

Oct. 18, 2020

Heritage Presbyterian Church  
29<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Sacrament of Holy Communion

10:00 a.m.

### As We Prepare for Worship

Even the darkest night will end and the sun will rise.

~ *Victor Hugo*

### Gathering Words

Psalm 135:1-3, 5 (NRSV)

Praise the LORD!

#### **Praise the LORD's name!**

All you who serve the LORD, praise God! All you who stand in the LORD's house – who stand in the courtyards of our God's temple –

#### **Praise the LORD, because the LORD is good!**

Sing praises to God's name because it is beautiful!

**Yes, we know for certain that the LORD is great – we know our Lord is greater than all other gods.**

Let us praise the LORD!

### **Gathering Song** (*Please sing 2x with repeats each time.*) “Praise, Praise, Praise the Lord! #390

Praise, praise, praise the Lord! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia! (*repeat*)

Praise God's holy name. Alleluia! Praise God's holy name. Alleluia! (*repeat*)

### Call to Prayer

The Lord gathers us together, making us part of the household of God. Let us also come together in prayer.

### Prayer of Adoration and Confession

from Isaiah 5:1-7

Light of Life, we are the fruit of your creation. You sang a song of love over us from the beginning. You created a vineyard for us to live in: you dug it, cleared away its stones, and planted it with excellent vines. You were our tower of refuge in the midst of the vines.

**You expected your creation to yield good fruit, to fill your world with abundant goodness.**

But where you prepared the soil, we have built walls. Where you cleared away the stones, we have thrown them at one another. Where you planted excellent vines, we have sowed seeds of discord and injustice. Instead of finding refuge in you, we have held on tightly to the fleeting and imperfect illusions of protection this world values so highly.

**Saving God, once again we seek to be the image of you. We yield to your pruning so that we may bear the fruit of love, joy, and peace. We surrender to your will so that we may share your good fruit with the world. Amen.**

### **Words of Life**

John 15:5-7 (CEB)

Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, then you will produce much fruit. Without me, you can't do anything. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want, and it will be done for you."

**In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!**

### **The Peace**

### **A Reading from the Psalms**

Psalms 95:1-7 (NRSV)

- 1 O come, let us sing to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!
- 2 Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving;  
let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!
- 3 For the LORD is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.
- 4 In his hand are the depths of the earth;  
the heights of the mountains are his also.
- 5 The sea is his, for he made it,  
and the dry land, which his hands have formed.
- 6 O come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!
- 7 For he is our God,  
and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep of his hand.

### **Communion Hymn**

"Let Us Break Bread Together" #525

1 Let us break bread together on our knees; (on our knees)  
let us break bread together on our knees.

*Refrain:*

When I fall on my knees,  
with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

2 Let us drink wine together on our knees; (on our knees)  
let us drink wine together on our knees. (*Refrain*)

3 Let us praise God together on our knees; (on our knees)  
let us praise God together on our knees. (*Refrain*)

## **The Lord's Supper**

*Please bring out the elements for blessing.*

### **Welcome**

In our tradition, we don't celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on our knees. We receive the elements from the comfort of our chairs or in assembly-line fashion at the front of the sanctuary – or now, from where we sit in our homes or lawn chairs. Most would argue that the physical posture we take isn't as important as our heart posture.

But posture is less important when we have the ability to choose it. For those of us who can't walk up and receive the elements, it's not about comfort but practicality that we sit. And for many of us, if we were to kneel up here, we'd need help getting up. But no one forces us to kneel or bow down. Not here in this place of worship. Not in the other areas of our lives.

But that wasn't true for those who first sung these words. The choice of whether they stood or sat, knelt, or fell down, was not their own. Their bodies didn't belong to them. Their freedom to gather as we do was only at the will of others.

Yet gather they did.

And by their own will, they fell on their knees to receive in the bread and cup the promise of redemption that was elusive in everyday life. With humility (Lord, have mercy on me) they turned to the rising sun, knowing that salvation was true even in the midst of slavery and oppression. Let us give our thanks.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

God who redeemed Joseph from slavery and prison and your people Israel from slavery and oppression – you continue to hear the cries of the suffering and remember your covenant. Your loving kindness remains true from generation to generation. God in your faithfulness, we give you thanks.

Jesus who redeems our lives from the grip of death – you continue to save your people. Having set aside your privilege to walk with us in the messiness of the human condition, we seek to

follow your example. You showed that power is not about oppression but liberation. Jesus in your love, we give you thanks.

Holy Spirit who redeems the secular within us to make it sacred – you continue to work within believers and the Church to bring light to the world. You both encourage and convict us in truth. Spirit, in your advocacy, we give you thanks.

As you have in the past and will do until time ends, we pray, Holy Spirit, that you would make this cup and loaf more than what we set on the table or pull out of our purses. May they become the reality of our hope in you, our communion with Christ and one another.

As we prepare to break bread together, we first join our voices in the prayer, using the words each of us finds most familiar, saying: Our Father...

### **Invitation**

In order to be shared, the loaf must be broken. If it isn't, it does not fulfill its promise. And so, we break the bread and give thanks for it – for in its brokenness, we find wholeness.

The cup too, must be poured. One vessel is emptied, so the other might be filled. And from the cup, we share the juice – for in its pouring out, we find grace.

We do this again and again – as has been done in homes and secret rooms, castles and high cathedrals, in pews and at kneeling rails, in parking lots and patios – knowing that each time we do, we proclaim the Lord's death and resurrection until one day he comes again.

Regardless of whether we sit or stand, let us come with humbled hearts and trust in the rising sun.

### **Prayer After Communion**

#### *Joys and Concerns*

Loving and holy God, when the taste of cup and bread fade from our lips, remind our hearts to continue facing the rising sun. For it is in you that we find mercy. It is in you we have our hope. For this meal we have shared and the truth it represents, we give you thanks. Amen.

### **Sending Song**

“God Be with You till We Meet Again” #542

1 God be with you till we meet again;  
loving counsels guide, uphold you,  
with a shepherd's care enfold you:  
God be with you till we meet again.

2 God be with you till we meet again;  
unseen wings protecting hide you,  
daily manna still provide you:  
God be with you till we meet again

3 God be with you till we meet again;  
when life's perils thick confound you,  
put unfailing arms around you:  
God be with you till we meet again.

4 God be with you till we meet again;  
keep love's banner floating o'er you;  
smite death's threatening wave before you:  
God be with you till we meet again.

### **Benediction**