

14<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost**Prelude***Bercesuse*

**Gathering**— The Great Potter God calls us to worship this day. Here in this community, in God’s presence, we find healing balm for our tired and weary souls. Here in our worship and in our praise, we come seeking God’s promise of renewal and hope, ready to be restored and made whole. Let us worship this day.

**A Time of Prayer**

**The Lord's Prayer** (unison)—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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

**We Hear God’s Word**

*The People and Prophet’s Cry:*  
*Jeremiah 8:18-9:1 (NRSV)*

<sup>18</sup> My joy is gone, grief is upon me,  
 my heart is sick.

<sup>19</sup> Hark, the cry of my poor people  
 from far and wide in the land:

‘Is the LORD not in Zion?  
 Is her King not in her?’

(‘Why have they provoked me to anger  
 with their images,  
 with their foreign idols?’)

<sup>20</sup> ‘The harvest is past, the summer  
 is ended,  
 and we are not saved.’

<sup>21</sup> For the hurt of my poor people I am

hurt, I mourn, and dismay has taken hold  
 of me.

<sup>22</sup> Is there no balm in Gilead?

Is there no physician there?  
 Why then has the health of my poor  
 people not been restored?

<sup>9</sup>O that my head were a spring of water,  
 and my eyes a fountain of tears,  
 so that I might weep day and night  
 for the slain of my poor people!

*God’s Response: Jeremiah 31:2-6, 10-14*

<sup>2</sup> Thus says the LORD:

The people who survived the sword  
 found grace in the wilderness;

when Israel sought for rest,  
<sup>3</sup> the LORD appeared to him from far  
 away.

I have loved you with an everlasting  
 love; therefore I have continued my  
 faithfulness to you.

<sup>4</sup> Again I will build you, and you shall be  
 built,

O virgin Israel!  
 Again you shall take your tambourines,  
 and go forth in the dance of the  
 merry-makers.

<sup>5</sup> Again you shall plant vineyards  
 on the mountains of Samaria;  
 the planters shall plant,  
 and shall enjoy the fruit.

<sup>6</sup> For there shall be a day when sentinels  
 will call  
 in the hill country of Ephraim:  
 ‘Come, let us go up to Zion,  
 to the LORD our God.’

<sup>10</sup> Hear the word of the LORD, O nations,  
 and declare it in the coastlands far  
 away; say, ‘He who scattered Israel will  
 gather him, and will keep him as a  
 shepherd a flock.’

<sup>11</sup> For the LORD has ransomed Jacob,  
 and has redeemed him from hands too  
 strong for him.

<sup>12</sup> They shall come and sing aloud on the  
 height of Zion,  
 and they shall be radiant over the  
 goodness of the LORD,  
 over the grain, the wine, and the oil,  
 and over the young of the flock and the

herd;  
 their life shall become like a watered  
 garden,

and they shall never languish again.  
<sup>13</sup> Then shall the young women rejoice in  
 the dance,  
 and the young men and the old shall be  
 merry.

I will turn their mourning into joy,  
 I will comfort them, and give them  
 gladness for sorrow.

<sup>14</sup> I will give the priests their fill of  
 fatness,  
 and my people shall be satisfied with  
 my bounty, says the LORD.

*God’s Response: Jeremiah 33:2, 6-9*

<sup>2</sup>Thus says the LORD who made the  
 earth, the LORD who formed it to  
 establish it—the LORD is his name: <sup>6</sup>I am  
 going to bring it recovery and healing; I  
 will heal them and reveal to them  
 abundance of prosperity and security. <sup>7</sup>I  
 will restore the fortunes of Judah and the  
 fortunes of Israel, and rebuild them as  
 they were at first. <sup>8</sup>I will cleanse them  
 from all the guilt of their sin against me,  
 and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin  
 and rebellion against me. <sup>9</sup>And this  
 city shall be to me a name of joy, a  
 praise and a glory before all the nations  
 of the earth who shall hear of all the  
 good that I do for them; they shall fear  
 and tremble because of all the good and  
 all the prosperity I provide for it.

**Reflection Song**

*Change My Heart, O God, #373*

**Meditation**

*Jars of Clay: Broken Vessels*

**Hymn**

*There Is a Balm in Gilead, #631*

**We Respond to God's Word with Our Giving**

**Invitation**— God's love is steadfast and abundant. We are blessed to give from hearts of love that others might experience abundance. May the gifts we bring be used to supply whatever balm is needed, wherever it is needed. May these resources be used to facilitate the wholeness of all.+

**Called to Serve**—Council 2023/2024

**September Benevolence**—Chicago, United, and Eden Seminaries (CUE)

You can mail your offerings to our office or give online at  
[www.zionuccindy.net/donate](http://www.zionuccindy.net/donate)

**Doxology**

**We Give Thanks**— Steadfast One, receive our gifts in the gladness we give them. Thank you that we have an abundance of resources to share so that every need is met. May we always give from wide open hearts, and may what we give, be used to bring a balm of justice. Amen.+

**Hymn**

*How Can I Keep From Singing? #424*

**Benediction**—As you enter into everyday life again, let the balm you received be the balm that you gladly share with others. Go forth in the wholeness of God's steadfast love. Amen.+

**Postlude**

*Joyous Postlude*