

Pentecost 15, September 5, 2021, **Order of Worship**

**Announcements, Concerns, Joys**

**Call to Worship**      **Psalm 146** (Congregation reads even verses)      pew Bible p. 980

**\*Confession and Forgiveness** (from *Sundays & Seasons*, 2020 Augsburg Fortress, p. 258)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose teaching is life, whose presence is sure, and whose love is endless. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart. God, our comforter, **like lost sheep, we have gone astray. We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity. We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression. We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed. Free us from our sin, gracious God. Listen when we call out to you for help. Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves. Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. By the gift of grace in Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous. Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all our sins. **Amen.**

**\*Gathering Hymn**      ***Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*** (1,2,4)      LBW 543, ELW 858, HP 14

**\*Kyrie**      LBW p. 78 (read)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

**\*Prayer of the Day** **Gracious God, throughout the ages you have transformed sickness into health, and death into life. Open us to the power of your presence, and make us a people ready to proclaim your promises to the whole world, through Jesus Christ, our healer and Lord. Amen.**

**Children's Time**

**A reading from Isaiah, the 35<sup>th</sup> chapter (35:4-7a)**      pew Bible, p. 1112

These verses are a word of hope to the exiles in Babylon. Isaiah 34 portrays God's vengeance on Edom, Israel's age-old enemy. This makes the path from Babylon to Zion safe for the exiles' return. The desert itself will flow with water to give drink to the returning exiles (*Sundays & Seasons*, 2020, p. 261, Augsburg Fortress).

[After the reading: "The word of the Lord." **"Thanks be to God!"**]

**A reading from James, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter (2:1-17)**

pew Bible, p. 1881

Faithful Christians do not show partiality to the rich and powerful of the world, especially at the expense of the poor and weak. Likewise, faith does not pay mere lip service to God's will. Instead, a living Christian faith expresses itself in acts of compassion and mercy for those in need (*Sundays & Seasons*, 2020, p. 261, Augsburg Fortress).

[After the reading: "The word of the Lord." **"Thanks be to God!"**]

**\*Alleluia!** *Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!*

**\*Gospel**      **Mark 7:24-37**

Before the gospel: ***Glory to you, O Lord!***

After the gospel: ***Praise to you, O Christ!***

**Sermon**

**\*Hymn of the Day**    ***Whatever God Ordains Is Right*** (1,2,4)      LBW 446, ELW 776, HP 1790

**\*The Apostle's Creed**      LBW p. 85

**\*Celebration of Holy Communion**

**\*The Lord's Prayer**

**\*Benediction**

People of God, you are Christ's body, bringing new life to a suffering world. The holy Trinity, one God, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**\*Sending Hymn**      ***Where Cross the Crowded Ways*** (1,2,6)      LBW 561, ELW 879, HP 44

**\*Dismissal** Go in peace. The living Word dwells in you! **Thanks be to God!**