

Ninth Sunday after Pentecost ..... August 9, 2020

**INVITATION AND GATHERING**

**WELCOME**

**CENTERING WORDS**

When we say, "Yes" to God, we choose to follow God's ways and to live as Christ lived. Today, let us say, "Yes!" to God and do what He is telling us to do. Amen.

**INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD**

Listen for the wisdom of God, as we enter the Word. Pray for understanding, as we invoke loving kindness and justice into living Word.

**\*SCRIPTURE READING ..... 1 Corinthians 3:1-9**

**\* OPENING HYMN: .....Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God**

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

Leader: When Moses was called from the burning bush, God was not concerned only about the Israelites in Egypt.

**People: God is to be remembered by all generations as our strong Deliverer.**

Leader: We believe that life, oppressed by sin, is not God's will for us.

**People: We trust in God to see us in our afflictions and give us deliverance**

**\* Let us pray (Congregation):**

**O God, our sustainer, who is always present to lead your children out of their oppression into a glorious blessing: Look upon the great difficulties we have with sin controlling our lives and convince us with your message of deliverance that we may sense your presence in our midst, bringing us into a new life with Christ our Savior in whose name we pray. Amen.**

**\* LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS: ..... He Giveth More Grace**

**PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Congregation)**

**Lord, we have complained about life with all its problems, yet we have made little response to your messengers who tell us you are a God of deliverance. Forgive us our sins that have created so many of our problems in life. Forgive us for not knowing you better, which has hindered our being delivered from the oppression of sin. Hear us in our penitence and grant us forgiveness to a life of freedom in Christ, through whom we pray. Amen.**

**\* LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS:.....**

**Just a Closer Walk With Thee**

**INTRODUCTION TO THE WORD**

The things of old have passed away. God is always doing a new thing, calling us forth to claim our place as chosen and beloved children. Listen, for God has something new to say today, just as God has new things to say each and every day.

**\*SCRIPTURE READING: ..... Exodus 4:1-13**

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**THE WORD MADE FLESH: "Excuses, excuses, and more excuses: Part 2"**

**\* RESPONSE TO THE WORD: ..... Spirit of the Living God**

**CONGREGATION IN PRAYER: Joys and Concerns**

**\* CLOSING HYMN: ..... Amazing Grace**

**\*DISMISSAL BLESSING**

## Today's Scripture Readings

### 1 Corinthians 3:1-9 (NKJV)

#### Sectarianism Is Carnal

**3** And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual *people* but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. **2** I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able *to receive it*, and even now you are still not able; **3** for you are still carnal. For where *there are* envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and <sup>Ⓜ</sup>behaving like *mere* men? **4** For when one says, "I am of Paul," and another, "I *am* of Apollos," are you not carnal?

#### Watering, Working, Warning

**5** Who then is Paul, and who *is* Apollos, but ministers through whom you believed, as the Lord gave to each one? **6** I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. **7** So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. **8** Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

**9** For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, *you are* God's building

### Exodus 4:1-13 (NKJV)

#### Miraculous Signs for Pharaoh

**4** Then Moses answered and said, "But suppose they will not believe me or listen to my voice; suppose they say, 'The LORD has not appeared to you.' "

**2** So the LORD said to him, "What *is* that in your hand?"  
He said, "A rod."

**3** And He said, "Cast it on the ground." So he cast it on the ground, and it became a serpent; and Moses fled from it. **4** Then the LORD said to Moses, "Reach out your hand and take *it* by the tail" (and he reached out his hand and caught it, and it became a rod in his hand), **5** "that they may believe that the LORD God of their fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has appeared to you."

**6** Furthermore the LORD said to him, "Now put your hand in your bosom." And he put his hand in his bosom, and when he took it out, behold, his

hand *was* leprous, like snow. **7** And He said, "Put your hand in your bosom again." So he put his hand in his bosom again, and drew it out of his bosom, and behold, it was restored like his *other* flesh. **8** "Then it will be, if they do not believe you, nor heed the message of the first sign, that they may believe the message of the latter sign. **9** And it shall be, if they do not believe even these two signs, or listen to your voice, that you shall take water from <sup>Ⓜ</sup>the river and pour *it* on the dry *land*. The water which you take from the river will become blood on the dry *land*."

**10** Then Moses said to the LORD, "O my Lord, I *am* not eloquent, neither before nor since You have spoken to Your servant; but I *am* slow of speech and <sup>Ⓜ</sup>slow of tongue."

**11** So the LORD said to him, "Who has made man's mouth? Or who makes the mute, the deaf, the seeing, or the blind? *Have* not I, the LORD? **12** Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say."

**13** But he said, "O my Lord, please send by the hand of whomever *else* You may send."

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