

## TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST – OCTOBER 13, 2024



We often ask God to do things for us and provide us with blessings, but we fail to live according to his will and his ways. There is a response that emerges in our lives out of faith and obedience to Christ, but it is a costly one. A life centered in Christ is one that seeks to care for others, to provide for those in need, and to set aside our worldly desires. Only when we give up what is most dear do we find true life.

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### A WARM WELCOME TO OUR GUEST

- ◆ You are here by God's calling and we extend Christ's hospitality to you this day.
- ◆ All who believe in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior are welcome to join in communion today.
- ◆ Restrooms and a nursery are located in the backside hallway. Look for the horseshoe cross.

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▼ = SIT ▲ = STAND

MUSICIAN: RUBY NEURATH

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

MUSICAL PRELUDE - Ruby Neurath

▲ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION (Spoken)

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)

Most merciful God, **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**

By the mercy of God we are united with Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise every morning to serve Him.

**Amen**

▲ HYMN "JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE"

**I am weak but thou art strong: Jesus, keep me from all wrong;  
I'll be satisfied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.** *Chorus*

**Through this world of toil and snares, if I falter, Lord, who cares?  
Who with me my burden shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.** *Chorus*

**When my feeble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;  
Guide me gently, safely o'er to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore.** *Chorus*

*Chorus:* **Just a closer walk with thee, grant it, Jesus, is my plea;  
Daily walking close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.**

▲ GREETING

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

▲ LITANY Adapted from Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;

**I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me.**

I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.

**Yet you desired faithfulness even in the womb; you taught me wisdom in that secret place.**

Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

**Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me.**

We worship you dear LORD. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen**

▲ **EZEKIEL 13:1-8, 22-23** (p. 831 in pew Bible)

▲ **1 TIM 4:6-16** (p. 1178 in pew Bible)

▼ KCJAM/CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

▲ The Holy Gospel from the 14<sup>th</sup> Chapter of Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.** (Spoken)

▲ **MATTHEW 14:13-21** (p. 974 in pew Bible)

▲ The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.** (Spoken)

▼ MESSAGE - **Know God**

▲ HYMN - "SEEK YE FIRST"

# Seek Ye First 42

*Seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. Matt. 6:33*

*Optional Descant*

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia,

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God And His righ - teous - ness,  
2. Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you, Seek and ye shall find,

Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

And all these things shall be add - ed un - to you— Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!  
Knock and the door shall be o - pened un - to you— Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

▲ APOSTLES' CREED (Spoken)

**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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

▼ PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE

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

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

▼ OFFERING PRAYER (Spoken)

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, maker of all things.

**Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

▲ OUR RESPONSE (Sung)

**Praise God from who all blessings flow. Praise Him all creatures here below.  
Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts. Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen**

▲ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

▲ LORD'S PRAYER

**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**

▲ AGNUS DEI (Sung)

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.**

▼ DISTRIBUTION OF THE HOLY SACRAMENT

(If you prefer grape juice to the wine, please let the one serving you know.)

▲ COMMUNION BLESSING

▲ POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (Spoken)

**Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

▲ BENEDICTION (Spoken)

May the God of peace fill you with all joy and peace in believing. So that by the power of The Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

▲ SENDING SONG "AMAZING GRACE" LBW #448

▲ DISMISSAL (Spoken)

Grow in faith! Love God. Serve others. Share Christ. **Impact the world!**

POSTLUDE

10/13/24

Pastor Dave Stier

Know God

Grow in faith! Love God. Serve others. Share Christ & Impact the world!

- **Be cautious about adopting ideas, philosophies, and world views that come from sources other than Jesus.**

Questions to consider:

- **What are the followers of Jesus supposed to be seeing as we look at our world?**
- **What are the followers of Jesus supposed to be hearing as we listen to this world?**
- **When we've seen it and heard it, what are we supposed to be doing about it?**

What Jesus sees when he looks at this world:

- **He sees a world of \_\_\_\_\_.**
- **He sees a world full of people who are \_\_\_\_\_.**
- **He sees the world as a place where He and others can \_\_\_\_\_ to the truth.**
- **He sees the world as a \_\_\_\_\_.**
- **He sees how dearly He \_\_\_\_\_ the people of Earth.**

Jesus challenged his disciples to be followers who see what Jesus sees, hear what Jesus hears, feel what Jesus feels, and understand what Jesus understands.

Grow in faith! Love God. Serve others. Share Christ & Impact the world!

### What a path towards Jesus can look like

- The men and women furthest from faith are those who desperately need us and they don't even know it. You can call them people who are **apathetic toward spiritual truth**.
- But people change. **God changes people and awakens in them** a curiosity about spiritual things. They take one step down this path – one step closer to Jesus.
- But of course, curiosity doesn't get anybody into the Kingdom of God. At some point, they have to start investigating the truth. **Non-believers actively investigating the claims of Jesus**. They get invited to hang out with a group of people and it eventually turns into something like a Bible study.
- They never intended to get into a Life Group, but there they are! And you know what happens from there? God does His thing and they become a joyous and passionate follower of Jesus!
- **Faith is born. Through the cross of Jesus Christ**, they entered into the Kingdom of God, and became worshippers of God through Jesus Christ – or at least they started learning to be worshippers.
- That step led them more deeply into the Body of Christ, where they started **building relationships with other believers and started partnering with other believers who could help them live for Jesus**.
- Somewhere along the line, a Biblical truth hits them really hard. **"We belong to God and everything we have belongs to God, as well."** They began being much more intentional in using their time, talents and resources for God rather than merely for themselves. They began gladly sharing their resources as God directed them. **That's a big step.**

