

FOURTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 18



Completely Dependent

The Penitent's Posture

September 6, 2020

AS WE GATHER

“Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” Jesus’ disciples asked. Our Lord responded by welcoming a child into His midst. “Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.” Children are highly valued by our gracious God because they are completely dependent. On their own, they have nothing, yet they need everything. This is true for all of us in our relationship with God! On our own, we have only our sinful, broken lives and are unable to please God and fulfill His commands. Yet, in Jesus Christ, we possess everything we need! Forgiveness of sins and the guarantee of life forever with God are freely given to those who turn from their sin and receive the forgiveness earned by our crucified and risen Savior. In Jesus, we are, like children, completely dependent. We have nothing to offer, yet everything we need is ours to receive from the gracious hands of our Savior.

✘ PREPARATION ✘

Loving Father, how glorious to know that the Lord Jesus is our living Head and we thank You, that Christ is the Head in our midst. As we gather together, hungry for an encounter with You, eager to hear Your Word, with other brothers and sisters, to pray and praise and worship You. Open our eyes and ears to the presence of Your Holy Spirit. May the seeds of Your Word scattered among us this morning fall on fertile soil. May they take root in our hearts and lives, and produce an abundant harvest of good words and deeds. O God, how we long to be more child-like in our attitude, with the sort of faith that trusts You like a child, and whose heart is ever open towards You. Teach us, Lord, to live in purity of heart and gentleness of spirit, so that Jesus may be reflected through us, to those with whom we come in contact today. Lead and guide all our intercessions and prayers - our conversation and communion with others, both individually or corporately. May all we say and do, both individually and corporately be honouring to You. This we ask in His name and for His glory, AMEN.

WELCOME TO GOD'S HOUSE... God alone is our refuge and hope, our shelter and protection. From our very first breath to our last, God's love and compassion never fails. So, come, lift your voices in praise to God. Bear witness to God's acts of mercy and love. Proclaim God's glory to all who will listen. We hope that you will be blessed today by the fellowship you received, and that you experienced the love of God and the warmth of His saving grace. We extend the hand of friendship so that we can connect with you, for you are so valuable to the Lord and very precious in His sight.

Praise Worship -

Ms. Angela Henderson

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 92:1-2*

Pastor: It is good to give thanks to the LORD,

People: to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

Pastor: to declare Your steadfast love in the morning,

People: and Your faithfulness by night.

Pastor: The Most High God gathers us to praise His name and declare His love together!

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 32:1*

Pastor: Lord God, You promise grace and every blessing to all who come before You and repent of their sins. Hear us now as we, Your humble children, bring our prayers before You.

In silent prayer, we confess our sins to the Lord, seeking His cleansing forgiveness.

Pastor: Most merciful Father,

People: we come before You and admit our sinfulness. In our thoughts, words, and actions, we have failed to do what Your Word demands. We have not honored You fully with our lives, nor have we loved one another as You have first loved us. In the name of our loving Savior Jesus Christ, we ask for Your forgiveness. Because our Savior humbled Himself for our sake upon the cross, enable us in true humility to receive the remission You promise to Your repentant children. Amen.

Pastor: “Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven; whose sin is covered.” God the Father has taken your sins and laid them upon our humble Savior Jesus Christ. Because of Christ’s sacrifice, God does not count your sins against you. He has taken them away! He remembers them no more! He preserves and delivers you as His child forever! As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

☩ **WORD** ☩

INTROIT *Psalm 51:10-12*

Pastor: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

People: **and renew a right spirit within me.**

Pastor: Cast me not away from Your presence,

People: **and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.**

Pastor: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

People: **and uphold me with a willing spirit.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God, our gracious and loving Father, we are Your dependent children. Although we in no way deserve Your goodness, You freely offer Your grace to all who turn to You.

People: **Grant us faith to trust in Your Son, who humbled Himself for our salvation.**

Pastor: We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 33:7–9* (The watchman warns the wicked to turn from his way.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SOLO - Ms. Angela Henderson

GRADUAL *Psalm 34:9, 19 alt.*

Leader: Fear the LORD, you His saints,
for those who fear Him lack nothing!

People: **Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD delivers him out of them all.**

EPISTLE *Romans 13:1–10* (Love is the fulfilling of the law.)

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE *Matthew 5:3*

Leader: Alleluia. Blessed are the poor in spirit,

People: **for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Alleluia.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 18:1–20* (Jesus calls the children of God to
humility and repentance.)

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

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

(The Gospel is read.)

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

SOLO - Ms. Angela Henderson

SERMON

SOLO - Ms. Angela Henderson
(We Bring Our Tithes & Offering To The Lord)

CREED

Nicene Creed

People:

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and as incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Leader:

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

For all the children of God, the Holy Christian Church, that we proclaim the salvation of Christ wherever we are and to whomever we meet, let us pray to the Lord.

People:

Father, we depend on You as we share the Good News.

Leader:

For the living out of our vocations, that no matter our station in life or what calling we have been given, that we faithfully represent our Savior with lives of humility and faith, let us pray to the Lord.

People:

Father, we depend on You as we serve You with our lives.

Leader: For all children, that they grow daily in the wisdom of the Lord, and for all parents and those who work to care for children, that they be guided in their important service of love, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Father, we depend on You as we live as Your children.

Leader: For all public servants who selflessly serve others, both those who serve locally and those in positions throughout the world, that they would entrust their lives into the protecting care of their Maker, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Father, we depend on You for Your protection.

Leader: For all who suffer in heart, mind, and body, [*especially . . .*], that they with patience and faith receive the healing care You offer, let us pray to the Lord.

People: Father, we depend on You for Your healing touch.

Leader: For these concerns and for every unspoken prayer that is on our hearts and minds, that our gracious God would hear and answer us, let us pray to the Lord,

People: Father, we depend on You for everything. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

✘ SACRAMENT ✘

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. *[Colossians 3:1]*

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. *[Psalm 136]*

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

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. As Your dependent children, we have nothing to offer to make ourselves right with You. Yet, in the cleansing blood of Jesus, we receive Your mercy and forgiveness, full and free. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS (Music) "Holy, Holy, Holy [TLH 242 Sts. 1]

1. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty! Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee; Holy holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in Three Persons, blessed Trinity!

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20;*

PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. *1 Corinthians 11:26*
People: **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.** *Revelation 22:20*

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
People: **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray.

O God the Father, we thank You for the forgiveness and renewal of life You have given us in the precious body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ. Because we depend on You for everything, grant us Your Holy Spirit that we be sent forth to declare the wonders of our Savior to the world He died to save; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION *Psalm 92:1–2*

Pastor: It is good to give thanks to the LORD,

People: to sing praises to Your name, O Most High;

Pastor: to declare Your steadfast love in the morning,

People: and Your faithfulness by night.

Pastor: The Most High God now sends us out to praise His name and declare His love wherever we go!

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

People: Amen.

SOLO **Ms. Angela Henderson**