**Saginaw First Free Methodist Church**

**Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost**

**October 17, 2021**



*“But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all.”*

*(Mark 10:43-44)*

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**Proper 24 (29)**

**October 17, 2021**

**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship** (*spoken responsively*)

L: O LORD, how manifold are your works

**P: In wisdom you have made them all**

L: God created the heavens and the earth

**P: And gave them to us to use and enjoy**

L: And God breathed life into each of us, and set us on the earth

**P: And God sent Jesus Christ to save us from the pull of death**

L: We have been entrusted with unfathomable riches

**P: For all this our God is to be praised**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God” #30 (vv.1-4)

**A mighty Fortress is our God**

**A Bulwark never failing**

**Our Helper He amid the flood**

**Of mortal ills prevailing**

**For still our ancient foe**

**Doth seek to work us woe**

**His craft and power are great**

**And, armed with cruel hate**

**On earth is not his equal**

**Did we in our own strength confide**

**Our striving would be losing**

**Were not the right Man on our side**

**The Man of God’s own choosing**

**Dost ask who that may be? Christ Jesus, it is He**

**Lord Sabaoth His Name**

**From age to age the same**

**And He must win the battle**

**And though this world, with devils filled**

**Should threaten to undo us**

**We will not fear, for God hath willed**

**His truth to triumph through us**

**The Prince of Darkness grim**

**We tremble not for him His rage we can endure**

**For lo! his doom is sure**

**One little word shall fell him**

**That word above all earthly powers**

**No thanks to them, abideth**

**The Spirit and the gifts are ours**

**Through Him who with us sideth**

**Let goods and kindred go**

**This mortal life also**

**The body they may kill**

**God’s truth abideth still**

**His Kingdom is forever**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Almighty God, you are wrapped in light as a garment, clothed with honor and majesty. Grant that those who worship you this day may present their bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to you. Enlighten us with true faith and humble obedience that we may seek to serve others in your name. By the power of the Holy Spirit, make us strong to fulfill our calling, as we pray the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples…

**P: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father​**

**And to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.​**

**As it was in the beginning​**

**Is now and ever shall be.​**

**World without end. ​**

**Amen. Amen.​**

**First Scripture Lesson:** Job 38:1-7, 34-41

Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind: “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Gird up your loins like a man, I will question you, and you shall declare to me. Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.

Who determined its measurements--surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it? On what were its bases sunk, or who laid its cornerstone when the morning stars sang together and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?”

“Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, so that a flood of waters may cover you? Can you send forth lightnings, so that they may go and say to you, ‘Here we are’? Who has put wisdom in the inward parts, or given understanding to the mind? Who has the wisdom to number the clouds? Or who can tilt the waterskins of the heavens, when the dust runs into a mass and the clods cling together?

“Can you hunt the prey for the lion, or satisfy the appetite of the young lions, when they crouch in their dens, or lie in wait in their covert? Who provides for the raven its prey, when its young ones cry to God, and wander about for lack of food?”

**Prayer of Confession**

L: To serve the risen Christ and God’s creation is to truly reign. To possess Christ is to possess all things. Let us be humble, so our spirits may grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified…

**P: The man who is proud of anything he thinks he has reached, has not reached it. He is but proud of himself, and imagining a cause for his pride. He who delights in what he has attained, is already in the dirt of self-satisfaction. The one who lives in God’s eternal idea of him, lives eternally. How should there be in him one thought of ruling or commanding or surpassing? He can imagine no bliss, no good in being greater than someone else. He is unable to wish for himself anything other than what God has made him, and what more God wills for him. The thought of standing higher in the favor of God than his brother would make him miserable. He would lift every brother to the embrace of the Father. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of God**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 104

**P: Bless the LORD, O my soul. O LORD my God, you are very great. You are clothed with honor and majesty, wrapped in light as with a garment. You stretch out the heavens like a tent, you set the beams of your chambers on the waters, you make the clouds your chariot, you ride on the wings of the wind, you make the winds your messengers, fire and flame your ministers. You set the earth on its foundations, so that it shall never be shaken. You cover it with the deep as with a garment; the waters stood above the mountains. At your rebuke they flee; at the sound of your thunder, they take to flight. O LORD, how manifold are your works! In wisdom you have made them all; the earth is full of your creatures. Praise the LORD!**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Amazing Grace” #85 (vv.1-5)

**Amazing grace, how sweet the sound**

**That saved a wretch like me**

**I once was lost, but now am found**

**Was blind, but now I see**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear**

**And grace my fears relieved**

**How precious did that grace appear**

**The hour I first believed**

**The Lord has promised good to me**

**His word my hope secures**

**He will my share and portion be**

**As long as life endures**

**Through many dangers, toils and snares**

**I have already come**

**‘Tis grace has brought me safe thus far**

**And grace will lead me home**

**When we’ve been there, ten thousand years**

**Bright shining as the sun**

**We’ve no less days, to sing God’s praise**

**Than when we first begun**

**Second Scripture Lesson****:** Hebrews 5:1-10

Every high priest chosen from among mortals is put in charge of things pertaining to God on their behalf, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. He is able to deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is subject to weakness; and because of this he must offer sacrifice for his own sins as well as for those of the people. And one does not presume to take this honor, but takes it only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; as he says also in another place, “You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson**: Mark 10:35-45

James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came forward to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.”

And he said to them, “What is it you want me to do for you?”

And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.”

But Jesus said to them, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?”

They replied, “We are able.”

Then Jesus said to them, “The cup that I drink you will drink; and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized; but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.”

When the ten heard this, they began to be angry with James and John.

So Jesus called them and said to them, “You know that among the Gentiles those whom they recognize as their rulers lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. But it is not so among you; but whoever wishes to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be slave of all. For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”

**Sermon: “**Who We Are”

**Prayer of Response**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Near to the Heart of God” #621 (vv.1-3)

**There is a place of quiet rest**

**Near to the heart of God**

**A place where sin cannot molest**

**Near to the heart of God**

**O Jesus, blest Redeemer**

**Sent from the heart of God**

**Hold us, who wait before thee**

**Near to the heart of God**

**There is a place of comfort sweet**

**Near to the heart of God**

**A place where we our Savior meet**

**Near to the heart of God**

**O Jesus, blest Redeemer**

**Sent from the heart of God**

**Hold us, who wait before thee**

**Near to the heart of God**

**There is a place of full release**

**Nearer to the heart of God**

**A place where all is joy and peace**

**Nearer to the heart of God**

**O Jesus blest Redeemer**

**Sent from the heart of God**

**Hold us, who wait before Thee**

**Nearer to the heart of God**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:All lives belong to God. Take courage and hear, we have been saved from eternal death and sin. With grace, use these gifts of ours so the rest of the world may hear and be enlightened. Willingly give, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*Doxology**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below**

**Praise Him above, ye heavenly host**

**Praise Father Son, and Holy Ghost.**

**Amen.**

**\*Prayer**

**\*Hymn of Response:** “Lift High the Cross” #237 (vv.1-5)

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim**

**Till all the world adore his sacred name**

**Come, Christians, follow where our Savior trod**

**Our King victorious, Christ, the Son of God**

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim**

**Till all the world adore his sacred name**

**Led on their way by this triumphant sign**

**The hosts of God in conqu’ring ranks combine**

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaims**

**Till all the world adore his sacred name**

**O Lord, once lifted on this glorious tree**

**As Thou has promised, draw men unto Thee**

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim**

**Till all the world adore his sacred name**

**Set up Thy throne, that earth’s despair may cease**

**Beneath the shadow of its healing peace**

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim**

**Till all the world adore his sacred name**

**For Thy blest cross which doth for all atone**

**Creation’s praises rise before Thy throne**

**\*Benediction**

L: Christ be with you, in your mind, in your voice, and in your heart. May Christ’s eye be your eyes, Christ’s ears be your ears. Take this desire, to please God in all you do, as you go in peace to love and serve. Amen.