

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service for the Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Sept. 3, 2023

Pre-Service Music: *Lord of the Wind and the Sea* - Lloyd Larson

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *For Communion* - Gilbert M. Martin

Welcoming Song #406: *We Are Standing on Holy Ground* (stand)

Call to Worship

God calls us each by name as we gather on holy ground.

We come to this place, seeking to know the great I AM.

Let us worship God.

Prayer of the Day

O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world. Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and give us strength to follow your commands, Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Opening Hymn #378: *We Wait the Peaceful Kingdom* verse 1, 2, 4 (please stand)

Call to Confession

The apostle Paul tells us:

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

For the times we have failed to do this,

let us confess to God.

Prayer of Confession

Sometimes it sounds too hard: deny ourselves, take up our crosses, lose our lives? Forgive us, Savior, but we'd rather you do it for us. Forgive us, Christ, but we are overwhelmed with what you ask of us. We long to see you come in glory, but fear the road we must take. Have mercy on our weakness. Be patient with our stumbling. Do not leave us behind, even when we are slow to follow, and lead us in your ways of peace. Amen

Declaration of Pardon

Christ does not abandon us, but died for us, was raised for us, and loves us still.

**This is the good news that prevails! In Jesus’ life, death,
and resurrection, we are forgiven!**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Glory Be to the Father #581:

Hymn of the Day #833: *O Love That Will Not Let Me Go* vs. 1, 2, 3 (seated)

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

Prayers of the People

Worship leader will lead the prayers. Merciful God. **Receive our prayer.**

Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

God of life, your words are the joy at the heart of your church. Draw the seeker to you, place messages of hope and healing in the mouths of your witnesses, and open your children to your truth when we stumble.

Merciful God. **Receive our prayer.**

Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings (please stand)

Offering #711: *Lord of All Good* vs. 1 and 3

Prayer of Dedication and Illumination:

God of good gifts, receive these and all of our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Through the grace of God we have gifts in abundance and share them to support the work of the church in this place. We do not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from your mouth, make us hunger for this heavenly food, that it may nourish us today in the ways of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

Scriptures for the Day

Old Testament Lesson: Jeremiah 15:15 - 21

Epistle Lesson: Romans 12: 9 - 21

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 16: 21 - 28

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: *What Are You Prepared to Do?* Jonathan Kimball

Communion Hymn #533: *In the Singing* (*seated*)

Invitation to the Table and Prayer of Thanksgiving

This is the joyful feast of the people of God!
People will come from north and south, from east and west,
to sit at table in the kingdom of God.

According to Luke, when our risen Lord was at table with his disciples, he took the bread, blessed it, and broke it and gave it to them.

Their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. This is the Lord's table. Our Savior invites those who trust in him to share the feast that he has prepared.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right and our great delight to praise you, O God.

We thank you for your steadfast love in spite of our human sin. We join with the heavenly choirs and the faithful of every time and place to sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest!

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest!

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and give it to his disciples saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way Jesus took the cup saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.

Together we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising
you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

According to Christ's commandment:

**We remember his death,
we proclaim his resurrection,
we await his coming in glory.**

Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine, that the bread we break and the cup we bless may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. **Amen**

Let us pray:

**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, forever. Amen**

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Jesus said: I am the bread of life.

Jesus said: I am the vine, you are the branches.

Come to me and never be hungry;

believe in me and never thirst.

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God. *(take the communion)*

