

**SUNDAY SCRIPT  
FIFTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2023 8: 15 AM**

**WELCOME AND GREETING**

**OPENING PRAYER AND INVOCATION**

P: We begin our worship in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

**OPENING SONG**

**“Friend Of God”**

**Who am I that you are mindful of me  
That you hear me, when I call  
Is it true that you are thinking of me  
That you love me Its amazing**

**Who am I that you are mindful of me  
That you hear me, when I call  
Is it true that you are thinking of me  
That you love me Its amazing**

**I am a friend of God, I am a friend of God  
I am a friend of God He calls me friend**

**Who am I that you are mindful of me  
That you hear me, when I call  
Is it true that you are thinking of me  
That you love me Its amazing**

**Its amazing Its amazing**

**I am a friend of God, I am a friend of God  
I am a friend of God He calls me friend**

**I am a friend of God, I am a friend of God  
I am a friend of God He calls me friend**

**God almighty, Lord of glory You have called me Friend  
God almighty, Lord of glory You have called me Friend  
God almighty, Lord of glory You have called me Friend**

**I am a friend of God, I am a friend of God  
I am a friend of God He calls me friend**

**I am a friend of God, I am a friend of God  
I am a friend of God He calls me friend**

SongSelect #3991651  
Michael Gungor and Israel Houghton  
CCLI # 549168

**PSALM 32**

P: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**C: Blessed is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

P: For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

**C: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

P: I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;

**C: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

P: Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;

**C: Surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him. You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

**CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

**C: O Lord, who could stand?**

P: But with You there is forgiveness;

**C: Therefore You are feared** [Ps 130:3-4]

P: Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and before one another.

**C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. Have mercy on us.**

P: In Your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and things left undone,

**C: Forgive us our sins against You and our sins against one another.**

*(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)*

P: Uphold us by Your Spirit so that we may live and serve You in newness of life,

**C: Help us to live faithful and obedient lives to the honor and glory of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**C: The LORD is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.**

P: He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.

**C: For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him;**

P: As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.

**C: As a father has compassion on His children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him. [Ps 103:8-13]**

**SONG**

**“God So Loved”**

**Come all you weary, Come all you thirsty  
Come to the well that never runs dry  
Drink of the water, Come and thirst no more**

**Come all you sinners, Come find His mercy  
Come to the table He will satisfy  
Taste of His goodness, Find what you're looking for**

**For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us  
Whoever believes in Him will live forever**

**Bring all your failures, Bring your addictions  
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross  
Jesus is waiting there, With open arms, See His Open Arms**

**For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us  
Whoever believes in Him will live forever**

**The power of hell forever defeated  
Now it is well I'm walking in freedom  
For God so loved God so loved the world**

**Praise God praise God  
From whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him praise Him  
For the wonders of His love**

**Praise God praise God**

**From whom all blessings flow  
Praise Him praise Him  
For the wonders of His love**

**For God so loved the world that He gave us His one and only Son to save us  
Whoever believes in Him will live forever**

**The power of hell forever defeated  
Now it is well I'm walking in freedom  
For God so loved God so loved the world**

**Bring all your failures, Bring your addictions  
Come lay them down at the foot of the cross  
Jesus is waiting there, God So Loved the World**

Song Select # 7138599  
Andrew Bergthold, Ed Cash, Franni Cash, Martin Cash, and Scott Cash  
CCLI # 549168

**OLD TESTAMENT READING: Ezekiel 33:7–9**

<sup>7</sup>“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE READING: Romans 13:1–10**

<sup>1</sup>Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. <sup>2</sup>Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup>For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, <sup>4</sup>for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup>Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. <sup>6</sup>For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. <sup>7</sup>Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

<sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are

summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**HOLY GOSPEL:                      Matthew 18:1–20**

<sup>1</sup>At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” <sup>2</sup>And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them <sup>3</sup>and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>5</sup>“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, <sup>6</sup>but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

<sup>7</sup>“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! <sup>8</sup>And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. <sup>9</sup>And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

<sup>10</sup>“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>11</sup>For the Son of Man came to save the lost. <sup>12</sup>What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? <sup>13</sup>And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. <sup>14</sup>So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

<sup>15</sup>“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup>But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector.

<sup>18</sup>Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

R: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day He rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

**SERMON “The Mysteries of Forgiveness”** Matthew 18:15-20 / Ezekiel 33:7-9  
*(Sermon outline on back of Bulletin)*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **OFFERING**

### **OFFERING MUSIC**

**“In Jesus Name**  
*(Soloist: Emily Allen)*

**I speak the name of Jesus over you  
In your hurting, in your sorrow, I will ask my God to move  
I speak the name 'cause it's all that I can do  
In desper - ation I'll seek heaven and pray this for you**

**I pray for your healing, that circumstances would change  
I pray that the fear inside would flee in Jesus name  
I pray that a breakthrough would happen to - day  
I pray mira - cles over your life in Jesus name  
In Jesus name**

**I speak the name of all authori - ty  
Declaring blessings, ev'ry promise He is faithful to keep  
I speak the name no grave could ever hold  
He is greater, He is stronger, He's the God of possible**

**I pray for your healing, that circumstances would change  
I pray that the fear inside would flee in Jesus name  
I pray that a breakthrough would happen to - day  
I pray mira - cles over your life in Jesus name  
In Jesus name**

**Come be - lieve it, come re - ceive it  
Oh, the power of His Spirit is now forever yours  
Come be - lieve it, come re - ceive it  
In the mighty name of Jesus, all things are possible**

**I pray for your healing, that circumstances would change  
I pray that the fear inside would flee in Jesus name  
I pray that a breakthrough would happen to - day  
I pray mira - cles over your life in Jesus name  
In Jesus name**

**I pray for re - vival, for restoration of faith  
I pray that the dead will come alive In Jesus name, in Jesus name**

Song Select#7186326

David Spencer, Ethan Hulse, Jeff Pardo, and Katy Nichole

CCLI # 549168

## **GIRL SCOUT AWARDS PRESENTATION**

*(Kalissa Killian – Gold Award)  
(Janessa Grady – Bronze Award)*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **BLESSING**

## **CLOSING SONG                   “Great is Thy Faithfulness”**

**Great is Thy faithfulness O God my Father  
There is no shadow of turning with Thee  
Thou changest not Thy compassions they fail not  
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be**

**Summer and winter and springtime and harvest  
Sun moon and stars in their courses above  
Join with all nature in manifold witness  
To Thy great faithfulness mercy and love**

**Beginning to end my life in Your hands  
Great great is Your faithfulness  
You never let go this one thing I know  
Great great is Your faithfulness**

**Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth  
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide  
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow  
Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside  
Beginning to end my life in Your hands  
Great great is Your faithfulness  
You never let go this one thing I know  
Great great is Your faithfulness**

**O Great great is Your faithfulness  
Great is Thy faithfulness great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand has pro - vided  
Great is Thy faithfulness Lord unto me**

**Great is Thy faithfulness great is Thy faithfulness  
Morning by morning new mercies I see  
All I have needed Thy hand has pro - vided  
Great is Thy faithfulness Lord unto me**

Song Select#7109317

Mike Weaver, Thomas Obediah Chisholm, William Marion Runyan  
CCLI # 549168