

SUNDAY, JULY 9 | ACTS 6:8 - 7:60

CALL TO WORSHIP

Lord our hearts are prone to wander and often forgetful.

The doubts, frustrations, fears, and anxieties we bring into this place weigh us down.

We long for your presence, and need to be reminded that you alone can satisfy.

“Then I said, “I will appeal to this, to the years of the right hand of the Most High.” I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your wonders of old. I will ponder all your work, and meditate on your mighty deeds. Your way, O God, is holy. What god is great like our God? You are the God who works wonders; you have made known your might among the peoples. You with your arm redeemed your people, the children of Jacob and Joseph.”

Psalm 77:10-15

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Oh Lord,

You have been faithful through all generations.

You were faithful to Abraham, to Isaac, to Joseph, and to all of Jacob’s sons - even when they sinned against you. You were faithful to liberate your people from the hand of Pharaoh through your servant Moses - all the while knowing that they would turn to worship idols in the wilderness.

Like your people, we have been unfaithful to you while you have been faithful. We have doubted you, rejected you, and hated you.

When your son came to earth to heal, speak the truth, and give us life, we rejected and crucified him. It was our sins that sent him to the cross.

We are a stiff-necked people who often resist the Holy Spirit.

Forgive us Lord, and set us free.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news:

“God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by his life.”

Romans 5:7-9

Christians - although you were once an enemy of God - you have been brought near to him in friendship by the blood of Christ. Rest in the assurance that your sins have been paid for.

Thanks be to God!

BENEDICTION

God has been faithful from generation to generation, extending mercy to a people who rejected him and turned their backs on him.

Go now as the people of God - redeemed by the blood sacrifice of his son to tell the world about the forgiveness he offers for sins in Jesus' name. Amen.