



**PLUM Worship**  
**10<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**August 14, 2022**  
**3:00 p.m.**

**PRELUDE**      **I Love You, Lord**  
<https://youtu.be/pVo0rBl6VDc>

**WELCOME and PRAYER REQUESTS**

**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**CALL TO WORSHIP**

We gather together in the presence of God.

**We are broken and full of sorrow.**

God calls us home with promises of peace.

**We will comfort one another in God's love.**

**HYMN**    **Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying**  
<https://youtu.be/yh9ivThjQz4>

*Lord, listen to your children praying,  
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;  
Lord, listen to your children praying,  
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.*

[Repeat 3 times]

*Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

We confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

Faithful God,

**We are not always quick to claim you as our God.  
We do not show care for one another. We fail to see  
all people as your people, and hurt one another with  
our actions or lack of action. Forgive us our sins,  
and give us the same fierce love for our neighbors  
that Ruth had for Naomi.**

God, who calls and sustains, forgives you all your sins.  
Go forth in the confidence of God's loving care, in Jesus  
Christ, our savior. **Amen.**

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. God of lovingkindness, In the midst of  
Naomi's grief, Ruth's love and loyalty turned her  
despair to hope. Teach us compassion that has the power  
to heal, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**WORD**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.*

**FIRST READING**

**Ruth 1**

Readers: Narrator, Naomi, Ruth, Women

**Narrator:** In the days when the judges ruled, there was a  
famine in the land, and a certain man of Bethlehem in  
Judah went to live in the country of Moab, he and his  
wife and two sons. The name of the man was Elimelech  
and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his  
two sons were Mahlon and Chilion; they were  
Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. They went into  
the country of Moab and remained there. But Elimelech,  
the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her  
two sons. These took Moabite wives; the name of the  
one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. When  
they had lived there about ten years, both Mahlon and  
Chilion also died, so that the woman was left without her  
two sons and her husband. Then she started to return  
with her daughters-in-law from the country of Moab, for  
she had heard in the country of Moab that the Lord had  
considered his people and given them food. So she set  
out from the place where she had been living, she and  
her two daughters-in-law, and they went on their way to  
go back to the land of Judah. But Naomi said to her two  
daughters-in-law,

**Naomi:** Go back each of you to your mother's house.  
May the Lord deal kindly with you, as you have dealt  
with the dead and with me. The Lord grant that you may  
find security, each of you in the house of your husband."

**Narrator:** Then she kissed them, and they wept aloud.  
They said to her,

**Ruth:** "No, we will return with you to your people."

**Narrator:** But Naomi said,

**Naomi:** "Turn back, my daughters, why will you go with  
me? Do I still have sons in my womb that they may  
become your husbands? Turn back, my daughters, go  
your way, for I am too old to have a husband. Even if I  
thought there was hope for me, even if I should have a  
husband tonight and bear sons, would you then wait until

they were grown? Would you then refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, it has been far more bitter for me than for you, because the hand of the Lord has turned against me.”

**Narrator:** Then they wept aloud again. Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her. So she said,

**Naomi:** “See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; return after your sister-in-law.”

**Narrator:** But Ruth said,

**Ruth:** “Do not press me to leave you or to turn back from following you! Where you go, I will go; Where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die— there will I be buried. May the Lord do thus and so to me, and more as well, if even death parts me from you!”

**Narrator:** When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her. So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. When they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them; and the women said,

**Women:** “Is this Naomi?”

**Narrator:** She said to them,

**Naomi:** “Call me no longer Naomi, call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt bitterly with me. I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty; why call me Naomi when the Lord has dealt harshly with me, and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?”

**Narrator:** So Naomi returned together with Ruth the Moabite, her daughter-in-law, who came back with her from the country of Moab. They came to Bethlehem at the beginning of the barley harvest.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** <https://youtu.be/0k67nFHgvII>  
*Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!*

**GOSPEL** **Matthew 5:3-9**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>3</sup>“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. <sup>5</sup>“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. <sup>6</sup>“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. <sup>7</sup>“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. <sup>8</sup>“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. <sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Brenda Henry**

**HYMN** **Amazing Grace** <https://youtu.be/219rU2P7F> Q

- 1 *Amazing grace! how sweet the sound  
that saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found;  
was blind, but now I see.*
- 2 *'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear  
the hour I first believed!*
- 3 *Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,  
and grace will lead me home.*
- 4 *The Lord has promised good to me;  
his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be  
as long as life endures.*
- 5 *When we've been there ten thousand years,  
bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise  
than when we'd first begun.*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Confident that God acts on our behalf, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, in spite of hardship, Ruth and Naomi remained faithful to each other trusting in your power to sustain them. Show us how to live faithfully as they did, and help us to trust you in all things. God in your mercy, **You hear our prayer.**

Give us the same faithfulness to your good creation as to one another, that we may honor, respect, and

care for all that you have made. God in your mercy,  
**You hear our prayer.**

Teach humility to those who lead, and confidence to those who follow. Bring justice into this world, and make us instruments of your peace. God in your mercy,  
**You hear our prayer.**

With bitterness we sing songs of grief, illness, addiction, isolation, abuse, and neglect. For all who suffer, we pray your mercy and healing, (*especially*). God in your mercy, **You hear our prayer.**

Remind us that this world is not too big for our compassion. Show us how to act in love for all people, no matter how distant from us, no matter how different they may seem. God in your mercy, **You hear our prayer.**

God of all good gifts, your Son gathered children into his arms and blessed them. Help us to understand our youth as they grow in years and in knowledge of your world. Teach us to encourage their search for truth and value in their lives. Protect and bless all of our young people. God in your mercy, **You hear our prayer.**

Lord, you know what is best for the ministry of PLUM. Continue to open our eyes, ears, and hearts, that we may faithfully carry out your work which you have entrusted to us. God in your mercy, **You hear our prayer.**

We praise and thank you for all the saints who have gone before us, whose lives teach us how to live with mercy, kindness, and compassion. God in your mercy, **You hear our prayer.**

*Here other petitions may be offered.*

For what else do we pray? [Silence] God in your mercy, **You hear our prayer.**

With gratitude for your faithfulness, we pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our savior. **Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

*At this time, we offer ourselves to God—our physical resources and our whole life—recognizing that all we are and all we have are God's given to us and for which we are stewards. If you have a monetary offering for your congregation, please send it or deliver it to the church.*

Let us pray. Merciful God, even in the midst of our struggles, you care for us, generously providing all we need. Now we offer our gifts with a spirit of gratitude for

your faithfulness. Accept what he have offered, and bless it for your work in the world. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might;  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying; Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as the Lord taught us.

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION

At the table, God turns our grief into joy. All are welcome to celebrate the feast that is salvation in Christ. Come and share in the transforming love of Jesus.

Take and eat the body of Christ given for you. **Amen.**  
Take and drink the blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**

## COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Life-giving God, through this meal you have bandaged our wounds and fed us with your mercy. Now send us forth to live for others, both friend and stranger, that all may come to know your love. This we pray in the name of Jesus. Amen.**

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## BLESSING

The God of peace, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you, comfort you, and show you the path of life this day and always. **Amen.**

## HYMN On Eagle's Wings [https://youtu.be/8IY\\_iTQf0GM](https://youtu.be/8IY_iTQf0GM)

*1 You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
who abide in this shadow for life,  
say to the Lord: "My refuge,  
my rock in whom I trust!"*

Refrain

*And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of his hand.*

*2 The snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
and famine will bring you no fear;  
under God's wings your refuge,  
with faithfulness your shield. Refrain*

*3 For to the angels God's given a command  
to guard you in all of your ways;  
upon their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.*

Final refrain

*And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of his hand;  
and hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Love your neighbor.

**Thanks be to God.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS and GOD SIGHTINGS

## COFFEE HOUR

TODAY – *Welcome!*

### **PLUM Summer Potluck Picnic**

*You are Invited! Bring your friends and family!  
There is one potluck picnic remaining this summer.  
Bring a dish to share and your camp chair (if desired).  
PLUM will supply the drinks and paper products.*

**Thursday, August 25th, 5:30-8:00,  
White Oak Park, Blue Spruce Pavilion**

*Additional information, including directions to the park,  
is available on our website: [plumofpa.com](http://plumofpa.com)*

**PLUM** presents:

*What is the Gospel?*

by Bishop Kurt Kusserow\*

A Book Study facilitated by Pastor Martin Rafanan  
Thursday evenings at 8:00 – 9:00 p.m.  
September 8 – November 10, 2022

Please register by email at [PLUM@plumofpa.com](mailto:PLUM@plumofpa.com)

\*Information about the book, a link to order the book (on Amazon), and a link to download a free PDF copy can be found at:

<https://www.swpasynod.org/gospel>

The call-in line for PLUM Worship Services and meetings:

Zoom online: <https://zoom.us/j/401596541>

Zoom by phone: (646) 876 9923 Meeting ID: 401 596 541

### **PLUM Pastoral Team:**

The Reverend John Gropp	412-680-7867
The Reverend Brenda Henry	412-390-8005
The Reverend Susan Devine	412-496-4889
The Reverend Dr. Alexander Sumo	614-218-6730

If you are not already connected to one of our congregations and would like to support our ministry, please send donations to: **Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries, 405 Kennedy Avenue, Duquesne, PA 15110**