

# We Are the Church: September 6, 2020

Week Fifteen: Witness and Wrap-Up



**Musicians Today:** Olivia Smith, Vocalist and Gloria Gilbertson, Accompanist

**GATHERING MUSIC: Provided by Olivia Smith and Gloria Gilbertson**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from generation to generation. **Amen.**

L: Listen deeply to these words as we confess our sins, trusting in the mercy of God. Reconciling God, we confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely on our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. **Amen.**

L: Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through ✝ Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Our sins are forgiven. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY**

L: Let us pray. Write your blessed name, O Lord, upon my heart, there to remain so indelibly graven that no prosperity, no adversity, shall ever move me from your love. Be to me a strong tower of defense, a comforter in tribulation, a deliverer in distress, a very present help in trouble, and a guide to heaven through the many temptations and dangers of this life. **Amen.**

### **The First Reading: Acts 21:10-15**

#### *Paul is Warned to Stay Away from Jerusalem*

<sup>10</sup> While we were staying (in Caesarea) several days, a prophet named Agabus came down from Judea. <sup>11</sup> He came to us and took Paul's belt, bound his own feet and hands with it, and said, "Thus says the Holy Spirit, 'This is the way the Jews in Jerusalem will bind the man who owns this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.' " <sup>12</sup> When we heard this, we and the people there urged him not to go up to Jerusalem. <sup>13</sup> Then Paul answered, "What are you doing, weeping and breaking my heart? For I am ready not only to be bound but even to die in Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." <sup>14</sup> Since he would not be persuaded, we remained silent except to say, "The Lord's will be done." <sup>15</sup> After these days we got ready and started to go up to Jerusalem.

### **The Second Reading: Acts 21:27-36**

#### *Paul is Arrested in Jerusalem*

<sup>27</sup> When the seven days were almost completed, the Jews from Asia, who had seen Paul in the temple, stirred up the whole crowd. They seized him, <sup>28</sup> shouting, "Fellow Israelites, help! This is the man who is teaching everyone everywhere against our

people, our law, and this place; more than that, he has actually brought Greeks into the temple and has defiled this holy place.”<sup>29</sup> For they had previously seen Trophimus the Ephesian with him in the city, and they supposed that Paul had brought him into the temple.<sup>30</sup> Then all the city was aroused, and the people rushed together. They seized Paul and dragged him out of the temple, and immediately the doors were shut.<sup>31</sup> While they were trying to kill him, word came to the tribune of the cohort that all Jerusalem was in an uproar.<sup>32</sup> Immediately he took soldiers and centurions and ran down to them. When they saw the tribune and the soldiers, they stopped beating Paul.<sup>33</sup> Then the tribune came, arrested him, and ordered him to be bound with two chains; he inquired who he was and what he had done.<sup>34</sup> Some in the crowd shouted one thing, some another; and as he could not learn the facts because of the uproar, he ordered him to be brought into the barracks.<sup>35</sup> When Paul came to the steps, the violence of the mob was so great that he had to be carried by the soldiers.<sup>36</sup> The crowd that followed kept shouting, “Away with him!”

### **The Third Reading: Acts 28:23-24, 30-31**

*Paul in Rome: God is Not Finished with Us Until God Says So!*

<sup>23</sup> After they had set a day to meet with him, they came to Paul at his lodgings in great numbers. From morning until evening he explained the matter to them, testifying to the kingdom of God and trying to convince them about Jesus both from the law of Moses and from the prophets.<sup>24</sup> Some were convinced by what he had said, while others refused to believe.<sup>30</sup> He lived there two whole years at his own expense and welcomed all who came to him,<sup>31</sup> proclaiming the kingdom of God and teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ with all boldness and without hindrance.

SERMON:

Pastor Dave Efflandt

SPECIAL MUSIC:

Shout to the Lord

Vocalist: Olivia Smith



My Je - sus, my Sav - ior, Lord, there is none like you.



All of my days I want to praise the won - ders of your might - y love.



My com - fort, my shel - ter, tow - er of ref - uge and strength;



let ev - ry breath, all that I am nev - er cease to wor - ship you.



Shout to the Lord, all the earth; let us sing pow - er and maj - es - ty, praise



to the King. Moun - tains bow down and the seas will roar at the



sound of your name. I sing for joy at the work of your hands;



for - ev - er I'll love you, for - ev - er I'll stand.



Noth - ing com - pares to the prom - ise I have in you.

Text: Darlene Zschech, b. 1965

Music: SHOUT TO THE LORD, Darlene Zschech

Text and music © 1993 Darlene Zschech/Hillsong Publishing, admin. in U.S. and Canada by Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP),

c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **OFFERING AND OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness

is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your

abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your

steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our

strength and our song. **Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: On this morning, let us pray to God for the church, the earth, and all in need, that the whole world may know the resurrection that God promises to give. Amen.

*A brief silence. The Leader continues.*

We pray for the church throughout the world. *A brief silence.*

For the spirit of resurrection within all believers. *A brief silence.*

For the newly baptized. *A brief silence.*

For the health of plants and animals. *A brief silence.*

For all who care for the earth. *A brief silence.*

For peace throughout the world. *A brief silence.*

For an increase of justice in every land. *A brief silence.*

For those in need, those close to home, those far away. *A brief silence.*

For those who are hungry. *A brief silence.*

For the sick and the dying. *A brief silence.*

For our neighborhood. *A brief silence.*

For this assembly of worshipers. **(Any Special Petitions)** *A brief silence.*

For the desires of our hearts. *A brief silence.*

We give thanks for the lives of all the faithful who have died and who now enjoy the full presence of God. We pray that at the end we may join them in the resurrection.

*A brief silence.*

On this morning, O God, receive our prayers and praises, and give us your Spirit, that our lives may be signs of the new life you give through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Worship:** Sunday at 9AM on the lawn; 10AM Zoom. Online available afternoon

→ Communion 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays

Wednesday at 6:30 PM at SJK;

→ Communion: September 2 and September 16

Wednesday Virtual Campfire Worship at 7:30 PM on Facebook and YouTube

### **Bible Studies**

Marks of Discipleship Studies: Tuesdays at 11 AM and Thursdays at 6 PM via Zoom

Women of Faith: Thursdays at 9:30 AM via Zoom

## BLESSING

L: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present,  
nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all  
creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus.  
God, the creator, ✝ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter,  
bless you and keep you in eternal love. **Amen.**

**SPECIAL MUSIC:****Go Make Disciples****Vocalist: Olivia Smith**

“Go, make dis - ci - ples, bap - tiz - ing them, teach - ing them.



Go, make dis - ci - ples, for I am with you till the end of time.



Go, be the salt of the earth. Go, be the light for the world.



Go, be a cit - y on a hill, so all can see that you're



serv - ing me. Go, make dis - ci - ples.”

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Music: GO, MAKE DISCIPLES, Handt Hanson

Text and music © 1996 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**DISMISSAL**

**L:** Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

Portions of the liturgy are from Sundays and Seasons.com © 2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS002162.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Broadcast and other copyright permissions: OneLicense A-727543 and CCLI License No. 1796221