

Celebration of Worship

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 19, 2017

9:30 A.M.

We welcome you to worship. We are glad that you are here! Nursery and Preschool care is available if you need it. The Young and Young at Heart are welcomed to the front early on for a special time in the service. Please sign the Friendship Pads so that we can get to know you better, and join us for coffee in the Narthex after the service.

Thought for Reflection

“Dear God, I think about you sometimes, even when I’m not praying.” Elliot (age 5)

If holiness is a quality or condition of being at one with God, then thinking about it often is a good place to start!

We Gather for Worship

WELCOME AND GREETING

RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

PRELUDE *Praise His Greatness* Hayes

OPENING VERSES *Psalm 119:33-40* p. 494

CALL TO WORSHIP (responsively)

We are called to turn the other cheek,
so we will seek to be vulnerable in our lives of faith and service.

We are called to go the extra mile,
so we will walk with those around us in the journeys of hope as well as fear.

We are called to love those who make that so hard sometimes,
so we will rely on the One who loves us and ask God to fill us with that special grace.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

We Respond in Praise and Adoration

* *Please stand, if you are able*

* OPENING PRAISE *As the Deer
Shout to the Lord*
Praise Team

MINUTE FOR NEW BEGINNINGS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

God Speaks through the Word

WORDS FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

Message *The Holiness Code*

Prayer

(Children in Preschool through 5th Grade are excused for Sunday School.)

UNISON PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Merciful God, we confess that holiness is far easier to say and talk about than it is to do. Our words may sound pious and still mask attitudes of intolerance and judgment. Our concern for others is often shallow, swallowed up by our own self-interest. We resort to platitudes of compassion and care rather than modify our behavior in order to embrace those who are different or insignificant.

This is not holiness, and we confess our failures to you. We confess that we need your grace to see ourselves and the games we play. We need your power to change our attitudes and especially our actions. Ignite within us the passion and the audacity to be holy disciples of Jesus Christ in the midst of a world of sound bytes and rhetoric. Amen.

GOD’S GIFT OF GRACE AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: God knows our frailties and looks upon us with compassion and mercy.

People: We receive the gift of God’s forgiveness with joy and thanksgiving!

All: Alleluia and Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE

Through many dangers toils and snares, I have already come;
‘Tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *I Corinthians 3:10-11, 16-23* p. 927

GOSPEL LESSON *Matthew 5:38-48* p. 786

* HYMN *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty!* # 138

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18* p. 93

SERMON *HOLINESS: The Leviticus Lesson*

Rev. Dr. Lawrence J. De Vuyst

