



The Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost August 12, 2018 at 10:30am

Prelude	<i>Improvisation on Earth and All Stars</i>	
Entrance	<i>Earth and All Stars</i>	Hymnal 412
Offertory Anthem:	<i>O Give Thanks</i>	<i>Mary Hicks</i>
	O give thanks unto our God for He is good, For His mercy endureth forever	
Communion Hymns	<i>Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence</i>	Hymnal 324
	<i>One Bread, One Body</i>	LEVAS 151
Exit	<i>A Mighty Fortress is our God</i>	Hymnal 688
Postlude	<i>A Mighty Fortress</i>	Roger C. Wilson

The Ministry of the Word

Blessing the Backpacks

As another school year begins, let us pray.

For all who are going back to school this fall. For students, teachers, administrators, staff, custodians, bus drivers, coaches, room parents, school board members. For all who teach and all who learn and all whose labors make teaching and learning possible.

We give you thanks, loving God.

For all who do not have access to quality education. For children who live on the streets or sleep on neighbors couches. For children who go to school hungry and get no help with their homework. For children whose classroom is the shade of a tree and who walk miles for a drink of water. For teachers who are paid poorly or not at all.

Give us courage to work for change, loving God.

Everyone is invited to hold up their backpack or book-bag as Holy Water is sprinkled.

God of Wisdom, we give you thanks for schools and classrooms and for the teachers and students who fill them each day. We thank you for this new beginning, for new books and new ideas. We thank you for sharpened pencils, pointy crayons, and crisp blank pages waiting to be filled. We thank you for the gift of making mistakes and trying again. Help us to remember that asking the right questions is often as important as giving the right answers.

Today we give you thanks for these your children, and we ask you to bless them with curiosity, understanding and respect. May their backpacks be a sign to them that they have everything they need to learn and grow this year in school and in Sunday School. May they be guided by your love. All this we ask in the name of Jesus, who as a child in the temple showed his longing to learn about you, and as an adult taught by story and example your great love for us. **Amen.**

The rest of the congregation is invited to stand and pray:

May Jesus, who calls us each by name to follow him, give you the courage and confidence to be his disciples wherever you may be, at school, at work, and at home. May the gifts God has given you be a source of blessing for you and for others. Amen.

The Collect of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Grant to us, Lord, we pray, the spirit to think and do always those things that are right, that we, who cannot exist without you, may by you be enabled to live according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen..**

1st Lesson *Please be seated*

2 Samuel 18:5-9, 15, 31-33

The king gave orders to Joab, Abishai, and Ittai: "For my sake, protect my boy Absalom." All the troops heard what the king ordered regarding Absalom to all the commanders. So the troops marched into the field to meet the Israelites. The battle was fought in the Ephraim forest. The army of Israel was defeated there by David's soldiers. A great slaughter of twenty thousand men took place that day. The battle spread out over the entire countryside, and the forest devoured more soldiers than the sword that day. Absalom came upon some of David's men. Absalom was riding on a mule, and the mule went under the tangled branches of a large oak tree. Absalom's head got caught in the tree. He was left hanging in midair while the mule under him kept on going. Then ten young armor-bearers of Joab surrounded Absalom, struck him, and killed him. Then the Cushite arrived and said, "My master the king: Listen to this good news! The Lord has vindicated you this day against the power of all who rose up against you." The king said to the Cushite, "Is my boy Absalom okay?" The Cushite answered, "May the enemies of my master the king and all who rise up against you to hurt you end up like that young man." The king trembled. He went up to the room over the gate and cried. As he went, he said, "Oh, my son Absalom! Oh, my son! My son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you! Oh, Absalom, my son! My son!"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 130 *All sing the refrain after the choir, and where indicated.*



With the Lord there is mer - cy and plen - teous re - demp - tion.

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Out of the depths have I called to you, O Lord;
Lord, hear my voice;
let your ears consider well the voice of my supplication.
If you, Lord, were to note what is done amiss,
O Lord, who could stand?
For there is forgiveness with you;
therefore you shall be feared. **Refrain.**

I wait for the Lord; my soul waits for him;
in his word is my hope.
My soul waits for the Lord,
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning. **Refrain.**

O Israel, wait for the Lord,
for with the Lord there is mercy;
With him there is plenteous redemption,
and he shall redeem Israel from all their sins. **Refrain.**

2nd Lesson

Ephesians 4:25-5:2

Therefore, after you have gotten rid of lying, Each of you must tell the truth to your neighbor because we are parts of each other in the same body. Be angry without sinning. Don't let the sun set on your anger. Don't provide an opportunity for the devil. Thieves should no longer steal. Instead, they should go to work, using their hands to do good so that they will have something to share with whoever is in need. Don't let any foul words come out of your mouth. Only say what is helpful when it is needed for building up the community so that it benefits those who hear what you say. Don't make the Holy Spirit of God unhappy—you were sealed by him for the day of redemption. Put aside all bitterness, losing your temper, anger, shouting, and slander, along with every other evil. Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving to each other, in the same way God forgave you in Christ Therefore; imitate God like dearly loved children. Live your life with love, following the example of Christ, who loved us and gave himself for us. He was a sacrificial offering that smelled sweet to God.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel *please stand*

Mark 4:30-32

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Mark.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

He continued, “What’s a good image for God’s kingdom? What parable can I use to explain it? Consider a mustard seed. When scattered on the ground, it’s the smallest of all the seeds on the earth; but when it’s planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all vegetable plants. It produces such large branches that the birds in the sky are able to nest in its shade.”

The Gospel of our Savior.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Worship Leaders

Storyteller	Heidi Olliff
Celebrant	The Rev. Mike Angell
Crucifer	Scott Scoopmire
Lectors	Ryan Freedle, Josephine Ezenwa
Intercessor	Barbara Robinson
Chalice	Joe Adams
Acolytes	Clara Olliff, Kara Hudson
Greeters/Ushers	Bryant Cooper, Colleen Haggerty
Altar Guild	Edna Allen, Esther Ezenwa

Announcements

Thank you for Donations: Many thanks to all for your generous contributions of supplies for the students of Barbara Jordan Elementary School.

DIY Backpack Tags: Please join us after the 10:30am service in Mitchell Hall to make your own “My Backpack Was Blessed at Holy Communion” shrinky dink tag.

Community Benefits meeting Thurs, Aug 16 7pm at City of Life Christian Church

On Thursday evening, Ucity clergy are hosting a meeting to learn more about the potential development on Olive and how a community benefits agreement could bring transparency and needed change for folks in the third ward.

Laundry Love – Tuesday, August 21: (6:30pm) Our volunteers take over Classic Coin Laundry (7200 Balson Ave., U City) If you’d like to volunteer, please come at 6:00pm for volunteer orientation. Read more and sign up at www.holycommunion.net.

Summer Pickup Choir August 26 9:30am Have you missed the choir during the summer months? Then come sing in our summer pickup choir! You can come to one or both. We'll meet in the sanctuary, sing through the appointed hymns and psalm, then learn a simple anthem for that morning's service. It's a great way to meet a few of the choir members, and to enjoy singing in a choir for a couple days. Questions? Just email Mary Chapman at mchapman@holychommunion.net.