

Order of Worship
October 8, 2023 – 19th Sunday after Pentecost

Announcements and Prelude

Call to Worship – Psalm 20

¹ May the LORD answer you when you are in distress;
may the name of the God of Jacob protect you.

² *May he send you help from the sanctuary
and grant you support from Zion.*

³ May he remember all your sacrifices
and accept your burnt offerings.

⁴ *May he give you the desire of your heart
and make all your plans succeed.*

⁵ May we shout for joy over your victory
and lift up our banners in the name of our God.
May the LORD grant all your requests.

⁶ *The LORD gives victory to his anointed;
he answers him from his heavenly sanctuary
with the victorious power of his right hand.*

⁷ Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.

⁸ *They are brought to their knees and fall,
but we rise up and stand firm.*

⁹ *O LORD, give victory to the king!
Answer us when we call!*

Hymn

God of the Ages

#698

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading – 2 Chronicles 20:1-23, King Jehoshaphat [860 BC]

20 After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to wage war against Jehoshaphat. ² Some people came and told Jehoshaphat, “A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Dead Sea. It is already in Hazezon Tamar” (that is, En Gedi). ³ Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the LORD, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. ⁴ The people of Judah came together to seek help from the LORD; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.

⁵ Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the LORD in the front of the new courtyard ⁶ and said: “O LORD, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you. ⁷ Our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? ⁸ They have lived in it and have built in it a sanctuary for your Name, saying, ⁹ ‘If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.’”

¹⁰ “But now here are men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, whose territory you would not allow Israel to invade when they came from Egypt; so they turned away from them and did not destroy them. ¹¹ See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance. ¹² Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

¹³ All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the LORD. ¹⁴ Then the Spirit of the LORD came on Jahaziel son of Zechariah ... ¹⁵ He said: “Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s. ¹⁷ You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.’”

¹⁸ Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the LORD. ¹⁹ Then some Levites from the Kohathites and Korahites stood up and praised the LORD, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice.

²¹ Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the LORD and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying: “Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever.” ²² As they began to sing and praise, the LORD set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated. ²³ The Ammonites and Moabites rose up against the men from Mount Seir to destroy and annihilate them. After they finished slaughtering the men from Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

Gloria Patri [#70] & Apostles' Creed [#881]

Offering & Doxology [#95]

Scripture Reading – 2 Chronicles 32:1-22, King Hezekiah [700 BC]

32 After all that Hezekiah had so faithfully done, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah. He laid siege to the fortified cities, planning to conquer them for himself. ²When Hezekiah saw that Sennacherib had come and that he intended to wage war against Jerusalem, ³he consulted with his officials and military staff about blocking off the water from the springs outside the city, and they helped him. ⁴They gathered a large group of people who blocked all the springs and the stream that flowed through the land. “Why should the king of Assyria come and find plenty of water?” they said. ⁵Then he worked hard repairing all the broken sections of the wall and building towers on it. He built another wall outside that one and reinforced the terraces of the City of David. He also made large numbers of weapons and shields.

⁶He appointed military officers over the people and assembled them before him in the square at the city gate and encouraged them with these words: ⁷“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of the king of Assyria and the vast army with him, for there is a greater power with us than with him. ⁸With him is only the arm of flesh, but with us is the LORD our God to help us and to fight our battles.” And the people gained confidence from what Hezekiah the king of Judah said.

²⁰King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz cried out in prayer to heaven about the threats of King Sennacherib of Assyria. ²¹And the LORD sent an angel, who annihilated all the fighting men and the commanders and officers in the camp of the Assyrian king. So he withdrew to his own land in disgrace. And when he went into the temple of his god, some of his sons, his own flesh and blood, cut him down with the sword.

²²So the LORD saved Hezekiah and the people of Jerusalem from the hand of Sennacherib king of Assyria and from the hand of all others. He took care of them on every side.

Sermon

Pastor Paul

Lessons from History:
Crisis, Prayer, Deliverance

*We have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us.
We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.*
2 Chronicles 20:12

Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory

#577

Benediction

October 8, 2023
19th Sunday after Pentecost



2023 Annual Group Charge Conference

11:00 a.m. Saturday, October 28 at East Stroudsburg UMC

2023 Annual Global Meal Pack

Friday & Saturday, November 3 & 4, at East Stroudsburg UMC

Poplar Valley UMC – poplarvalleyumc.info
Cherry Valley UMC – cherryvalleyumc.info