

**OCTOBER 4, 2020**

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Welcome and Announcements

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP (Responsive):

Pastor: Sometimes we despair as we follow Jesus because it seems that the righteousness God expects from us is unattainable.

People: But the risen Christ has made us his own; therefore, we can put aside our fear, leave our doubts behind, and strain toward the goal ahead that the Lord has in mind for us.

Pastor: The things we have not accomplished in life and the past actions we regret doing are behind us.

People: It is time to look ahead and focus on the future goals that God is setting before us.

Pastor: With the help of the risen Christ, we will strive to be faithful and follow wherever our Savior leads us. Let us worship God.

#HYMN #10            *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty*

#PRAYER OF INVOCATION (Unison):

Holy God, we acknowledge that it is impossible to be righteous in your eyes by our own ability, or to press on to win the heavenly prize to which you have called us using our strength alone. Without your empowering and enabling, we will always struggle in vain to achieve the spiritual perfection Jesus had. But with your Holy Spirit at work in us, we have hope; so we move forward with faith that the goal of having our lives transformed into the likeness of Christ is not totally beyond our reach. Come to us now and bless us, dear God, so that today will be the beginning of a journey that draws us ever closer to you and nearer to complete obedience to your will. We ask these things in the name of Jesus our Savior, who taught his disciples to pray this way, saying:

#PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR (Unison)

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

#GLORIA PATRI (Unison):

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.

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 21:33-46 and Philippians 3:4b-14

SERMON MESSAGE: *Righteous in God's Eyes*

Rev. Gagnon

PRAYERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Prayer Requests  
Silent Prayer  
Pastoral Prayer

BLESSING OF OUR OFFERINGS

#Prayer of Dedication (Unison):

Spirit of the risen Christ, it is only by your power and inspiration that we are able to give generously of our treasure here on earth. Receive our offerings as a sign of our willingness to surrender all that we have and all that we are for your saving purposes here on earth. Through our gifts, may others be touched by your love and their lives be transformed by your grace, so that they may run beside us and press ahead on the road toward genuine holiness and righteousness. Amen.

HYMN #314 *As We Gather at Your Table (vss. 1 and 3)*

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

Opening words

Invitation to the Lord's Supper

The Great Thanksgiving

Receiving of the Bread and Cup

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING (Unison)

Lord, thank you for the nourishment you have given us through the sacred gift of the Bread of Life and the Cup of salvation. Having partaken of your sacramental meal, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, and with the strength given to us through this food from heaven, enable us to serve you faithfully and live devotedly as citizens of your Kingdom, always guided by Jesus' way of sacrificial love. We ask this in the name of Christ our Savior. Amen.

BENEDICTION (Responsive):

Pastor: With determination and faith, let us press ahead toward the heavenly prize God wants to give us.

People: Just as the Apostle Paul did, we yearn for the day when we will achieve the ultimate goal of perfect union with Christ, our Savior.

Pastor: The future stretches out before us, and each day is its own gift as we experience the joy of deepening our relationship with the Lord.

People: As we continue our journey of growing in righteousness and Christian love, let us make Jesus known to the world with all the energy that is in us.

Pastor: Go in peace, to love with the compassion of Christ, to live in the power of Christ, and to serve with the commitment of Christ.

DISMISSAL