells his father or his mother, Whatever you would have gained from me is Corban' (that is, given to God)— ¹²then you no longer permit him to do anything for his father or mother, ¹³thus making void the word of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And many such things you do."

P. Here ends the reading of the Gospel.

STATEMENT OF FAITH *Apostles' Creed*

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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

(Please sit)