



*Encouraging faith and proclaiming God's love by Gathering, Growing and Giving*

14<sup>th</sup> Sun. after Pentecost

Rally Day - Service of the Word

September 11, 2022

**This worship is being livestreamed. Your presence in the sanctuary signifies your agreeing to be on our live broadcast.**

*If you are a VISITOR with us today, we are so grateful that God brought you here. Please sign our Guest Book in the church or send an email to [sothlc@sothem.org](mailto:sothlc@sothem.org). We are so glad that God brought you to this time of worship.*

*NOTE: Bold text indicates worshippers' response, and '\*' means please stand as able.*

BELL & PRELUDE

Michelle Young

WELCOME AND MUTUAL MINISTRY MESSAGES

### GATHERING

\* P: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

\* OPENING LITANY (*Please respond with **bold text***)

L: God brings us through the floods.

**ALL: God's promise lights the sky.**

L: Rejoice, for your God saves.

**ALL: We rejoice in God's limitless love.**

L: God's rainbow is a sign of God's promise to us.

**ALL: God's rainbow reminds us of our promise to God.**

L: Our promise to be God's people. To do God's work.

**ALL: To stand up to the wickedness of the world.**

L: To strive for justice for all creation.

**ALL: That the earth might not be destroyed by us.**

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\* Blue #684 *Spirit of Gentleness* PAGE 6

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY Saving God, **You promised Noah you would never again destroy the world by flood. Remind us daily of your intense love for your whole creation, and help us to love as you love. Amen.**

### GROWING

*Listen to how the wickedness of humankind was so great on the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil...continually. God is about to give up on ALL that had been created, but one man changes the direction God was about to take. Noah found favor in the sight of the Lord, and a new plan is made. Return creation to dark chaos, and remake it into a new creation. But God understands that humanity will continue to fall short of the glory they were made to be. God makes a promise and creates a sign of that promise for all to see and remember. A dramatic reading of the texts from Genesis chapters 6, 8 and 9. (6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17)*

Genesis 6:<sup>5</sup>The LORD saw that the wickedness of humankind was great in the earth, and that every inclination of the thoughts of their hearts was only evil continually. <sup>6</sup>And the LORD was sorry that he had made humankind on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. <sup>7</sup>So the LORD said, "I will blot out from the earth the human beings I have created — people together with animals and creeping things and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them." <sup>8</sup>But Noah found favor in the sight of the LORD.

<sup>9</sup>These are the descendants of Noah. Noah was a righteous man, blameless in his generation; Noah walked with God. <sup>10</sup>And Noah had three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth.

<sup>11</sup>Now the earth was corrupt in God's sight, and the earth was filled with violence. <sup>12</sup>And God saw that the earth was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted its ways upon the earth. <sup>13</sup>And God said to Noah, "I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence because of them; now I am going to destroy them along with the earth. <sup>14</sup>Make yourself an ark of cypress wood; make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch. <sup>15</sup>This is how you are to make it: the length of the ark three hundred cubits, its width fifty cubits, and its height thirty cubits. <sup>16</sup>Make a roof for the ark, and finish it to a cubit above; and put the door of the ark in its side; make it with lower, second, and third decks. <sup>17</sup>For my part, I am going to bring a flood of waters on the earth, to destroy from under heaven all flesh in which is the breath of life; everything that is on the earth shall die. <sup>18</sup>But I will establish my covenant with you; and you shall come into the ark, you, your sons, your wife, and your sons' wives with you. <sup>19</sup>And of every living thing, of all flesh, you shall bring two of every kind into the ark, to keep them alive with you; they shall be male and female. <sup>20</sup>Of the birds according to their kinds, and of the animals according to their kinds, of every creeping thing of the ground according to its kind, two of every kind shall come in to you, to keep them alive. <sup>21</sup>Also take with you every kind of food that is eaten, and store it up; and it shall serve as food for you and for them." <sup>22</sup>Noah did this; he did all that God commanded him.

GENESIS 8: <sup>6</sup>At the end of forty days Noah opened the window of the ark that he had made <sup>7</sup>and sent out the raven; and it went to and fro until the waters were dried up from the earth. <sup>8</sup>Then he sent out the dove from him, to see if the waters had subsided from the face of the ground; <sup>9</sup>but the dove found no place to set its foot, and it returned to him to the ark, for the waters were still on the face of the whole earth. So he put out his hand and took it and brought it into the ark with him. <sup>10</sup>He waited another seven days, and again he sent out the dove from the ark; <sup>11</sup>and the dove came back to him in the evening, and there in its beak was a freshly plucked olive leaf; so Noah knew that the waters had subsided from the earth. <sup>12</sup>Then he waited another seven days, and sent out the dove; and it did not return to him any more.

GENESIS 9: <sup>8</sup>Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup>"As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup>and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. <sup>11</sup>I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." <sup>12</sup>God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup>I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup>When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup>I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup>When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that

is on the earth." <sup>17</sup>God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

SKIT/SERMON

Pastor Mary Eide

MILESTONE MOMENTS: 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Bibles and Blessing of the Backpacks

*Invite all kids with their backpacks up front, PLUS PARENTS of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders.*

BIBLE MILESTONE *(Parent/adults are handed Bible)*

L: Children, when your parents brought you to the baptismal font, they promised to place the Bible in your hands, to nurture your lives by coming to worship and participating in the Holy Supper. They promised to teach you the principles of your faith: the *Lord's Prayer*, the *Creed*, and the *Ten Commandments* so that you may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ, and care for all God created. On that same day, this or another congregation pledged to help your parents fulfill these promises. Today, we join together to take an important step towards fulfilling our pledge to you and your parents.

L: For 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders this is a special time in your life because you are old enough to read the Bible by yourself. The Bible you are receiving is meant to be read to teach you about God and your Christian faith. Parents or other family member, please give your child their Bible repeat after me: "**This is the Word of the Lord.**" (PAUSE) Students, respond by saying: "Amen" *(children repeat)* **Amen**

Pastor: Parents/family members, please place your hands on the head of your child as we pray. All others gathered, please raise your hand towards these children and let us pray. **ALL: Gracious God, your word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path. Bless these Bibles, the adults who give them, and the children who receive them. Help them to know and understand the promise of your love; trust the goodness of your grace; and how to live as your children, now and forever. Amen.**

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACK MILESTONE: *(Question, brief message)*

I now ask the congregation to join me in a prayer and blessing for the children/youth here today, whether in person or online. If you are comfortable doing so, please extend your hand towards the children, and join in by reading the **BOLD text**.

God of fresh starts and new beginnings, **bless these students who bring themselves, their big feelings, and backpacks before you.** In their backpacks, they carry blank pages, school work, sharpened pencils, and colorful crayons. In their hearts, they carry big feelings, unanswered questions, and hopeful expectations. There are endless possibilities of what this new year might bring— of what they might learn, who they might meet, and who they might become. Thank you for being with them throughout the day. **Bless them on the bus, in a car, or walking to school. Bless them in classrooms, in gyms, sports fields, and cross country trails. Please bless their journey. Amen.**

Kids let's pray for the adults going back to school, those caring for children in homes or daycare centers, for those heading off to work, for those who volunteer their time, and those who care for the needs of their loved ones. Place your hand in the air towards them as I pray these words: Loving God, there are endless possibilities of what this new year might bring to all of these adults, of what they might learn and who they might meet. Bless them throughout each day, and

please bless their journey. God, our friend who's full of wonder, thank you for loving us all. Amen.  
(Students can now return to their pews/seats)

#### GIVING

\* OFFERING PRAYER Gracious God, **all of creation is yours. Accept these gifts which we return to you with gratitude for the sake of the world. Amen.**

\* PRAYERS AND PETITIONS (L: God of promise, **ALL: You hear our prayers.**)

\* LORD'S PRAYERS **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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen**

\* ANNOUNCEMENTS/BLESSING Children, families, and all who love them, go out into the beautiful world that God has made! Go and play! Go and learn! Go and love others! May you be filled with lovingkindness for yourself and everyone around you. The holy Trinity, Father, Son, and ✚ Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever **Amen.**

\* Blue #526 SENDING HYMN "*My Life Flows On in Endless Song*" PAGE 5

\* DISMISSAL Go in peace. Love your neighbor. **Thanks be to God.**

#### SCHEDULE

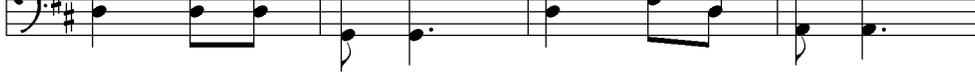
|              |                    |   |
|--------------|--------------------|---|
| <b>Today</b> | <b>9:00-9:45am</b> | <b>- Rally Day activities</b>                             |
|              | <b>10:00am</b>     | <b>- Rally Day Worship</b>                                |
|              | <b>11:00am</b>     | <b>- Fellowship in Gathering Place</b>                    |
| Monday       | 7pm                | - AA Meeting  |
| Tuesday      | 4-6pm              | - Food Pantry   |
| Wednesday    | 12pm               | - Women's Meeting   |
|              | 3:20-4:30          | - 7 <sup>th</sup> -8 <sup>th</sup> Gr. Confirmation Class |
|              | 6pm                | - Autumn Fest meeting                                     |
| Thursday     | 6pm                | - Finance Meeting   |
| Friday:      | 10am-Noon          | - Food Pantry   |
| SUNDAY:      | 8:45-9:45am        | - Sunday School   |
|              | 10:00am            | - Communion Worship                                       |

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY SCHOOL full classes begin next week 9/18<sup>th</sup> from 8:45-9:45am.

AUTUMN FEST is coming on Sunday, OCTOBER 2<sup>nd</sup>. Check out the sign up sheets for ways you can help make this a fun and successful event. There are many ways you can make this event a success....NEXT **MEETINGS WED., 9/14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm church basement.**

VIC JENSON'S 90<sup>th</sup> BIRTHDAY OPEN HOUSE Sun. 9/25<sup>th</sup> 12pm-4pm at N5440 870<sup>th</sup> St., Elk Mound, WI at Wendy and Ryan Sterry's home.



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yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

**Elk Mound, WI 54739**  
 site [www.sothem.org](http://www.sothem.org) Find  
 Terry Stamm 715-379-3728  
 or Jaime Folczyk

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.  
 Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

liturgies Annual License  
 ouncil of the Churches of Christ in the

## My Life Flows On in Endless Song



- 1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en - ta - tion,
- 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
- 3 What though my joys and com - forts die? The Lord my Sav - ior liv - eth.
- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.  
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing - ing?  
 What though the dark - ness gath - er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.  
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing - ing?

*Refrain*



No storm can shake my in - most calm while to that Rock I'm cling - ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav - en and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899  
 Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

# Spirit of Gentleness

*Refrain*



Spir - it, Spir - it of gen - tle - ness, blow through the wil - der - ness



call - ing and free; Spir - it, Spir - it of rest - less - ness,



stir me from plac - id - ness, wind, wind on the sea.



- 1 You moved on the wa - ters, you called to the deep,
- 2 You swept through the des - ert, you stung with the sand,
- 3 You sang in a sta - ble, you cried from a hill,
- 4 You call from to - mor - row, you break an - cient schemes.



then you coaxed up the moun - tains from the val - leys of sleep;  
and you goad - ed your peo - ple with a law and a land;  
then you whis - pered in si - lence when the whole world was still;  
From the bond - age of sor - row all the cap - tives dream dreams;



and o - ver the e - ons you called to each thing;  
and when they were blind - ed with i - dols and lies,  
and down in the cit - y you  
our wom - en see vi - sions, our Public Domain



“A - wake from your slum - bers and rise on your wings.”  
then you spoke through your proph - ets to o - pen their eyes.  
when you blew through your peo - ple on the rush of the wind.  
With . . . bold new de - ci - sions your peo - ple a - rise.

*Refrain*

Text: James K. Manley, b. 1940  
Music: SPIRIT, James K. Manley  
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