

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost  
September 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m.

“Our help is in the name of the Lord the Maker of heaven and earth.”

Psalm 124:8

### ***Greeting and Welcome***

### ***Prelude Music***

### ***Call to Worship***

We gather together in praise and worship of our Faithful God, because our help and hope rests always in the Lord our God.

**We bring our praises and thankful responses to our Saving God.**

Blessed be the Lord our God, who is our security and home, and whose mercy and grace free us from all that traps us.

**Blessings, reverent honor and glory be to the Lord our God.**

We come together to praise and worship our All-Powerful God, because we are confident of God’s generous care over us.

**Our eternal trust is in the name of the Lord our God, who is our Maker, our Savior, and our timeless Home. Amen.**

***Opening Hymn of Praise*** “To God Be the Glory” UMH #98. Text: Fanny J. Crosby  
Music: William H. Doane. *Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303. All rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

### **1. To God be the glory, great things he hath done!**

**So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life-gate that all may go in.**

### **Refrain:**

**Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
let the earth hear his voice!  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord,  
let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father thru Jesus the Son,  
and give him the glory, great things he hath done!**

**2. O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
to every believer the promise of God;  
the vilest offender who truly believes,  
that moment from Jesus a pardon receives.**

**(Refrain)**

3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,  
and great our rejoicing thru Jesus the Son;  
but purer, and higher, and greater will be  
our wonder, our transport, when Jesus we see.  
(Refrain)

#### *Prayer of Confession*

O God, today we confess our pride. We confess our desire to choose who should know you and who should not. We confess the ways we have looked down upon those who do not worship just as we do. We confess our inclination to exclude some from being a part of our community. Father, forgive us. We have not loved as you love -- extending love and grace to all. Give us hearts that desire for all mankind to know you. Give us boldness and humility as we share your love with all we meet. For your glory and in your name, we pray. Amen.

#### *Words of Assurance*

#### *Blessing of Prayer Shawls*

*Hymn:* "Christ for the World We Sing" UMH #568. Words: Samuel Wolcott, 1813-1886  
Music: Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303.  
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1. Christ for the world we sing,  
the world to Christ we bring,  
with loving zeal;  
the poor, and them that mourn,  
the faint and overborne,  
sin-sick and sorrow-worn,  
whom Christ doth heal.

2. Christ for the world we sing,  
the world to Christ we bring,  
with fervent prayer;  
the wayward and the lost,  
by restless passions tossed,  
redeemed at countless cost,  
from dark despair.

3. Christ for the world we sing,  
the world to Christ we bring,  
with one accord;  
with us the work to share,  
with us reproach to dare,  
with us the cross to bear,

for Christ our Lord.

**4. Christ for the world we sing,  
the world to Christ we bring,  
with joyful song;  
the newborn souls, whose days,  
reclaimed from error's ways,  
inspired with hope and praise,  
to Christ belong.**

**Scripture Reading** Mark 9:38-50 (NIV)

“Teacher,” said John, “we saw someone driving out demons in your name and we told him to stop, because he was not one of us.”

“Do not stop him,” Jesus said. “For no one who does a miracle in my name can in the next moment say anything bad about me, for whoever is not against us is for us. Truly I tell you, anyone who gives you a cup of water in my name because you belong to the Messiah will certainly not lose their reward.

“If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them if a large millstone were hung around their neck and they were thrown into the sea. If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life maimed than with two hands to go into hell, where the fire never goes out. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than to have two feet and be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell, where

“the worms that eat them do not die,  
and the fire is not quenched.’

Everyone will be salted with fire.

“Salt is good, but if it loses its saltiness, how can you make it salty again? Have salt among yourselves, and be at peace with each other.

The Word of God for the people of God

**Thanks be to God**

**Sermon** “The Lord of Kindness” Rev. Matthew B. Sergent

**Response to the Word**

For whoever is not against us is for us (*Mark 9:40*). Who is for us? Jesus’ answer:

**Anyone who extends a helping hand, who shelters the homeless, who cares for the earth, who feeds the hungry, teaches the ignorant, stands for justice, gives a cup of water in my name is all for us, and belongs to me. Jesus, all we want is to belong to you.**

*Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer*

***Sending Forth Hymn*** "O God of Every Nation" UMH #435. Words: William W. Reid, Jr. 1958. Music: Welsh hymn melody: harm. by David Evans, 1927. *Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-733303. All rights reserved. Used with permission under CCLI License #11306163.*

**1. O God of every nation,  
of every race and land,  
redeem the whole creation  
with your almighty hand.  
Where hate and fear divide us  
and bitter threats are hurled,  
in love and mercy guide us,  
and heal our strife-torn world.**

**2. From search for wealth and power  
and scorn of truth and right,  
from trust in bombs that shower  
destruction through the night,  
from pride of race and station  
and blindness to your way,  
deliver every nation,  
eternal God, we pray.**

**3. Lord, strengthen all who labor  
that we may find release  
from fear of rattling saber,  
from dread of war's increase.  
When hope and courage falter,  
Lord, let your voice be heard;  
with faith that none can alter,  
your servants undergird.**

**4. Keep bright in us the vision  
of days when war shall cease,  
when hatred and division  
give way to love and peace,  
till dawns the morning glorious  
when truth and justice reign,  
and Christ shall rule victorious**

o'er all the world's domain.

***Benediction***

***Postlude***

*Call to Worship, based on Psalm 124. Joan Stott, "The Timeless Psalms," RCL Psalm Year B, 2012.*

*Prayer of Confession, Homiletics Online, September 30, 2012.*

*Response to the Word, written by Anne Osdieck, The Center for Liturgy Sunday Website of Saint Louis University.*