

The congregation gathers in worship with the Prelude, the Welcome & Announcements, the Confession & Forgiveness, the Sharing of the Peace, the Entrance Hymn, the Apostolic Greeting, the Kyrie, and the Hymn of Praise.

Once we've finished gathering together in worship, we get down to business by hearing the Word of God.

The congregation is actually having a formal dialogue with the Word of God in our worship service. This dialogue begins by the congregation offering the Prayer of the Day to God. Then God's Word responds to the prayer in the First Reading. The congregation responds to the First Reading by praying a Psalm. Then the Second Reading responds to our Prayer of the Day. The congregation responds to the Second Reading with the Alleluia Verse. Then the Gospel reading responds to our Prayer of the Day. The congregation responds to the Gospel by praising Christ and singing the Alleluia Verse again. Then the Sermon is proclaimed in accordance to the scripture readings. And the congregation praises God for God's Word in the Hymn of the Day.

### **The Prayer of the Day**

Throughout the year, our worship follows a Church Calendar. During the first half of the year, we celebrate all that Christ has done for us in the seasons of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter – culminating with the Day of the Pentecost. During the second half of the year, we reflect upon what it means to be the Church and a disciple of Christ in the world.

There are scripture readings designated for every Sunday throughout the year to help us move through the Seasons of Christ and to reflect upon the different aspects of being Christ's kingdom here on earth.

The Prayer of the Day offers to God the general issues that we are concerned about before hearing about these issues in our Scripture readings and in the Sermon.

Here is the Prayer of the Day for the 20<sup>th</sup> Sunday after the Pentecost (Sunday, October 18<sup>th</sup>):

**Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Read Isaiah 45:1-17; 1 Thessalonians 1`1-10; and Matthew 22:15-22.

What do these readings say in response to the Prayer of the Day?

Close by praying the Prayer of the Day one more time.