



Service of Worship for the Lord's Day August 16, 2026 Ordinary 20

Prayers written by Kellan Sarles.

PRELUDE "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens" Dale Wood

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We gather today in a place of brick and mortar and yet we declare it holy ground.

People: We are only jars of clay. Nothing about us is holy or eternal.

Pastor: Yet, through the mystery of the Holy Spirit, Christ joins us, sees us, and redeems us – here and now.

People: With the assurance of grace, we cast our sins on Him and raise our voices in praise!

HYMN #410 "God is Calling Through the Whisper"

PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Guide: Holy God, though life challenges and disappoints us, we cling to that which does not change and does not disappoint.

People: With thankful hearts, we praise you for the goodness in the world - the kindness, generosity, sympathy, and friendship. Forgive us when we neglect to thank You for the many people who went before us and those who walk with us now. For parents and grandparents, for teachers, pastors, mentors, and coaches. We thank you for quietly preparing us and standing by us when challenges and setbacks eclipse our peace. We give you thanks for the assurance that nothing - not even death - can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.

Guide: We painfully admit to being poor disciples. We do not spend enough time in your Word; we do not consistently behave as followers of Christ. We do not treat others, in person or otherwise, as we would like to be treated.

People: Help us, Lord, to keep our eyes on You, walk in your shadow, and love one another with the selfless love that comes only through You. In silence, we unburden our hearts to God.

- Silent Confessions -

Guide: Together, we pray the prayer Christ taught us: ***"Our Father ..." The Lord's Prayer" (debts/debtors) p. 35 in hymnal***

PROMISE OF THE GOSPEL

Guide: Jesus said, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." This is the good news that can be trusted: that all who earnestly seek spiritual strength and wisdom will receive it. Friends, believe the good news!

CHORAL RESPONSE *(in unison)*

#582 "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

ANTHEM "Give Me Jesus" by Moses Hogan, performed by Stacie Armsworth

FAMILY SERMON Pastor Joseph

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Reader: If there are those here who have read the scriptures life-long and have yet to experience the hope, the power, or the comfort within them, then we lift up this prayer: Holy God, clear away the resistance, the confusion, the apathy or distraction in our minds. Settle us, engage us, and let us hear the Truth. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalms 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

2-3 He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

5 Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

All: This is the Word of the Lord. Amen.

John 10:1-10

1-2 I assure you that whoever doesn't enter into the sheep pen through the gate but climbs over the wall is a thief and an outlaw. The one who enters through the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

3 The guard at the gate opens the gate for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

4-5 Whenever he has gathered all of his sheep, he goes before them and they follow him, because they know his voice. They won't follow a stranger but will run away because they don't know the stranger's voice."

6-8 Those who heard Jesus use this analogy didn't understand what he was saying. So Jesus spoke again, "I assure you that I am the gate of the sheep. All who came before me were thieves and outlaws, but the sheep didn't listen to them.

9-10 I am the gate. Whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief enters only to steal, kill, and destroy. I came so that they could have life - indeed, so that they could live life to the fullest.

All: Thanks be to God! Amen.

SERMON "I Am the Gate" Pastor Joseph

THE APOSTLE'S CREED

Leader: Family of faith, children of God, what do we believe?

All: We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;

Leader: who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified dead, and buried;

All: he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

Leader: from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

All: We believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN #803 "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: With gratitude we come to God with our worries, fears, and disappointments, knowing that God sees the suffering of His children and wills that we should minister to one another.

People: Holy God, the world has strayed far from the Eden of creation, the pace of change and the loss of innocence is so dramatic - we wonder that You have not given up on us. Sadly, the Church has not always called out what is broken, it has not stood up for the disenfranchised, it has not fed and healed and taken risks for the innocent. But You call us to stand up, and do what is right!

Pastor: You call us to translate compassion into action. To bless the sick, the meek, the poor, those who mourn. You know that in giving, we receive, in forgiving, we may be forgiven, and in healing we are healed. With Your help and power, we ask all this as we pray...

- Silent prayer for others and ourselves. A candle is lit. -

Pastor: Make us one in you, O God, that we might, with each passing day, grow more and more into your likeness. We pray in your holy name. Amen.

OFFERTORY "The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want" Wilbur Held

****OFFERING (in unison) "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending"***
God, Whose giving knows no ending, from Your rich and endless store,
Nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom, Costly cross, grave's shattered door:
Open wide our hands in sharing, as we heed Christ's ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving You by loving all.

DEDICATION (unison)

Lord, we give these gifts, asking that you add to them your blessing. May they touch lives in need, and may they sustain your work through this church and in our lives. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #187 "Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us"

BENEDICTION Pastor Joseph

DOXOLOGY (*in unison*) #606

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.

POSTLUDE "The God of Abraham Praise" Michael Burkhardt

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Scripture is often in conversation with itself on how to include those who are "outside" the covenant community. The overall picture of scripture, though, is that all peoples are brought in to God's household. Every person is a child of God regardless of whether they are a member of a church. How do we balance scripture's teaching to care for one another as members of a church family with its teaching to care for those who are "outsiders" as well?

MONDAY Acts 15:1-21

TUESDAY Isaiah 43:8-13

WEDNESDAY Proverbs 24:1-12

THURSDAY Psalm 67

FRIDAY Galatians 3:26-29

SATURDAY Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

SUNDAY Matthew 15:21-28