

NINTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8:30AM AND 11:00AM

SUNDAY, JULY 25, 2021

***RINGING OF THE BELL**

***GATHERING**

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE (UMH #187) *Rise, Shine, You People* D. Wood

A LITANY OF GATHERING (responsively):

L: We look to the rulers of this earth for leadership, wisdom, and strength.

P: WE LOOK TO THESE BODIES OF OURS FOR STABILITY, FULFILLMENT, AND JOY.

L: We look to families and friends for love, compassion, and hope. When rulers betray, when bodies fail, and when families disappoint, God offers another look.

P: GOD WILL GUIDE US. GOD'S SPIRIT WILL SUSTAIN US. CHRIST WILL WELCOME US HOME.

L: Come, my Sisters and Brothers, we are all God's family now.

***OPENING HYMN OF PRAISE #383** *This Is A Day of New Beginnings*
(vv. 1-4 only)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (as a group):

WE HEAR THE CALL TO TRUST IN GOD ALWAYS. BUT HONESTLY, SOME DAYS OUR STRESSES AND OUR DOUBTS ARE EVEN MORE REAL TO US THAN GOD. AND TRUST IS SO ELUSIVE. WE REMEMBER HOW ABRAM DARED TO BELIEVE IN GOD'S PROMISES. BUT BELIEF LIKE THAT IS HARD TO COME BY. WE ARE OFTEN INCLINED TO THINK, "GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES", INSTEAD OF DARING TO RELY ON THE WORD OF OUR CREATOR. WHEN THE WORLD SEEMS FILLED WITH DANGERS, WE CAN BE QUICK TO PROTECT OURSELVES. AND WE OFTEN FORGET THE WISDOM OF SCRIPTURE, WHICH REMINDS US THAT WE FIND TRACES OF EVIL BOTH OUTSIDE AND INSIDE OF OURSELVES. WITH GOD'S HELP, WE CONFRONT OUR FEARS AND STRUGGLES, AND WE CALL UPON A POWER GREATER THAN OUR OWN TO RESIST THEIR PULL. HEAR US, HOLY ONE, AS WE CONFESS OUR FRAILTY AND OUR FAILINGS. AMEN.

(PLEASE TAKE A MOMENT FOR A SILENT AND PERSONAL TIME OF CONFESSION)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

ANTHEM *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* Wyeth
(Charles Gatch, Soloist – 8:30am & 11am)

A WORD TO THE CHILDREN *Heather Connor/Video/8:30am*
Lori Meyers/11am

***OLD TESTAMENT LESSON** *Genesis 15:1-21/CEB*

***GLORIA PATRI #71**

WITNESS TO THE WORD *Celebration Summer, 2021:* Rev. L. Kim Eanes
Celebrating Our Families – Celebrating God's Family

***HYMN OF PRAISE #560** *Help Us Accept Each Other*

OFFERTORY (FWS #2121) *O Holy Spirit, Root of Life* M. Praetorius

***THE DOXOLOGY #95**

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

PRAYER CONCERNS, PASTORAL PRAYER, THE LORD'S PRAYER #895

***CLOSING HYMN OF PRAISE #695** *O Lord, May Church and Home Combine*

***DISMISSAL WITH BLESSING**

***POSTLUDE (UMH #634)** *Now Let Us From This Table Rise* (harm.) R. V. Williams

**Please stand if you are able*

***** PLEASE NOTE: THE LUMC CHANCEL CHOIR WILL GATHER THIS WEDNESDAY, JULY 28TH AT 7PM FOR CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL. THANK YOU.**