



Seventh & James Baptist Church
October 29, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.
The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Seventh & James Baptist Church
October 29, 2023 · 11:00 a.m.
The Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost

Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“Ein’ Feste Burg ist unser Gott”
(A Mighty Fortress Is Our God)

J.G. Walther

Welcome and Call to Worship

Leslie Rosencrans

One: Beloved child of God, you are welcome here....

Many: We give thanks to God for bringing us into this moment of worship.

One: For no matter who you are or where you’ve been, you matter to God and to us.

Many: Our hearts rejoice and give thanks for all those who have come before us and made a place for us to worship, pray, sing, wonder, doubt, believe, and just be.

One: May the love of God through Christ our Lord convince you of your worth and invitation into this body of believers as we worship together in thanksgiving and hope.

Choral Summons

“Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord”
(from *Elijah*)

Felix Mendelssohn

Cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee;
He never will suffer the righteous to fall: He is at thy right hand.
Thy mercy, Lord, is great and far above the heavens:
Let none be made ashamed that wait upon thee. Amen.

Processional Hymn, No. 418

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

Litany Against God’s Absence

Leslie Rosencrans

One: All power, honor, glory be to you! You...sometimes hidden, silent, absent, unresponsive.

Many: Bread of heaven, wine of promise, feed us with your Holy Word.

One: We are so privileged that we seldom sense you hidden, silent, absent, unresponsive. But we know people who do; we think of places where you do not appear.

Many: Nourish us with your strong presence, risen Savior, only Lord.

One: We imagine you defeated, weak, held captive. And we wait, a day, two days, until the third day.

Many: Jesus, at your holy table may our hearts united be.

One: And then, most often then, quite reliably then, you appear in your full glory.

Many: Christ, remind us of your passion, of your precious life out-poured, of the love which none can fathom, and our victory evermore.

One: This day we pray against your absence, silence, and hiddenness. Come with full power into deadly places, and we will praise you deep and full.

All: Silent lips now sing with gladness, blinded eyes are filled with sight. Jesus' love has pierced our darkness, brought us home to peace and light.

— adapted from Walter Brueggemann, *Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth* and Tom Allen, “Jesus, at Your Holy Table”

Prayer of Thanksgiving		Leslie Rosencrans
Old Testament Reading	<i>Deuteronomy 34:1-12</i>	Josh Leikam
Epistle Reading	<i>1 Thessalonians 2:1-8</i>	Sasha Lubaev
Hymn, No. 57		“Be Still, My Soul”
Gospel Reading	<i>Matthew 22:34-46</i>	Matt Rosencrans
	One: This is the Word of the Lord. Many: Thanks be to God.	
Prayers of God’s People		Matt Rosencrans
Offertory	“O Rest in the Lord” (from <i>Elijah</i>) <i>Offering plates are available at the doors of the sanctuary as you leave worship.</i>	Felix Mendelssohn

Doxology, No. 707

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Leslie Rosencrans

*All children are invited to come forward for the Children's Sermon.
Preschoolers [ages 4-kindergarten] may then go to Extended Session.*

Responsive Reading of Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17

Daniel Farris

One: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations. Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

Many: You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

One: For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.

Many: You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;

One: In the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.

Many: Turn, O Lord! How long? Have compassion on your servants!

One: Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

Many: Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us, and as many years as we have seen evil.

One: Let your work be manifest to your servants, and your glorious power to their children.

All: Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and prosper for us the work of our hands—O prosper the work of our hands!

Anthem

"How Lovely Are the Messengers" (from *St. Paul*) Felix Mendelssohn

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace.
To all the nations is gone forth the sound of their words,
Throughout all the lands their glad tidings.



— Arthur Bowen Davies, “Hosanna of the Mountains”

Silent Reflection

We have all had at least fleetingly, an experience of home. Home is where no one ever forgets your name. Home is where no matter what you have done, you will be confronted, forgiven, and accepted. Home is where there is always a place for you at the table.... The heart of justice is participation in God’s economy or God’s household.

— Douglas Meeks

Hymn of Commitment, No. 368

“We Praise You with Our Minds, O Lord”

*If you would like to make a public profession of your faith in Christ
or request membership in this congregation, our ministers
will greet you at the front of the sanctuary.*

Congregational Response

In response to your decision, we pledge ourselves to be the family of God for you in this place; we offer you our love, our care, our kinship, and our hopes; we hope to learn from you, give to you, and receive from you, by God's grace. Amen.

Pastoral Blessing

Scott Turner

Choral Benediction

“O Rest in the Lord” (from *Elijah*)

Felix Mendelssohn

Lise Uhl, *soprano*

O rest in the Lord, wait patiently for Him,
And He shall give thee thy heart's desires.

Postlude

“A Mighty Fortress”

Wayne L. Wold

Today at Seventh

Our Pianist today is Donnie Balmos.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given in gratitude for the Music Ministry.

Hearing devices are available at the sound booth for any who need assistance.

Permission to print music obtained from CCLI, license #1450684.