

**First Presbyterian Church of Rolla**

**Worship Service on Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

*August 22, 2021*

**Pre-Service Music:** *More About Jesus* - Todd Smith

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Prelude:** *Come, Gentle Spirit* - John Turner

**Call to Worship**

The living God has sent the living bread from heaven to fill our hearts with strength!

**Let us join together in praise and worship!**

**In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Prayer of the Day**

**Holy God, your word feeds your people with life that is eternal. Direct our choices and preserve us in your truth. Renouncing what is false and evil, may we live in you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**Opening Hymn #402:** *How Lovely, Lord* (please stand)

**Call to Confession**

Let us confess our sins, for God has already forgiven us and is calling us to return to the Lord.

**Prayer of Confession**

**Watchful God, you know our plight. Offended, we have not believed your words. Complaining, we have betrayed your love. We are weak, estranged, wandering, and lost. Seeking to stand in our own strength, we fall. Strangers to your holiness, we wander. Defenseless against evil within and without, we are lost. Shine your light in our darkness, and guide us back to our place in you.** [take time for personal reflection and confession]

All of God's children say: **Amen!**

## Declaration of Forgiveness

The Living God hears our cry and forgives our sin!

**The Lord God is a sun and shield, bestowing favor and honor on us through Christ, the bread from heaven, who brings us back to God and feeds us with his strength.**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

## Passing the Peace of Christ

**Gloria #582:** *Glory to God Whose Goodness Shines on Me*

## Time for sharing of joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

## Prayers of the People and Lord's Prayer (debts and debtors)

Let us pray to the Lord, saying:

O God, keep your promise. **You have the words of eternal life.**

**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:** #495 *Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior, Thee* vs. 1,3,4 (remain seated)

## Prayer for Illumination

**O Lord, open our hearts and minds to your message of love and redemption received through the reading of your Word. In the words of Peter, the answer is found. "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." In Christ's name we pray. Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading: Psalm 84 A Responsive Reading

How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts! My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.

**Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.**

Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion. As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.

**They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.  
O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer. For a day in your courts is better than  
a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my  
God than live in the tents of wickedness.**

For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.

**O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.**

**Epistle Lesson:** Ephesians 6:10-20

**Gospel Lesson:** John 6:56-69

The Word of the Lord: **Thanks be to God.**

**Sermon:** *“The Armor of God”*

Susan Murray

**Responsive Hymn #846** *Fight the Good Fight* vs. 1, 2, 3 (remain seated)

**Affirmation of Faith** – **Apostles’ Creed** (please stand)

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.**

**Sending Hymn**#269 *Lead On, O King Eternal* (remain standing)

**Benediction:** (remain standing) adapted from Psalm 34

Go in peace. **Serve the Lord**

**Postlude:** *Festal Recessional* - Geoffrey Andrews (please be seated)

*Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Lorie Francis, Mary Kwantes and Jeff Sandquist. Worship led by Maudanne Pursley and sermon provided by Susan Murray.*

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