



ORDER OF WORSHIP | AUGUST 2, 2026

*Indicates times when those who are able may stand.

PRE-WORSHIP MUSIC | Playlist by Tech Team

WELCOME | ANNOUNCEMENTS | Steven Ham

***OPENING HYMN** | "The Goodness of God"

SERMON | Bob Rambo

TEXT: Mark 7:1-8, 14-23

One day some Pharisees and teachers of religious law arrived from Jerusalem to see Jesus. **2** They noticed that some of his disciples failed to follow the Jewish ritual of hand washing before eating. **3** (The Jews, especially the Pharisees, do not eat until they have poured water over their cupped hands, as required by their ancient traditions. **4** Similarly, they don't eat anything from the market until they immerse their hands in water. This is but one of many traditions they have clung to – such as their ceremonial washing of cups, pitchers, and kettles.) **5** So the Pharisees and teachers of religious law asked him: "Why don't your disciples follow our age-old tradition? They eat without first performing the hand-washing ceremony."

6 Jesus replied, "You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. **7** Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.' **8** For you ignore God's law and substitute your own tradition."

14 Then Jesus called to the crowd to come and hear. "All of you listen," he said, "and try to understand. **15** It's not what goes into your body that defiles you; you are defiled by what comes from your heart."

17 Then Jesus went into a house to get away from the crowd, and his disciples asked him what he meant by the parable he had just used. **18** “Don’t you understand either?” he asked. “Can’t you see that the food you put into your body cannot defile you? **19** Food doesn’t go into your heart, but only passes through the stomach and then goes into the sewer...”

20 And then he added, “It is what comes from inside that defiles you. **21** For from within, out of a person’s heart, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, **22** adultery, greed, wickedness, deceit, lustful desires, envy, slander, pride, and foolishness. **23** All these vile things come from within; they are what defile you.”

This is the word of God for the people of God.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

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SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION | Bob Rambo

THE INVITATION:

(L) Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin, who seek to live in charity with their neighbors, and intend to live a holy life. Let us confess our sins together:

PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

(ALL) *Almighty and merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart, we have failed to be an obedient church, and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.*

We repent of our sins and ask for your mercy. Forgive our sins, pardon us of all that is in our past, and help us to follow you in new life to the glory of your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF PARDON:

(L) God has promised forgiveness to all who repent and turn in faith to him. May the Lord have mercy on you, pardon and deliver you from sin, strengthen you to live as children of God, and bring you to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE OFFERING OF PEACE:

(L) God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. The peace of God be with you.

(All) *And with your spirit.*

(L) As forgiven and reconciled people, let us offer the peace of Christ to one another.

A “GENEROSITY MOMENT” & OFFERTORY PRAYER | Steven Ham

OFFERTORY ANTHEM | “Welcome to Grace”

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING:

(L) The Lord be with you.

(ALL) *And also with you.*

(L) Lift up your hearts.

(ALL) *We lift them up to the Lord.*

(L) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

(ALL) *It is good and right to give him thanks and praise!*

Holy God, you alone are Almighty. You are Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer of the world. In speaking all of creation into being, you formed this world, full of purple mountains, fruited plains, towering forests, and splashing seas.

You fashioned each of us in your own image and likeness, but also in infinite variety and hue. Each of us you created equal, with responsibility to care for one another and our earthly home. And to share in our life and to share your life with us, you came in Jesus. Born into a land ruled by a merciless king, Jesus revealed for us the merciful realm of you, our heavenly Father.

And yet, for all your goodness, we often choose the world’s ways over yours. We often squander your gifts. We confess as individuals and as a nation that we have failed to live in your light. We have treated others as non-human; we have devalued the preciousness of life; we have made success and money our gods. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, as you did on the night Jesus was betrayed, when he took bread and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying: *Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Have mercy on us, O Lord, as you did when, after their supper, Jesus took a 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 for the remembrance of me.*

As we gather around your table, help us declare the revolutionary mystery of faith:

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

O God, pour your Holy Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on your people gathered here today. Ignite in us the flame of freedom – freedom from prejudice, from illusions of superiority, from fear. Ignite in us freedom for love, for peace, and for the capacity to welcome others as you have welcomed us.

Remind us, O Lord, that your glory shines forth in weakness, your greatness is revealed to the humble, and your power is most visible in the cross; and that to you alone belongs the everlasting kingdom.

By your Spirit make us one with Christ and one as your church, that Christ may dwell in us and we in him. We ask this through your Son, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory forever. ***Amen.***

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, with the confidence of children of God, let us pray: ***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. Amen.***

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD AND THE BLESSING OF THE CUP

The body of our Lord Jesus, given for you.

The blood of our Lord Jesus, shed for you.

PRAYER AFTER RECEIVING

God of heaven and earth, we thank you that you fill our deepest need with the very gift of Jesus Christ, broken and poured out for us. Pour us out into a broken world. Channel our common life toward the common good, following the way our Savior leads us now and forever. In the name of Christ. Amen.

***CLOSING HYMN** | “*My Chains Are Gone*”

***SENDING FORTH** | Bob Rambo

***CHORAL BENEDICTION** | “Grace, Love and Fellowship”

***MUSIC FOR OUR DEPARTING** | Tech Team Playlist



Sermon Title

Today's Date

Sermon Notes

Key Verses

Key Takeaways