

## **Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost November 8, 2015**

**Invitation to Worship** (For the Assisting Minister; also printed in the bulletin)

*Please lead the Invitation to Worship by being familiar with the text and looking up and, as needed, referring to the monitor screen at the rear of the room. We hope this example will help worshipers to also raise their heads and use the overhead screens at the front of the sanctuary.*

Say to the congregation,

*Please join me in the Invitation to Worship which you'll see on the screens in front and is a responsive reading from the book of Philippians quoting one of the earliest known hymns written and used by the Christian church.*

### **INVITATION TO WORSHIP from Psalm 145**

*Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise;  
his greatness no one can fathom.*

***One generation commends your works to another;  
they tell of your mighty acts.***

*The Lord is gracious and compassionate,  
slow to anger and rich in love.*

***The Lord upholds all who fall  
and lifts up all who are bowed down.***

*The Lord is trustworthy in all he promises  
and faithful in all he does.*

***The Lord is good to all;  
he has compassion on all he has made.***

### **Welcome (Joanie)**

- General welcome
- Re-Introduce change in Prayers of the People (New format started Sept. 27)
  - Written prayer slips are available; you may mark them Confidential if you want it shared with a pastor only.
  - The prayer slips will be shared with the pastors and the prayer team as you designate (They will not be specifically verbally included in today's prayers.)
  - The Assisting Minister will open the time of prayer with a general introduction and invitation to pray one's thanksgivings and concerns either silently or aloud.
  - The pastor will conclude the time of prayer.
  
- "After a time of silent reflection, we will continue in worship."

**PRAYERS of the PEOPLE** (Instructions for Assisting Minister, which are new as of Sept. 27)

**Sequence in worship:** *The ushers will bring forward the Communion elements and the offering plates. The offering plates will have any prayer requests that worshipers have written. The Assisting Minister (AM) and pastor will receive these from the ushers and hold them while the pastor prays, thanking God for both the monetary gifts and the prayer requests.*

*After the prayer, the AM and pastor will place the plates and Communion elements on the Communion Table/Altar and then the AM will introduce the Prayers of the People as he or she and the pastor stand behind the table.*

**Introduction/Instructions for the congregation:** *Say something like the following in your own words to introduce the prayers:*

- We are invited into a time of prayer to express our thanks, to pray for concerns of ourselves and others for the church, for the world and for those in need.
- We are invited to include our joys and thanksgivings, our sorrows and burdens as we pray either silently or aloud.
- If you pray aloud, please conclude your petition with the phrase, “Lord, in your mercy, to which we will all respond, “Hear our prayer.”

*Begin the time of prayer using these or similar words:*

- Lord, hear us as we offer you our joys and thanksgivings and the concerns of our hearts. . . *or*
- Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you taught us to pray, so we offer these petitions in his name. . . *or*
- God our Creator, guide us by your Holy Spirit, that these prayers may serve your will and show your love for the world. . . *or*
- Mighty God, whose Word we trust and whose Spirit enables us to pray, hear our requests as we pray them silently or aloud. . .

*Our petitions should include prayers for the Church universal and for TLPC; for community or local concerns; for peace and justice in the world and for those who govern; and for those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Please be prepared to pray for one of these areas if you do not hear it offered aloud by a TLPC worshiper. You of course may include additional prayers of your own during the time of open prayer.*

*The pastor will conclude the time of prayer.*

**FIRST READING** - *The background for our first reading from 2 Corinthians chapter 8 is that there is a severe famine in Jerusalem and the Apostle Paul urges the Corinthian churches to follow the Macedonian churches’ outstanding example of generous giving. Notice the spiritual qualities Paul describes in the lives of these Macedonian Christians.*

**2 Corinthians 8:1-5; 11b-13**

Now I want you to know, dear brothers and sisters, what God in his kindness has done through the churches in Macedonia. They are being tested by many troubles, and they are very poor. But they are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. For I can testify that they gave not only what they could afford, but far more. And they did it of their own free will! They begged us again and again for the privilege of sharing in the gift for the believers in Jerusalem. They even did more than we had hoped, for their first action was to give themselves to the Lord and to us, just as God wanted them to do....Give in proportion to what you have. Whatever you give is acceptable if you give it eagerly. And give according to what you have, not what you don't have. Of course, I don't mean your giving should make life easy for others and hard for yourselves. I only mean that there should be some equality.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **GOSPEL - Mark 12:37b-44**

*Joanie will give the introduction....*

The large crowd listened to Jesus with delight as he also taught: "Beware of these teachers of religious law! They like to parade around in flowing robes and be greeted with respect in the marketplaces. And how they love the seats of honor in the synagogues and the head table at banquets. But yet they shamelessly cheat widows out of their property and then pretend to be pious by making long prayers in public. They'll pay for it in the end. Sitting across from the offering box in the temple, Jesus was observing how the crowds tossed money in for the collection. Many rich people put in large amounts. Then a poor widow came and dropped in two small coins. Jesus called his disciples over and said, "The truth is, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others put together. All the others gave what they'll never miss; but she, poor as she is, has given everything she had to live on."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**