

PRELUDE, GATHERING, WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS *Blest Be the Tie That Binds* **557**
- more space for notes on the back

CALL TO WORSHIP

HYMN *I Sing the Almighty Power of God* **152**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION *written by Ginna Bairby*

Gracious God, we see as in a mirror dimly.
Your Spirit offers clarity, wisdom and understanding.
Open our eyes, that these many words of Scripture
may bear witness to your true Word:
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SCRIPTURE Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9
James 1:17-27
Mark 7:1-5, 20-23

CHOIR *The Gift of Love* **408**

SERMON

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE *written by Ginna Bairby (alt)*

Merciful God, we confess that our words and actions
do not always line up.
We are quick to speak our faith, but slow to live it.
We sing praise to your name,
but we pass by the needy on the street.
Change us, O God. By your grace, transform us.
Root out the selfishness that hardens our hearts,
and replace it with compassion and generosity.
Empower us by your Spirit
that we might be doers of your word
and not hearers only.
All this we pray in the name of Jesus the Christ, Amen.

{silent prayers}

written by Ginna Bairby (alt)
*Our merciful God lifts our burdens from us,
removes the failures of our past,
and turns us to new life.*

In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God! Amen

HYMN *Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of All Nature* **189**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE - more space for notes on the back

INTERCESSIONS

BRINGING OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

*With joy and gratitude for all we have been given,
in token of our lives, we offer our tithes and gifts to God.*

DOXOLOGY

Reflecting on and Praying with Scriptures

As suggested by the Revised Common Lectionary

Year B – September 1, 2024

*Reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press
from Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion. Copyright 2015*

Scriptures

Song of Solomon 2:8-13 **and** Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9
or Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 *and* Psalm 15
and James 1:17-27 **and** Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Questions for Reflection: *(Song 2:10 and Mark 7:1ff).*

Song of Solomon portrays a vivid picture of romantic love in poetic form.

Can you recall an experience of romantic love?

In what ways does romantic love parallel our relationship with Christ?

In what ways is it different?

How can we know the difference between human tradition and the commandments of God?

How can we know that we serve God from the heart?

Morning Prayers:

Beloved Savior, my heart overflows with your goodness.

The night has passed. The morning has come.

Your voice calls me to arise

and come with you into this new day.

Let your love strengthen me to answer your call

and follow you, caring for those in need of your love.

Amen.

Lord Jesus, help me walk blamelessly and do what is right,

to speak the truth in love, to avoid gossip and slander,

and do good to all I meet, that I may abide in your presence

and dwell in fellowship with the Holy Trinity. Amen.

Evening Prayers:

Christ, Beloved One,

I desired to keep pace with your steps of love today,

but I found my mind wandering, my feet straying,
my heart forgetting your love.

Gather me again in your gracious embrace

and renew my strength as I rest in your love this night.

Amen..

Lord, you have been my light this day.

As evening comes, be my light in the darkness.

With meekness I welcome the word you have implanted

in my heart, and with confidence I claim the power
of salvation in Jesus Christ.

And let me rest from my labors, confident that in you
there is no shadow of fear. Amen.