

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

July 18, 2021

THEME: We, like the Israelites, are invited to live in complete trust with God. It's so easy to slip into other ways: being tight-fisted, hard-hearted, resentful, envious, and mean-spirited.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

From darkness and despair, from being lost and lonely, God calls us home.

Even though we have been selfish and let God down, we are still called beloved.

Remember the eternal love of God which has been poured out for you.

Our hearts rejoice at the wondrous ways in which God loves and forgives us.

GATHERING SONG

Lord I Lift Your Name On High

Lord I lift Your name on high. Lord I love to sing Your praises.

I'm so glad You're in my life, I'm so glad You came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way,

From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay;

From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;

Lord I lift Your name on high.

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: **O God, how incredible is your love! We have been made new and reconciled to you and to each other in love, peace and joy. Guide our lives that we may serve you more fully all of our days. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 15:1-2, 7-11

Pew Bible Old Testament pg. 190

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

GOSPEL

Luke 15:11-32

Pew Bible New Testament pg. 80

Spark Bible pg. 378

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 15th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The reading concludes: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

**Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.**

**Here I raise my Ebenezer: "Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.**

**Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.**

APOSTLES' CREED

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 THE CHURCH

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

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

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your abiding grace. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.****

BENEDICTION

**The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ☩ be upon you now and
forever. **Amen.****

REFRAIN: Shine, Jesus, shine, fill this land with the Father's glory:

Blaze, Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.

Flow, river, flow, flood the nations with grace and mercy;

send forth your Word, Lord, and let there be light!

Lord, the light of your love is shining, in the midst of the darkness, shining;

Jesus, light of the world, shine upon us, set us free by the truth you now bring us.

Shine on me, shine on me: REFRAIN

As we gaze on your kingly brightness, so our faces display your likeness,

ever changing from glory to glory, mirrored here, may our lives tell your story.

Shine on me, shine on me: REFRAIN

DISMISSAL

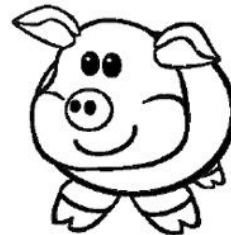
Go in peace. You are the body of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

The Parable of the Lost Son

Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. Luke 15:23-24 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 15:11-32 (NIV).



H I R E D N D M Y E S T A T E
 C W Y Y E X W R E W N M G I O
 Q O H B E O T E G E E B Q D H
 F T M J N N P M P Q T A B A F
 S A S P U O T S Y N C F L P W
 T T T O A S D T L Z A Z G T R
 A O C H O S R T W P I G S G H
 R I O L E E S C F E O M N F N
 V M E K P R A I O P F I E E X
 I K S O S I X O O D R R K A F
 N Q R O K R E G D N F E T S O
 G P A R N F X Z O D Q E S T U
 Z H A X Q S T O M A C H E E N
 G D L N D B H I K I S S E D D
 Z S Y T W Z C E L E B R A T E

WEALTH	ESTATE	COUNTRY	PIGS	FOOD
COMPASSION	HIRED	FOUND	FEED	RING
CELEBRATE	STARVING	PROPERTY	FEAST	SONS
KISSED	FATHER	STOMACH	SPENT	LOST