**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 5, 2021**



*“But she answered him, ‘Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.’"*

 *(Mark 7:28)*

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**Proper 18 (23)**

**September 5, 2021**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship** (*spoken responsively*)

L: Praise the Lord, O my soul

**P: I will praise the Lord as long as I live**

L: Put your trust in God the creator

**P: I will not trust in mortals who were dust from the beginning**

L: Happy are those whose help is the Lord God Almighty

**P: I will rejoice in the Lord who is my strength and righteousness**

L: The Lord watches over the stranger and upholds the orphan

**P: The Lord will reign for all generations**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” #147 (vv. 1,4-5,7)

**O for a thousand tongues to sing**

**My great Redeemer's praise**

**The glories of my God and King**

**The triumphs of his grace!**

**He speaks, and list’ning to His voice**

**New life the dead receive**

**The mournful, broken hearts rejoice**

**The humble poor believe**

**Hear Him, ye deaf, His praise, ye dumb**

**Your loosened tongues employ**

**Ye blind, behold your Savior come**

**And leap, ye lame, for joy**

**My gracious Master and my God**

**Assist me to proclaim**

**To spread thro' all the earth abroad**

**The honors of Thy name**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Generous God, we give thanks to you for your kindness toward us. Thank you for loving us all and calling us all your children. Help us to recognize our kin and to give our lives to peaceful family relationships with all creation. Free us from our self-centeredness and from fear of strangers so that we may meet the Savior in broken humanity – even our own. Incline our hearts to you, as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples…

**P: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father​**

**And to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.​**

**As it was in the beginning​**

**Is now and ever shall be.​**

**World without end. ​**

**Amen. Amen.​**

**First Scripture Lesson:** Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold. The rich and the poor have this in common: the LORD is the maker of them all.

 Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of anger will fail. Those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor.

 Do not rob the poor because they are poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate; for the LORD pleads their cause and despoils of life those who despoil them.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: God is even-handed in distributing justice and in the day of judgement will not play favorites. We confess that we are not so fair in our dealings. Be upright in heart, so our spirits may grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified…

**P:** **Lord, all-powerful and ever-giving God, I thank you, for even though I am a sinner, your unprofitable servant, you look on me because of the kindness of your mercy. Not because of my worth, but because of your love, you have fed me with the body and blood of your son, Lord Jesus Christ. My hope is in this sacrifice to bring forgiveness and salvation, not condemnation or punishment. May it purify me from evil ways and put an end to my evil passions. May it bring me charity and patience, humility and obedience, and growth in the power to do good. May it unite me more closely with my sisters and brothers in Christ, and to you, the one true God, and lead me safely through death to everlasting happiness with you. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 84

**P: Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever. As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people, from this time on and forevermore. For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, so that the righteous might not stretch out their hands to do wrong. Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts. But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways the LORD will lead away with evildoers. Peace be upon Israel!**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Jesus, Lover of My Soul” #636 (vv.1-4)

**Jesus, lover of my soul**

**Let me to thy bosom fly**

**While the nearer waters roll**

**While the tempest still is high**

**Hide me, O my Savior, hide**

**Till the storm of life is past**

**Safe into the haven guide**

**O receive my soul at last**

**Other refuge have I none**

**Hangs my helpless soul on thee**

**Leave, ah! leave me not alone**

**Still support and comfort me**

**All my trust on thee is stayed**

**All my help from thee I bring**

**Cover my defenseless head**

**With the shadow of thy wing**

**Thou, O Christ, art all I want**

**More than all in Thee I find**

**Raise the fallen, cheer the faint**

**Heal the sick and lead the blind**

**Just and holy is Thy name**

**I am all unrighteousness**

**False and full of sin I am**

**Thou are full of truth and grace**

**Plenteous grace with Thee is found**

**Grace to cover all my sin**

**Let the healing streams abound**

**Make and keep me pure within**

**Thou of life the fountains art**

**Freely let me take of Thee**

**Spring Thou up with haven guide**

**O receive my soul at last**

 **Second Scripture Lesson****:** James 2:1-17

 My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favoritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Have a seat here, please,” while to the one who is poor you say, “Stand there,” or, “Sit at my feet,” have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts?

 Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonored the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

 You do well if you really fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

 But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. For the one who said, “You shall not commit adultery,” also said, “You shall not murder.” Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law.

 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. For judgment will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

 What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill,” and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that?

 So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

**Communion**

**MINISTER: THE INVITATION**

You who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, who live in love and peace with

your neighbors and who intend to lead a new life, following the commandments

of God and walking in His holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy

sacrament to your comfort; and humbly kneeling, make your honest confession

to Almighty God.

**IN UNISON: THE GENERAL CONFESSION**

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all

people, we confess that we have sinned, and we are deeply grieved as we

remember the wickedness of our past lives. We have sinned against You, Your

holiness and Your love, and we deserve only Your indignation and anger.

We sincerely repent, and we are genuinely sorry for all wrongdoing and every

failure to do the things we should. Our hearts are grieved, and we acknowledge

that we are hopeless without Your grace.

Have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for the sake of your son, our Savior, Jesus

Christ, who died for us.

Forgive us.

Cleanse us.

Give us strength to serve and please You in newness of life and to honor and praise

Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MINISTER: THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

O Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who with great mercy has promised

forgiveness to all who turn to You with hearty repentance and true faith, have

mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from our sins, make us strong and faithful in

all goodness and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**CONGREGATION: THE COLLECT**Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom

no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts, by the inspiration of the

Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name,

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MINISTER: THE SANCTUS**

It is always right and proper, and our moral duty, that we should at all times and

in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the inhabitants of heaven, we

honor and adore Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying,

**CONGREGATION: THE SANCTUS (CONTINUED)**

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts!

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord, most high. Amen

**MINISTER: THE PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

We do not come to this Your table, O merciful Lord, with self-confidence and

pride, trusting in our own righteousness, but we trust in Your great and many

mercies. We are not worthy to gather the crumbs from under Your table. But You,

O Lord, are unchanging in Your mercy and Your nature is love; grant us, therefore,

God of mercy, God of grace, so to eat at this Your table that we may receive in

spirit and in truth the body of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and the merits of His

shed blood, so that we may live and grow in His likeness and, being washed and

cleansed through His most precious blood, we may evermore live in Him and He

in us. Amen.

**MINISTER: THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS**

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who gave in love Your only Son, Jesus Christ,

to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption, who by His sacrifice, offered

once for all, did provide a full, perfect, and sufficient atonement for the sins of the whole world,

we come now to Your table in obedience to Your Son, Jesus Christ, who in His holy gospel

commanded us to continue a perpetual memory of His precious death until He comes

again. Hear us, O merciful Father, we humbly ask, and grant that we, receiving this bread and this cup,

as He commanded and in the memory of His passion and death, may partake of His most blessed body and blood.

In the night of His betrayal, Jesus took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to

His disciples, saying, “Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

In like manner, after supper He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink of

this, all of you, for this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of

sins; do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” Amen.

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting

life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed upon Him in your heart, by faith with

thanksgiving.

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting life.

Drink this in remembrance that Christ’s blood was shed for you and be thankful.

**MINISTER: THE BENEDICTION**

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love

of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and

the Holy Spirit, be yours now and forever. Amen.

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: Mark 7:24-37

 From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet.

 Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophoenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, “Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.”

 But she answered him, “Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.”

 Then he said to her, “For saying that, you may go--the demon has left your daughter.” So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

 Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue.

 Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.

 Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, “He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.”

**Sermon**

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response:** “Morning Has Broken” (vv.1-3)

**Morning has broken**

**Like the first morning**

**Blackbird has spoken**

**Like the first bird**

**Praise for the singing**

**Praise for the morning**

**Praise for them, springing**

**Fresh from the Word**

**Sweet the rain’s new fall**

**Sunlit from Heaven**

**Like the first dewfall**

**On the first grass**

**Praise for the sweetness**

**Of the wet garden**

**Sprung in completeness**

**Where his feet pass**

**Mine is the sunlight**

**Mine is the morning**

**Born of the one light**

**Eden saw play**

**Praise with elation**

**Praise every morning**

**God’s re-creation**

**Of the new day**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:Our God in Christ Jesus was full of compassion. He healed, He forgave, He restored the people. Let this mind be in you as you steward these gifts. Minister to the community, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host**

**Praise Father Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Amen.**

**\*Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn**: “Open My Eyes, That I May See” #461 (vv.1-4)

**Open my eyes, that I may see**

**Glimpses of truth you have for me**

**Place in my hands the wonderful key**

**That shall unlock and set me free**

**Silently now, on bended knee**

**Ready I wait your will to see**

**Open my eyes, illumine me**

**Spirit divine**

**Open my ears, that I may hear**

**Voices of truth Thou sendest clear**

**And while the wave-notes fall on my ear**

**Ev’rything false will disappear**

**Silently now, on bended knee**

**Ready I wait your will to see**

**Open my ears, illumine me**

**Spirit divine**

**Open my mouth and let me bear**

**Gladly the warm truth ev’rywhere**

**Open my heart and let me prepare**

**Love with Thy children thus to share**

**Silently now, on bended knee**

**Ready I wait your will to see**

**Open my mouth, illumine me**

**Spirit divine**

**Open my mind, that I may read**

**More of Thy love in word and deed**

**What shall I fear while yet Thou dost lead**

**Only for light from Thee I plead**

**Ready I wait your will to see**

**Open my mind, illumine me**

**Spirit divine**

**\*Benediction**

L: As you have been fed, go feed the hungry. As you have been forgiven, go forgive. As you have been restored, mend the broken. Take the blessing which you have received and share, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.