



# Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

## September 10, 2023

\* *Please stand if you are able*

Prelude: "Hallelujah, Hallelujah! (Psalm 117)"

arr. Mark Albrecht

### Gathering

WELCOME & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Acolyte: May the Holy Spirit unit us in worship, point us toward Jesus Christ, and inspire us to love mercy, do justice, and walk humbly with God. Come, let us worship God.

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: What is your only comfort in life and in death?

**All: That I am not my own, but belong — body and soul, in life and in death — to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ.**

Liturgist: He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from the tyranny of the devil. He also watches over me in such a way that not a hair can fall from my head without the will of my Father in heaven; in fact, all things must work together for my salvation.

**All: Because I belong to him, Christ, by his Holy Spirit, assures me of eternal life and makes me wholeheartedly willing and ready from now on to live for him.**

*Heidelberg Catechism – Q&A 1*

\* **All Singing: 264 "Lift High the Cross"**  
*Singing verses 1, 2, 6, and 7*

\* GOD'S GREETING

\* GOD'S PEOPLE GREETING ONE ANOTHER

\* **All Singing: 269 "All Are Welcome"**  
*Singing verses 1, 3, 4, and 5*

*Children ages 2–7 may come forward for a brief word and blessing before they leave for “God Loves Me” and “Children in Worship.”*

#### CHILDREN’S BLESSING

Children: The peace of Christ be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

## Reconciliation

Liturgist: What must you know to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

**All: Three things: first, how great my sin and misery are; second, how I am set free from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to thank God for such deliverance.**

### *Silent Confession and Reflection*

Liturgist: How does holy baptism remind and assure you that Christ’s one sacrifice on the cross benefits you personally?

**All: In this way: Christ instituted this outward washing and with it promised that, as surely as water washes away the dirt from the body, so certainly his blood and his Spirit wash away my soul’s impurity, that is, all my sins.**

Liturgist: What does it mean to be washed with Christ’s blood and Spirit?

**All: To be washed with Christ’s blood means that God, by grace, has forgiven our sins because of Christ’s blood poured out for us in his sacrifice on the cross.**

Liturgist: To be washed with Christ’s Spirit means that the Holy Spirit has renewed and sanctified us to be members of Christ, so that more and more we become dead to sin and live holy and blameless lives.

*Heidelberg Catechism – Q&A 2, 69-70*

\* **All Singing: 790 “Baptized in Water”**

#### BAPTISM OF NAOMI CORINNE HILLEGONDS

Minister: Having heard God’s gracious promises to us in Christ, do you desire that Naomi Corinne be baptized?

Parents: We do.

**All: With joy we celebrate together the gift of God’s grace in Christ!**

Minister: In presenting your child for baptism, desiring that Naomi Corinne be grafted into Christ as members of his body do you receive the teachings of the Christian faith, which we confess in the Creeds of the church?

Parents: Yes! We trust in him as our Lord and Savior. We intend to be Christ’s faithful disciples, trusting in his promises, obeying his Word, honoring his church, and showing his love, with God’s help as long as we shall live.

Minister: Will the congregation please stand and with these parents proclaim your faith using the words from the Apostle’s Creed.

**All: 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, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate; was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended to heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.**

COVENANT VOWS  
PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING  
BAPTISM  
WELCOME

Minister: Some of us will have the privilege of encouraging Naomi Corinne often, over the course of many years. Others of us may not be able to do so. Yet we all speak words of promise and welcome, speaking on behalf of Christ's whole church, in time and space, and committing ourselves to live lives of Christian encouragement wherever God calls us.

Brothers and sisters, we now receive Naomi Corinne into Christ's church. I charge you to nurture and love her and to assist her to be Christ's faithful disciple.

**All: With joy and thanksgiving, we now welcome you, Naomi Corinne, into Christ's church; for we are all one in Christ. We promise to love, encourage, and support you and to help you know and follow Christ.**

Soloist: "You Cannot Lose my Love" Groves

You will lose your baby teeth. At times, you'll lose your faith in me.  
You will lose a lot of things, but you cannot lose my love.  
You may lose your appetite, your guiding sense of wrong and right.  
You may lose your will to fight, but you cannot lose my love.  
You will lose your confidence, in times of trial, your common sense.  
You may lose your innocence, but you cannot lose my love.  
Many things can be misplaced; your very memories be erased.  
No matter what the time or space, you cannot lose my love.  
You cannot lose, you cannot lose, you cannot lose my love.

## Proclamation

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

**All Singing: 509 "Come, Worship God"**  
*Singing verses 1 and 4*

Scripture: Matthew 18:15-20

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Sermon: Practical Jesus

\* **All Singing: 746 "Holy Spirit, Living Breath of God"**

## Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Liturgist: With joy, let us now offer our gifts, in music, heart, and resource, as a sign of our deep devotion and covenant faithfulness.

OFFERING

1. General Fund
2. Elim Christian Services

OFFERTORY “The Church's One Foundation”

\* **All Singing:** 353 “Rejoice, O Pure in Heart”  
*Singing verse 4*

## Sending

\* BENEDICTION

\* **All Singing:** 953 “Now Blessed Be the Lord Our God”

Postlude: “O Jesus, My Lord”

arr. F. Peeters

### Worship Leaders

Organist / Flutist:	Lynn Hollender	Acolyte:	Cora Varghese
Pianist / Vocalist:	Erin Pacheco	Liturgist:	Mary McKinstry
Vocalists:	Lori & Evelyn Evenhouse	Prayer:	Michael Vander Weele
Violinist:	Bethany Keely-Jonker		
Percussion:	Clay Carlson		
	Henry Evenhouse		
Minister:	Roger Nelson		

Hymns are from *Lift Up Your Hearts* (Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2013)  
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