

**17<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST [LECTIONARY 25]**

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2021**

**SABBATH REFLECTION “O God, You Search Me”**

–Bernadette Farrell

*Celebration Choir*

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

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O God, you search me and you know me.  
All my thoughts lie open to your gaze.  
When I walk or lie down you are before me:  
ever the maker and keeper of my days.

You know my resting and my rising.  
You discern my purpose from afar,  
and with love everlasting you besiege me:  
in ev'ry moment of life or death, you are.

Before a word is on my tongue, Lord,  
you have known its meaning through and through.  
You are with me beyond my understanding:  
God of my present, my past, and future, too.

Although your Spirit is upon me,  
still I search for shelter from your light.  
There is nowhere on earth I can escape you:  
even the darkness is radiant in your sight.

For you created me and shaped me,  
gave me life within my mother's womb.  
For the wonder of who I am, I praise you:  
safe in your hands, all creation is made new.

*(end)*

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **\*CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
whose teaching is life,  
whose presence is sure,  
and whose love is endless.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sins to the one who welcomes us with an open heart.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God our comforter:

**like lost sheep, we have gone astray.**

**We gaze upon abundance and see scarcity.**

**We turn our faces away from injustice and oppression.**

**We exploit the earth with our apathy and greed.**

**Free us from our sin, gracious God.**

**Listen when we call out to you for help.**

**Lead us by your love to love our neighbors as ourselves.**

**Amen.**

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

By the gift of grace in ✝ Christ Jesus, God makes you righteous.

Receive with glad hearts the forgiveness of all your sins.

**Amen.**

**\*GATHERING SONG** "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

ELW # 588

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863, alt. Public Domain

**There's a wideness in God's mercy,  
like the wideness of the sea;  
there's a kindness in God's justice  
which is more than liberty.**

**There is no place where earth's sorrows  
are more felt than up in heav'n.  
There is no place where earth's failings  
have such kindly judgment giv'n.**

**There is welcome for the sinner,  
and a promised grace made good;  
there is mercy with the Savior;  
there is healing in his blood.**

**There is grace enough for thousands  
of new worlds as great as this;  
there is room for fresh creations  
in that upper home of bliss.**

**For the love of God is broader  
than the measures of our mind;  
and the heart of the Eternal  
is most wonderfully kind.**

**But we make this love too narrow  
by false limits of our own;  
and we magnify its strictness  
with a zeal God will not own.**

**'Tis not all we owe to Jesus;  
it is something more than all:  
greater good because of evil,  
larger mercy through the fall.**

**Make our love, O God, more faithful;  
let us take you at your word,  
and our lives will be thanksgiving  
for the goodness of the Lord.  
(end)**

### **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you**

Let us pray. O God,

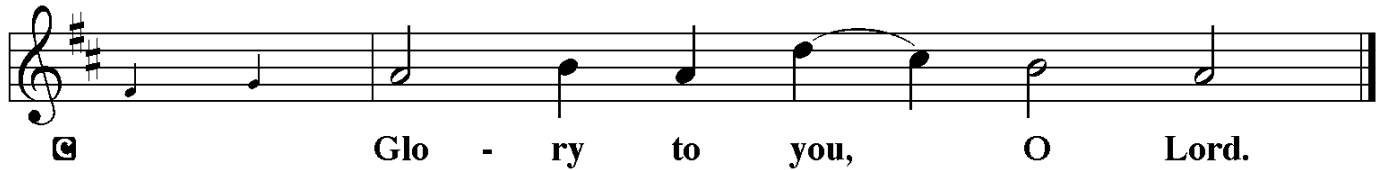
**our teacher and guide, you draw us to yourself and  
welcome us as beloved children. Help us to lay aside all  
envy and selfish ambition, that we may walk in your ways  
of wisdom and understanding as servants of your Son,  
Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

### **CHILDREN'S HOMILY**

## TEACHING MOMENT

### \*GOSPEL: Mark 9:30-37

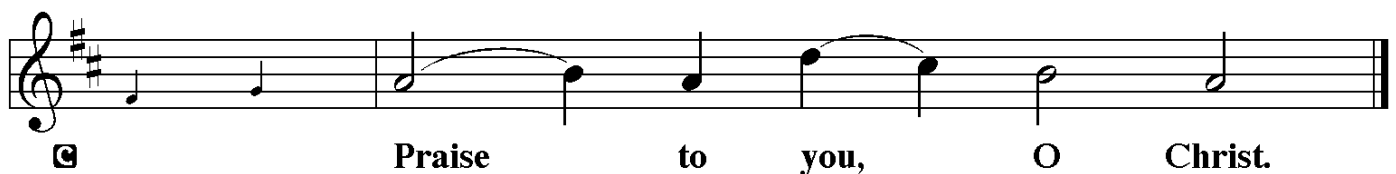
The holy gospel according to St. Mark, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.



<sup>30</sup>[Jesus and the disciples went on] and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it;<sup>31</sup>for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” <sup>32</sup>But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him.

<sup>33</sup>Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” <sup>34</sup>But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest. <sup>35</sup>He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” <sup>36</sup>Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, <sup>37</sup>“Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

The gospel of the Lord.



**HOMILY** “How do you spell G-R-E-A-T?” Pastor Dave Helfrich

**\*SONG OF THE DAY** “Children of the Heavenly Father”

ELW # 781

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870-1958

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**Children of the heav'nly Father  
safely in his bosom gather;  
nestling bird nor star in heaven  
such a refuge e'er was given.**

**God his own doth tend and nourish,  
in his holy courts they flourish.  
From all evil things he spares them,  
in his mighty arms he bears them.**

**Neither life nor death shall ever  
from the Lord his children sever;  
unto them his grace he showeth,  
and their sorrows all he knoweth.**

**Though he giveth or he taketh,  
God his children ne'er forsaketh;  
his the loving purpose solely  
to preserve them pure and holy.**

***(end)***

## **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

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.**

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Made children and heirs of God's promise, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of community, we pray for the church around the world. Unite us in our love for you. Help us overcome our divisions, that we are encouraged to work together for your sake.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of creation, we pray for this hurting earth. Awaken in us a new desire to care for this world and empower us to support agencies, organizations, and individual efforts to heal our environment.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of cooperation, we pray for nations of the world embroiled in conflict. Inspire leaders to listen to each other and work towards peaceful solutions to disagreements. Protect the vulnerable, especially children, who cannot find safety in their home or country.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**



God of comfort, we pray for all who live with mental or physical illness. Help them find appropriate care. Bring healing and wholeness when the path forward seems bleak. We especially pray for those affected by COVID-19.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of compassion, we pray for the young people of this congregation. Renew in us your call to welcome the children in our midst. As they grow, strengthen their faith and our commitment to them.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of consolation, we give you thanks for our loved ones who have died and pray for all who grieve today. Shine your grace on all your saints.

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers, O God, and those in our hearts known only to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*EXCHANGE OF PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our calling and our joy,  
That we should at all times and in all places  
Give thanks and praise to you,  
Almighty and merciful God,  
Through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
Who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
And by his glorious resurrection,  
Opened to us the way of everlasting life.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
With the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
We praise your name  
And join their unending hymn:

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## \*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### \*LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave 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  
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, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen**

## LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## HOLY COMMUNION

We will commune by pew sections. Please follow your usher's directions.

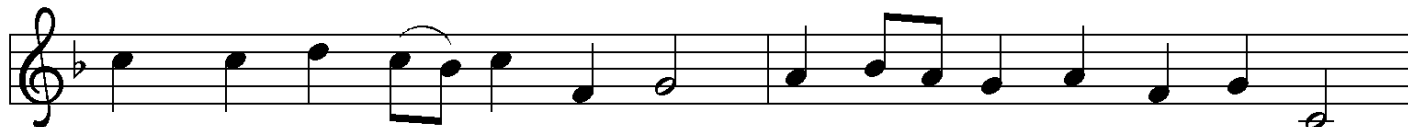
For all of those watching online and all who are gathered in this space, please pray for one another.

## \*COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**Amen.**

## CANTICLE



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re - joice and bear Christ's ho - ly name.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
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## \*SENDING PRAYER

## **\*BENEDICTION**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

In the name of the Father, ✝ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

"Toccata in D Minor"

–Johann Jacob Froberger

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