

July 6 & 7, 2024

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

IN OUR WORSHIP TODAY ... we welcome Rev. Phil Merten of Institutional Ministries. Institutional Ministries is a nonprofit organization established in 1901 that carries out behind-the-walls ministry throughout the Midwest, by shining the light of Jesus' love in correctional care, extended care, health care, and caring support.

OPENING HYMN

"Son of God, Eternal Savior"

Hymn 729

Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us, hallows all our human race,
you our head, who, throned in glory, for your own will ever plead:
fill us with your love and pity, heal our wrongs and help our need.

Bind us all as one together in your Church's sacred fold,
weak and healthy, poor and wealthy, sad and joyful, young and old.
Is there want or pain or sorrow? Make us all the burden share.
Are there spirits crushed and broken? Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.

As you, Lord, have lived for others, so may we for others live.
Freely have your gifts been granted; freely may your servants give.
Yours the gold and yours the silver, yours the wealth of land and sea;
we but stewards of your bounty held in solemn trust will be.

Son of God, eternal Savior, source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us hallows all our human race,
by your praying, by your willing that your people should be one,
grant, O grant our hope's fruition: here on earth your will be done.

INVOCATION

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

+ CONFESSION OF SINS AND ABSOLUTION +

- M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.
- C: **Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**
- M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

+ PRAYER AND PRAISE +

LORD, HAVE MERCY

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: **Christ, have mercy.**

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: **Amen.**

M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

HYMN (No Introduction) (Sung)

“O Lord, Our Lord”
Hymn 939

Refrain

O Lord, our Lord, how glorious is your name in all the earth.

Almighty God, merciful Father, you crown our life with your love.
You take away our sin; you comfort our spirit;
you make us pure and holy in your sight.
You did not spare your only Son,
but gave him up for us all. *Refrain*

O Son of God, eternal Word of the Father,
you came to live with us;
you made your Father known;
you washed us from our sins in your own blood.
You are the King of glory; you are the Lord! *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lord God, your Son came among us not to be served but to serve and to give his life for the sins of the world. Lead us by his love to serve those to whom the world offers no comfort and little help. Through us give hope to the hopeless, love to the unloved, peace to the troubled, and rest to the weary; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

2 Chronicles 33:1–16

Manasseh was twelve years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem fifty-five years. He did evil in the eyes of the LORD, following the detestable practices of the nations the LORD had driven out before the Israelites. He rebuilt the high places his father Hezekiah had demolished; he also erected altars to the Baals and made Asherah poles. He bowed down to all the starry hosts and worshiped them. He built altars in the temple of the LORD, of which the LORD had said, “My Name will remain in Jerusalem forever.” In both courts of the temple of the LORD, he built altars to all the starry hosts.

He sacrificed his children in the fire in the Valley of Ben Hinnom, practiced divination and witchcraft, sought omens, and consulted mediums and spiritists. He did much evil in the eyes of the LORD, arousing his anger.

He took the image he had made and put it in God's temple, of which God had said to David and to his son Solomon, "In this temple and in Jerusalem, which I have chosen out of all the tribes of Israel, I will put my Name forever. I will not again make the feet of the Israelites leave the land I assigned to your ancestors, if only they will be careful to do everything I commanded them concerning all the laws, decrees and regulations given through Moses." But Manasseh led Judah and the people of Jerusalem astray, so that they did more evil than the nations the LORD had destroyed before the Israelites.

The LORD spoke to Manasseh and his people, but they paid no attention. So the LORD brought against them the army commanders of the king of Assyria, who took Manasseh prisoner, put a hook in his nose, bound him with bronze shackles and took him to Babylon. In his distress he sought the favor of the LORD his God and humbled himself greatly before the God of his ancestors. And when he prayed to him, the LORD was moved by his entreaty and listened to his plea; so he brought him back to Jerusalem and to his kingdom. Then Manasseh knew that the LORD is God.

Afterward he rebuilt the outer wall of the City of David, west of the Gihon spring in the valley, as far as the entrance of the Fish Gate and encircling the hill of Ophel; he also made it much higher. He stationed military commanders in all the fortified cities in Judah.

He got rid of the foreign gods and removed the image from the temple of the LORD, as well as all the altars he had built on the temple hill and in Jerusalem; and he threw them out of the city. Then he restored the altar of the LORD and sacrificed fellowship offerings and thank offerings on it, and told Judah to serve the LORD, the God of Israel.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 87C



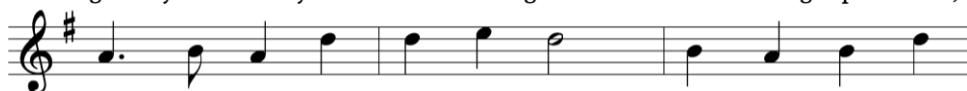
1 Glo - rious things of thee are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y
 2 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters spring - ing from e -
 3 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - 'ring, see the cloud and
 4 Sav - ior, since of Zi - on's cit - y I thro' grace a



of our God; he whose word can - not be bro - ken formed thee
 ter - nal love well sup - ply thy sons and daugh - ters and all
 fire ap - pear, for a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring, show - ing
 mem - ber am, let the world de - ride or pit - y, I will



for his own a - bode. On the Rock of A - ges found - ed,
 fear of want re - move. Who can faint while such a riv - er
 that the LORD is near. Thus they march, the pil - lar lead - ing,
 glo - ry in thy name. Fad - ing is the world - ling's plea - sure,



what can shake thy sure re - pose? With sal - va - tion's
 ev - er flows their thirst t'as - suage— grace, which, like the
 light by night and shade by day, dai - ly on the
 all his boast - ed pomp and show; sol - id joys and



walls sur - round - ed, thou may'st smile at all thy foes.
 LORD, the giv - er, nev - er fails from age to age?
 man - na feed - ing which he gives them when they pray.
 last - ing trea - sure none but Zi - on's chil - dren know.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 2:5–11

If anyone has caused grief, he has not so much grieved me as he has grieved all of you to some extent—not to put it too severely. The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient. Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him.

Another reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything. Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Mark 5:1–20

They went across the lake to the region of the Gerasenes. When Jesus got out of the boat, a man with an impure spirit came from the tombs to meet him. This man lived in the tombs, and no one could bind him anymore, not even with a chain. For he had often been chained hand and foot, but he tore the chains apart and broke the irons on his feet. No one was strong enough to subdue him. Night and day among the tombs and in the hills he would cry out and cut himself with stones.

When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and fell on his knees in front of him. He shouted at the top of his voice, “What do you want with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? In God’s name don’t torture me!” For Jesus had said to him, “Come out of this man, you impure spirit!”

Then Jesus asked him, “What is your name?”

“My name is Legion,” he replied, “for we are many.” And he begged Jesus again and again not to send them out of the area.

A large herd of pigs was feeding on the nearby hillside. The demons begged Jesus, “Send us among the pigs; allow us to go into them.” He gave them permission, and the impure spirits came out and went into the pigs. The herd, about two thousand in number, rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned.

Those tending the pigs ran off and reported this in the town and countryside, and the people went out to see what had happened.

When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. Those who had seen it told the people what had happened to the demon-possessed man—and told about the pigs as well. Then the people began to plead with Jesus to leave their region.

As Jesus was getting into the boat, the man who had been demon-possessed begged to go with him. Jesus did not let him, but said, “Go home to your own people and tell them how much the Lord has done for you, and how he has had mercy on you.” So the man went away and began to tell in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him. And all the people were amazed.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise be to you, O Christ!**

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Love in Christ Is Strong and Living”

Hymn 726

Love in Christ is strong and living, binding faithful hearts in one;
love in Christ is true and giving, may his will in us be done.

Love is patient and forbearing, clothed in Christ’s humility,
gentle, selfless, kind, and caring, reaching out in charity.

Love in Christ abides forever, fainting not when ills attend;
love, forgiving and forgiven, shall endure until life’s end.

SERMON

“God Gives the Healing – Let’s Give the Homecoming.”

Mark 5:1-20

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.

Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

If you prefer to give online, the code at the right will take you to our Online Giving page. We invite our online givers to join in our offering with an "I Give Online" card in the pew racks.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Almighty God, we acknowledge with thanks that all we have and enjoy is a gift from your gracious hand. We come before you today in heartfelt appreciation for our nation and its people.

We thank you for enabling us to worship you in freedom and to serve you without fear.

You have enriched us with the bounties of farm and factory, the beauty of forest and mountain, and the marvels of medicine and science.

For all these blessings, we praise and glorify you.

Look with favor upon our nation and preserve our cherished liberties.

Enable our leaders to govern with wisdom, honesty, courage, and justice.

Protect those who serve in the armed forces and those who maintain peace and safety in our communities.

Give us willingness to obey our nation's laws and to work for the common good.

Keep our financial institutions secure and our economy strong. Bless our fields that they may produce abundant harvests. Guard us from calamities of nature and accident and spare our land from the ravages of disease and epidemic.

Teach us not to worry but to cast all our cares on you.

Strengthen the homes of our nation. By your Spirit lead husbands and wives to love each other, parents to nurture their children, young adults to assume responsibility, and children to show respect.

Lead the citizens of our land to honor the useful foundations of society.

Care for those who are sick or have been injured. Calm those who are disappointed and depressed. [Especially bless... *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Provide guidance to those who care for people in trouble or in need.

Lead us to provide help when we can and to pray at all times.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

To you, O Lord, we bring our thanks and our requests.

Hear our prayers for Jesus' sake. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE SACRAMENT

(Guests, please see our communion practice on page 2.)
(Gluten-free wafers are available; ask Pastor.)

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Sanctus* (No Introduction) (Sung)

Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory.

You are my God and I will exalt you.

I will give you thanks for you have become my salvation.

Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts. The whole earth is full of your glory.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD *Agnus Dei* (No Introduction) (Sung)

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us your peace. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

“Take and Eat”

Hymn 676

Soloist Singing Verses

Congregation Singing Refrain

Refrain

Take and eat, take and eat, this is my body given up for you.

Take and drink, take and drink, this is my blood given up for you.

I am the Word that spoke and light was made; I am the seed that died to be reborn;

I am the bread that comes from heav’n above;

*I am the vine that fills your cup with joy. **Refrain***

I am the way that leads the exile home; I am the truth that sets the captive free;

I am the life that raises up the dead;

*I am your peace, true peace my gift to you. **Refrain***

I am the Lamb that takes away your sin;

I am the gate that guards you night and day;

you are my flock: you know the shepherd’s voice;

*you are my own: your ransom is my blood. **Refrain***

I am the cornerstone that God has laid; a chosen stone and precious in his eyes;

you are God’s dwelling-place, on me you rest;

*like living stones, a temple for God’s praise. **Refrain***

I am the light that came into the world; I am the light that darkness cannot hide;

I am the Morning Star that never sets;

*lift up your face, in you my light will shine. **Refrain***

*I am the first and last, the Living One; I am the Lord who died that you might live;
I am the bridegroom, this my wedding song;
you are my bride, come to the marriage feast. **Refrain***

CLOSING PRAYER

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

"Oh, How Good It Is"

Hymn 731

Oh, how good it is when the fam'ly of God
dwells together in spirit, in faith and unity.
Where the bonds of peace, of acceptance and love
are the fruits of his presence here among us.

Refrain

So with one voice we'll sing to the Lord,
and with one heart we'll live out his word,
till the whole earth sees the Redeemer has come,
for he dwells in the presence of his people.

Oh, how good it is on this journey we share
to rejoice with the happy and weep with those who mourn.
For the weak find strength, the afflicted find grace
when we offer the blessing of belonging. *Refrain*

Oh, how good it is to embrace his command
to prefer one another, forgive as he forgives.
When we live as one we all share in the love
of the Son with the Father and the Spirit. *Refrain*

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Turning Obstacles into Opportunities

I want you to know, brothers and sisters that what has happened to me has really served to advance the gospel, so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to all the rest that my imprisonment is for Christ. Philippians 1:12-13

If you have ever tried to follow Paul throughout his missionary journeys, you know how dizzying it can feel. His travels in the Book of Acts can leave you breathless. He is constantly on the move, going from place to place.

It would seem that the worst thing that could ever happen to someone like Paul is to be stuck in the same house for two years. At the conclusion of Acts, that is exactly how we find him (Acts 28:30-31).

You can just imagine the devil's response to Paul's house arrest: "Now I've shut him up! That'll get rid of him!" Quite the opposite happened! It was during Paul's imprisonment that he penned some of his most noteworthy letters under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Paul was a different kind of prisoner. The soldiers who guarded him may have noticed he was not like other prisoners who cursed, screamed, agitated others, and insisted on his innocence. Instead, Paul had joy and purpose, and he just wouldn't stop going on about Christ Jesus!

As a result of Paul's daily ministry among these soldiers, word began to spread throughout the entire palace guard: The reason this guy is a prisoner is because of Jesus. They got the point: "He's chained to us because he's chained to this man Jesus Christ." It appears that some of these guards not only heard the gospel, but they were led to faith. When they were redeployed throughout the Roman Empire, the gospel would advance to various places through them! Paul's imprisonment might have been seen as an obstacle, but God proved it to be an opportunity.

Our work at Institutional Ministries is no different. Chaplains and volunteers meet people behind various walls who come from all walks of life. Many of them feel stuck. People who are chained to struggles, become connected to us, as we are connected to Christ. In turn, many of them now share the love of Christ with others!

The Lord turns obstacles to opportunities.

We don't need to wait for all the circumstances in life to line up before we can talk about Jesus. You might be a Bible study leader in a county jail or prison, visiting with someone who is hospitalized, a humble prayer warrior, or a generous heart who offers financial support. Whether you realize it or not, you are never far from someone who needs to know the amazing story of God's grace. What might be seen as obstacles God can turn to opportunities. We join with you to thank God for the many partnership opportunities we share to connect more people to Christ.

Please consider joining us in this effort. Help us reach out to those behind the walls with the message of Jesus' triumphant victory over the grave.

Pastor Edward Fry, Director of Ministry