

Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 15, 2019

10:30 A.M.

*\* Please stand in body or in spirit*

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WE APPROACH GOD

Prelude

Introit "O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord" *Hopson*

\* Call To Worship *(Please stand and join responsively)*

Leader: God looks on humankind to see if any are wise. Who is seeking after God above all else?

**People: We look to Jesus Christ for wisdom and truth; we reach out to be strengthened for service.**

Leader: The winds of God blow among us to winnow and cleanse. They sweep through our midst in judgment.

**People: Have mercy on us, O God, and wash away our sin. Do not let your wrath burn against us.**

Leader: Remember your promises to us, O God. Create in us clean hearts and renewed spirits.

**People: We seek to know you and to grow in understanding. Confront us here, and light our way out of the void.**

\* Prayer of Invocation

\* Hymn No. 12 "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" *St. Denio*

Prayer of Confession *(The congregation uniting)*

**Most merciful God, we have acted foolishly. Our deeds often deny you. Our plans often do not include you. Our greed is robbing this fruitful land, and creating a desert. We have turned aside from the way you have commanded. The world is full of suffering people, whom we ignore. We grumble and complain, criticizing those who embody your love for all people.**

**O God, you are the only hope for us; please hear our prayer and save us.**

Silent Prayer of Confession *(Please take time to be personal and specific...)*

Words of Assurance

Choral Response "Hear Thou Our Prayer" *Hopson*

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Responsive Reading *(Please join responsively)*

Psalm 14

Fools say in their hearts, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they do abominable deeds; there is no one who does good.

**The LORD looks down from heaven on humankind to see if there are any who are wise, who seek after God. They have all gone astray, they are all alike perverse; there is no one who does good, no, not one.**

Have they no knowledge, all the evildoers who eat up my people as they eat bread, and who do not call upon the LORD?

**There they shall be in great terror, for God is with the company of the righteous. You would confound the plans of the poor, but the LORD is their refuge.**

O that deliverance for Israel would come from Zion!

**When the LORD restores the fortunes of his people, Jacob will rejoice; Israel will be glad.**

Scripture Readings

I Timothy 1:12-17

N.T., pg. 184

Luke 15:1-10

N.T., pg. 67

Anthem

"Awake, Awake to Love and Work"

*Thiman*

Parable Time

Sermon

Pastor Lovelace / Elder Pritchard, et. al.

"Faith for the Future: Loving the Lost"

WE RESPOND TO GOD

\* Affirmation of Faith *(Unison)* From the Theological Declaration of Barmen (1934)

**Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear, and which we have to trust and obey, in life and in death.**

**As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness, is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world, for a free, grateful service to his creatures.**

**The Christian Church is the congregation of the brethren, in which Jesus Christ acts presently, as the Lord in Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit. As the church of pardoned sinners, it has to testify in the midst of a sinful world, with its faith as with its obedience, with its message as with its order, that it is solely his property, and that it lives and wants to live solely from his comfort and from his direction, in the expectation of his appearance. Amen.**