

## SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

September 19, 2021

### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

Liturgist: What does the Lord require of you?

**Congregation: To do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with our God.**

L: What does God command of us?

**C: To love God with all our heart,  
and all our soul,  
and all our mind,  
and all our strength,  
and to love our neighbor as ourselves.**

L: God does not call us to ease or to comfort.

**C: But to presence, and abundance,  
and grace in our struggle.**

L: Let us worship the God who believes in us,  
and trusts in us, and abides with us.

**C: Let us worship the God who will ask much of us,  
but will be beside us every step of the way.**

#### **\*CALL TO CONFESSION**

The grace of God overflows for us through Jesus Christ, who came into the world to save sinners.

Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

#### **\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**God of majesty and mystery, we confess that we have gotten it wrong. Shown your mercy and love, we instead choose judgment and anger. Shown the path to abundant life in you, we choose paths that lead to jealousy, regret, and exhaustion. At the best of times we are confused by what following you requires; at the worst of times we harm others and call it your plan.**

**Help us to find understanding where we have only found confusion. Help us to live your way when other ways seem more reliable. Show us mercy, even when we don't show it ourselves. Set us free to love as you love us. In your son's name we pray.**

*We reflect in silence on the ways we have fallen short.*

### **\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. Believe the good news of the gospel: in Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God!**

### **\*GLORIA PATRI**

*Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

582

*We encourage you to quietly reflect with joy on God's mercy as the music plays.*

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Holy Spirit, prepare us today to hear your word. Even in words that confuse or disturb us, be present to us, that we might be shaped and changed by what you are telling us today. **Amen.**

### **FIRST READING**

*Genesis 21:1-3; 22:1-8*

The LORD dealt with Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah as he had promised. Sarah conceived and bore Abraham a son in his old age, at the time of which God had spoken to him. Abraham gave the name Isaac to his son whom Sarah bore him.

After these things God tested Abraham. He said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Take your son, your only son Isaac, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah, and offer him there as a burnt offering on one of the mountains that I shall show you." So Abraham rose early in the morning, saddled his donkey, and took two of his young men with him, and his son Isaac; he cut the wood for the burnt offering, and set out and went to the place in the distance that God had shown him. On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place far away. Then Abraham said to his young men, "Stay here with the donkey; the boy and I will go over there; we will worship, and then we will come back to you." Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering and laid it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. So the two of them walked on together. Isaac said to his father Abraham, "Father!" And he said, "Here I am, my son." He said, "The fire and the wood are here, but where is the lamb for a burnt offering?" Abraham said, "God himself will provide the lamb for a burnt offering, my son." So the two of them walked on together.

The Word of God for the people of God!

**Thanks be to God!**

### **ANTHEM**

*Bless His Holy Name*

*Sue Poulos, Gay Piller, and handbells*

### **SECOND READING**

*Genesis 22:9-14*

When they came to the place that God had shown him, Abraham built an altar there and laid the wood in order. He bound his son Isaac, and laid him on the altar, on top of the wood. Then Abraham reached out his hand and took the knife to kill his son. But the angel of the LORD called to him from heaven, and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." He said, "Do not lay your hand on the boy or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from me." And Abraham looked up and saw a ram, caught in a thicket by its horns. Abraham went and

took the ram and offered it up as a burnt offering instead of his son. So Abraham called that place "The LORD will provide"; as it is said to this day, "On the mount of the LORD it shall be provided."

This is the word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

## MESSAGE

Rev. Ben Shaw

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*The Apostles' Creed*

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

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

## CALL TO OFFERING

*Per COVID-19 safety measures, we will not pass the offering plate for some time. As you feel called, you may leave your offering in the plate in the Gathering Room or donate online at MPChurch.net.*

## \*DOXOLOGY

*In place of singing aloud, we encourage you to ponder God's blessings in your life as the music plays.*

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

... And now hear as we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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 debts  
as we forgive our debtors.**

**And lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

## \*HYMN

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

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**CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all this day, and unto your life eternal. Amen.

**POSTLUDE**