

# SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

September 12, 2021

Eleven O'clock

## WELCOME INTO GOD'S HOUSE (responsive)

Leader: I was glad when they said unto me . . .

Congregation: **Let us go into the house of the Lord!**

Leader: We come into this house to meet the Lord, for it is God who redeems, restores, revives, and returns. Let us rejoice and sing, as God fills our hearts with gladness!

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

## CHIMES OF THE TRINITY

PRELUDE "Just As I Am" arr. James Michael Stevens

CHORAL INTROIT "Be Still My Soul" Jean Sibelius

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 30

Sing to the Lord, you faithful servants;  
give thanks for the remembrance of God's holiness.  
I will exalt you, O Lord,  
because you have lifted me up.  
My heart sings to you without ceasing;  
O Lord my God, I will give you thanks forever.

HYMN 275 "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God"

## PRAYER OF THE DAY (in unison)

**O Lord our God, you are always more ready to bestow your good gifts upon us than we are to seek them. You are more willing to give than we desire or deserve. Help us so to seek that we may truly find, so to ask that we may joyfully receive, so to knock that the door of mercy may be opened for us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHOIR ANTHEM "Create In Me A Clean Heart" John Carter

## SCRIPTURE LESSONS

A READING FROM THE STORY OF ELISHA II Kings 5: 1-14

Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master, because by him the Lord had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from leprosy. Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." So Naaman went in and told his lord just what the girl from the land of Israel had said. And the king of Aram said, "Go then, and I will send along a letter to the king of Israel." He went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten sets of garments. He brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you my servant Naaman, that you may cure him of his leprosy." When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me."

But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, "Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman came with his horses and chariots, and halted at the entrance of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored and you shall be clean." But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, "I thought that for me he would surely come out, and stand and call on the name of the Lord his God, and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the leprosy! Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" He turned and went away in a rage. But his servants approached and said to him, "Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, 'Wash, and be clean'?" So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a young boy, and he was clean.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN 442 "Just as I Am, without One Plea"

SERMON *High and Mighty*

## A LITANY OF NEW BEGINNINGS - PRAYERS FOR US AND FOR OUR WORLD

Leader: In the midst of a still-frightening pandemic:

Congregation: **We turn our hearts to the Lord.**

Leader: Sure that God desires the devotion of our hearts and our minds:

Congregation: **We trust in God to walk with us into the days ahead.**

Leader: With thanks for the gifts of science and knowledge:

Congregation: **We eagerly choose the tools that will protect us and our world.**

Leader: Praising God in this house and in homes near and far:

Congregation: **We are grateful for the gift of worship.**

Leader: Listening to the glory of songs and music when we cannot yet sing ourselves:

Congregation: **We are grateful for those who sing on our behalf.**

Leader: Returning to the study of God's Word, in Sunday School classrooms, Bible Studies, and the gatherings of the women and men of the church:

Congregation: **We are grateful for minds to grasp the riches of the Word.**

Leader: Gathering to hear lessons prepared with love and devotion:

Congregation: **We are grateful for teachers who teach and students who learn.**

Leader: Aware of the schoolrooms now open again throughout our community:

Congregation: **We are grateful for children and adults who gather again to learn and grow, and pray God's protection on them all.**

Leader: Aware of children who return to school from homes of need:

Congregation: **We are grateful for God's gifts to us, and pray for generous hearts to share our bounty with all of God's people.**

Leader: In the midst of a still-frightening pandemic:

Congregation: **We turn our hearts, our courage, and our confidence to the Lord.**

OFFERTORY "Wash Me Clean" Mark Bird & Shawn McDonald

Offerings for God's work through Paw Creek Church are gratefully received in the baskets by the entrance and exits to the sanctuary, or by mail to the church office.

## OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Leader: Blessed are you, God of all creation.

Congregation: **Through your goodness we have good gifts to share.**

Leader: Accept and use our offerings for your glory.

Congregation: **And for the service of your kingdom.**

All: **Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

Beginning with Joys and Concerns, and concluding with *The Lord's Prayer, in unison*

HYMN 307 "God of Grace and God of Glory"

## CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE "March Triomphale op. 65, no. 59" S. Karg-Elert

**Please remain seated so that all worshippers, in the sanctuary and online, may enjoy the blessing of the music.**