



*The 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost*

**Prelude**

*Teach Us Thy Way*

**Gathering**—We are on holy ground. Come and experience God among us and within us.

**Gathering Song**

*Holy Ground, 564*

**A Time of Prayer**—Great I AM, you come to us in unexpected ways. Excite our curiosity, that we might turn aside and realize we are standing on holy ground. Appear to us in fire and wonder, that we might see worlds beyond the reaches of our imaginations. Reveal the glory of your kingdom— where love is genuine, where evil is forsaken, where mutual affection abides, and hospitality is shown to strangers, where all are made one.~

**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.

**Exploring God's Word for All Ages**

*Holy Ground*

**We Hear God's Word**—*Exodus 3:1-15 (NRSV)*

*Greg Miller*

<sup>3</sup>Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian; he led his flock beyond the wilderness, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. <sup>2</sup>There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of a bush; he looked, and the bush was blazing, yet it was not consumed. <sup>3</sup>Then Moses said, 'I must turn aside and look at this great sight, and see why the bush is not burned up.' <sup>4</sup>When the LORD saw that he had turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, 'Moses, Moses!' And he said, 'Here I am.' <sup>5</sup>Then he said, 'Come no closer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.' <sup>6</sup>He said further, 'I am the God of your father, the God of

Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

7 Then the LORD said, ‘I have observed the misery of my people who are in Egypt; I have heard their cry on account of their taskmasters. Indeed, I know their sufferings, <sup>8</sup>and I have come down to deliver them from the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the country of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. <sup>9</sup>The cry of the Israelites has now come to me; I have also seen how the Egyptians oppress them. <sup>10</sup>So come, I will send you to Pharaoh to bring my people, the Israelites, out of Egypt.’ <sup>11</sup>But Moses said to God, ‘Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh, and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?’ <sup>12</sup>He said, ‘I will be with you; and this shall be the sign for you that it is I who sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God on this mountain.’

13 But Moses said to God, ‘If I come to the Israelites and say to them, “The God of your ancestors has sent me to you”, and they ask me, “What is his name?” what shall I say to them?’ <sup>14</sup>God said to Moses, ‘I AM WHO I AM.’ He said further, ‘Thus you shall say to the Israelites, “I AM has sent me to you.”’ <sup>15</sup>God also said to Moses, ‘Thus you shall say to the Israelites, “The LORD, the God of your ancestors, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you”:

This is my name for ever,  
and this my title for all generations.

## **Meditation**

*On Holy Ground*

## **Hymn**

*The Church’s One Foundation, 544*

## **We Gather at the Table**

**Set Your Place at the Table**—Whatever you have on hand to celebrate communion will work just fine, because this ancient ritual is not about what we use for this meal or where we partake of it. Instead, it is about the act of remembrance. So, gather around the table, prepare your place, and remember that Christ is in our midst.

**Our Invitation**—After Moses encountered God on that holy ground, he would, indeed, answer the call God had given him, to lead God’s people out of Egypt and into the Promised Land. As God’s people fled to safety, God passed over them to confront their oppressors and lead them to liberation. In

celebrating that Passover so many generations later, Jesus gathered with his disciples to remember God's liberating love and to renew God's covenant promise through his own body and blood. Gather at this table, all who are weary and aching, and let your hearts be liberated by God's mercy and grace.

**A Prayer for Transformation**—Loving God, Holy Shepherd, we long for a higher calling. When we would rather tend our flocks in peace than confront the powers of this age, open our hearts to your guidance and direction. When we would rather keep silent than face the suffering of others, open our mouths to speak your truth. Turn us from human considerations and set our minds on your kingdom, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.~

**Assurance of Grace**—The great I AM invites us to turn aside and boldly embrace paths that lead to life. Turn and receive blessing upon blessing.~

**The Words of Institution**— On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." And so, we remember...we offer ourselves...we proclaim God's love...

**Blessing Our Meal**—God of our ancestors, generation to generation you bless us with your holy presence. Through Jesus Christ the fulness of your presence has been made known. As we remember the gift of our Savior, may your Holy Spirit make holy this bread and this cup that we might know the wonders of your love. Amen.

**We Share the Bread and the Cup** – As you eat the bread, remember, "This is the body of Christ broken for you." Take and eat. As you drink the cup, remember, "This is the blood of Christ shed for you and the forgiveness of sins." Take and drink.

**We Give Thanks**—Almighty God, we give you thanks for the gift of our Savior's presence in the simplicity and splendor of this holy meal. Unite us with all who are fed by Christ's body and blood that we may faithfully

proclaim the good news of your love and that your universal church may be a rainbow of hope in an uncertain world; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen.`

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

**Invitation**—We are, indeed, on holy ground here at Zion. Through this community of faith God has given us a call to serve and enrich the world around us, so let us bring our gifts with joy this day that they might be used to care for this holy ground and fulfill the mission God has given us.

**September Benevolence**—Horizon House

### **Doxology**

**We Give Thanks**—Holy God of holy ground, like Moses, we question our fitness to serve heaven's purposes on earth. Overcome our qualms with the assurance of your presence; bless these offerings that, through them, we may do your will; in the name of the triune One. Amen.=

### **Hymn**

*This Is My Father's World, 21*

**Benediction**—Having been renewed by this encounter of our wondrous God, on this holy ground, go, now, out into the world to carry this holiness with you in your work, in your rest, in your play, that others, too, might see the goodness of our God.

### **Postlude**

*Beautiful America*