

Sebastopol United Methodist Church
Sunday, August 2, 2020 – Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
Order of Worship
including Communion and Scripture

If you would like to participate in Communion, please have your bread and juice (or their substitutes) ready before beginning worship.

Seasonal Theme:

The teaching and ministry of Jesus the Christ.

Theme for the day:

God's blessing from our troubles satisfies us with his divine provision.

Call to Worship:

*(please read the **BOLD** text, aloud or silently as you prefer)*

Pastor: Come, all who are weary and heavy-laden.

People: **Christ strengthens us with love and grace.**

Pastor: In His strength, we can do all things.

Unison: **We are here, ready to receive God's blessings. Amen.**

Centering & Prayer of Illumination:

(please read with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

O Mighty God, pour out your power and strengthen us. Make your presence known, and with the power of your Holy Spirit awaken and illumine us by your Word, that we may behold your likeness. In your name, we pray. Amen.

Readings from Scripture:

Genesis 32:22-31

Psalms 17:1-7; 15

[texts of Scripture follow the service, beginning on page 5]

*Message: **THE ESSENCE OF BLESSINGS ABOUNDING!***

Affirmation of Faith – The Apostles’ Creed, Ecumenical Version (UMH 882)
(please read with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy universal church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

Sacrament of the Holy Communion

*In peace and love, in gratitude and faith, I invite you to have your bread
(or chips, crackers, etc.) and juice (or water, wine, etc.) ready.
Let us come together to Christ’s table.*

(Communion continues on the following page)

*(we read together the texts in **BOLD**)*

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

O God, you are the creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image, to love and to be loved. You made a holy covenant with us and sent prophets to teach us your truth. When we turned away and were unfaithful, you kept faith with us.

And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we join in your praise, saying,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Taking our form and flesh, Jesus came among us as a servant. He showed us the depth and power of your love. By his suffering, death, and resurrection you delivered us from sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night in which Jesus gave himself up for us, he took bread. He gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said, "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many, for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

Remembering your gracious acts, we offer ourselves to you in service and praise as we keep the feast that Christ prepares:

[lifting the bread] Bread of Heaven,

[lifting the cup] Cup of Salvation,

[lifting bread and cup] Resurrection and Life.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God, pour out your Holy Spirit among us: in this bread, in this cup, in your people; one in the body, one in the blood, one with Christ, one in mission, one in ministry; in this place, in every place, in this world, and in the world to come.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. [Lord's Prayer]

Amen.

Receiving the Bread and Cup

Prayer after Receiving

O God, we give you our thanks and praise. You feed us by your grace. You are with us in all our journeys. Give us courage and faith to serve you in all we do. Fill us with the power of your Holy Spirit. Enable us to be faithful and fruitful servants of the gospel and ministry to which you have called us. In Jesus's name we pray. Amen.

Come to Christ and offer your gifts, not as a burden, but as opportunity to give rest and renewal to those who yearn to know God's love. Thank you again for all the offerings and pledges you have sent in by mail.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication:

(please read with Pastor, aloud or silently as you prefer)

We thank you Father, the provider of all gifts. You have empowered us to participate in the multiplying ministry of your Son, Jesus. We pray that you receive our gifts, which you have provided to us out of your abundance, so that your miracle ministry may multiply to satisfy the hungry of this world today. Through Jesus we pray. Amen.

Blessing and Benediction

May you be filled with the joy of God's son Jesus, who holds you firmly with a promise of a better life and the strength to endure all things on your way.

Be patient.

Scripture Readings – August 2, 2020

first reading -- **GENESIS 32:22-31**

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had.

Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans, and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

second reading – **PSALM 17:1-7; 15**

Hear a just cause, O Lord ; attend to my cry; give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.

From you let my vindication come; let your eyes see the right.

If you try my heart, if you visit me by night, if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me; my mouth does not transgress.

As for what others do, by the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent.

My steps have held fast to your paths; my feet have not slipped.

I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God; incline your ear to me, hear my words.

(reading continues on next page)

Wondrously show your steadfast love, O savior of those who seek refuge from their adversaries at your right hand.

As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake I shall be satisfied, beholding your likeness.

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Thank you for worshipping with us today.