

October 11, 2015 20th Sunday After Pentecost

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.

Welcome (Scott)

- General welcome
- Sermon/worship theme today (post slide image for reflection)
- 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."

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Scott)

Responsive in bulletin

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. . .

*You of course may include your own prayers during the time of open prayer.
The pastor will conclude the time of prayer.*

FIRST READING (For Lector) - *Amos was a herdsman by profession and a prophet by God's call. During a time of great prosperity in the northern kingdom of Israel, the prophet speaks to the wealthy upper class. He warns his listeners that fulfilling God's demand for justice brings blessing, while corruption and oppression incur God's wrath.*

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15

Seek the LORD and live,
or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.
Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,
and bring righteousness to the ground!

They hate the one who reproves in the gate,
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.
Therefore because you trample on the poor
and take from them levies of grain,
you have built houses of hewn stone,
but you shall not live in them;
you have planted pleasant vineyards,
but you shall not drink their wine.
For I know how many are your transgressions,
and how great are your sins—
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,
and push aside the needy in the gate.
Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;
for it is an evil time.

Seek good and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the LORD, the God of hosts, will be with you,
just as you have said.
Hate evil and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;

it may be that the LORD, the God of hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL READING** (Scott) - *Jesus has been teaching his disciples about what is most valued in God's eyes. Now, a conversation with a rich man brings his message home to the disciples in a way that is surprising but unforgettable.*

Mark 10:17-31

As [Jesus] was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honor your father and mother.'" He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

Peter began to say to him, "Look, we have left everything and followed you." Jesus said, "Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields, for my sake and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of Dedication (Scott—after offering)

(Pray also to acknowledge the written prayer slips)

When we look in the mirror, may we see our sisters and brothers in need

- the lonely, the hungry, the searching, the aching.

And as we see them, we pray that these gifts we offer may be used to bring them food, hope, companionship, and healing.

This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Benediction (Scott)