

*THE GOSPEL RESPONSE

Pastor: The Gospel of the living Christ.

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*GLORIA PATRI

No. 70

CELEBRATION THROUGH PROCLAIMING

SERMON

“Ambition”

Pastor Russel W. Shuluga

CELEBRATION THROUGH COMMITMENT

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

THE LORD’S OFFERING

OFFERTORY

*DOXOLOGY

No. 95

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

God of love and service, we thank you for loving and serving us through the grace of your Son, Christ Jesus. Bless these gifts, that others may be loved and served in our giving. Bless our lives that we may love and serve one another as you have loved and served us. In your loving name, we pray. Amen.

CELEBRATION THROUGH SENDING

*BENEDICTION

Pastor: We go now to serve....

People: **welcoming every child we meet,**

Pastor: loving every person we encounter,

People: **servicing by all the means we can,**

Pastor: in all places we can,

People: **for however long we can.**



*BENEDICTION RESPONSE

“Danish Amen”

No. 898

*RECESSIONAL HYMN

“Lord, You Have Come to the Lakeshore”

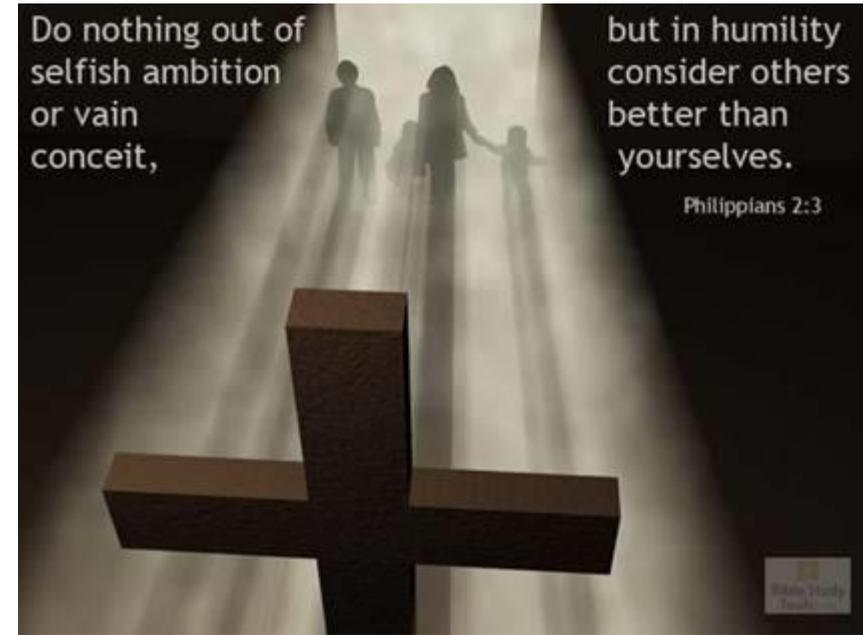
No. 344, vs. 1, 2, & 3

*POSTLUDE

“Praise To The Lord, The Almighty”

J.G. Walther

WE TAKE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST INTO THE WORLD!



Mifflin Avenue United Methodist Church

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Welcome Visitors: We are pleased you have chosen to worship with us today. If you have questions concerning the service, please feel free to ask a greeter or a person sitting near you. If you do not have a permanent church home, please consider joining us.

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2021
17th SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
ORDER OF WORSHIP – 11:15 AM**

CELEBRATION THROUGH CENTERING

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Jesus, Priceless Treasure”

J.G. Walther

(As the prelude begins, you are invited to center yourself for worship)

GATHERING WORDS

Pastor: Come, you who are seeking and searching: there's a community here that's incomplete without you!

People: In the name of the welcoming One, we gather.

Pastor: Come, you who are hungry and thirsty: there's a table here that's incomplete without you!

People: In the name of the welcoming One, we feast.

Pastor: Come, you who are weary and worried: there's a hope here that's incomplete without you!

People: In the name of the welcoming One, we pray.

Pastor: Come, you who are lonely and lost: Christ's body is incomplete without you!

People: In the name of the welcoming One, we come and find that all are welcome here!

HYMN "We Are the Body of Christ" TFWS #2227 (Sing 2 times)

One heart, one Spirit, one voice to praise you, we are the body of Christ.

One goal, one vision: To see you exalted. We are the body of Christ.

And to this we give our lives to see you glorified.

CELEBRATION THROUGH ADORATION

*OPENING HYMN & BRINGING FORTH THE LIGHT "Christ for the World We Sing" No. 568

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: Into our lives littered with distraction; into our bickering, pointless and petty,

People: The Christ comes among us, lifting up the littlest and least of us with open arms.

Pastor: We are reminded to welcome the child.

People: And by doing so, we welcome God.

Pastor: God reminds us to welcome the stranger.

Pastor: And by doing so, we welcome angels.

Pastor: God comes reminding us to welcome the least, the last, and the lost.

People: And by doing so, we welcome God's kin-dom.

Pastor: When the last are first, and the lowly are lifted; when the persecuted are blessed, and the weak are strengthened; when we lose our lives and give them away to love;

People: God comes among us as the welcoming One, embracing us with open arms.

Pastor: When we welcome a child and see the face of God,

People: God comes among us teaching us to be servants of all.

Pastor: Draw near to God, and God will draw near to you.

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One, you welcome us into your wide embrace of grace, again and again. As you open your arms to hold our hearts with tender loving-kindness, you invite us to do the same. Open our ears as you call us again to welcome the stranger, the foreigner, the lonely, the outcast, and the weak. Open our hearts to welcome each precious child, just as you have welcomed us. Amen.

INTROIT "Near to the Heart of God" No.472

CHILDREN'S MOMENTS

CELEBRATION THROUGH CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

CALL TO CONFESSION

GENERAL CONFESSION

Servant God, humble our hearts, even when we are proud. Call us back to service and love, even when our focus is lost in the pursuit of power and prestige.

Remind us to be childlike in faith and to be faithful as your children. Cover us with your grace and unify us in your peace, that we may embrace your wisdom from above and your humility from below. In your mercy and grace, we pray. Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

With the nourishment of Christ the Living Water, we are refreshed and made new. In God's mercy and grace, we are again claimed as God's children and called into God's service.

HYMN OF ASSURANCE "Because He Lives" No. 364, v. 1

CELEBRATION THROUGH THE WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Pastor: O Lord, open our eyes, our ears, our minds, and our hearts.

People: that we might behold wondrous things out of your word.

CHORAL RESPONSE "Thy Word" No. 601 (Refrain only)

"Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path"

FIRST LESSON James 3: 13-4:3, 7-8a

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION "Alleluia" No. 186

"Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia"

*GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Lord be with you,

People: And also with you.

Pastor: A reading from the Gospel of St. Mark

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

*THE GOSPEL IS READ Mark 9:30-37