

October 25, 2020 "Tempering Our Zeal:
Christ and Paul's Regarding All as Loss"
Acts 7:54-8:3; Philippians 3:2-16

— *We Gather in God's Name* —

ORGAN PRELUDE "My Faith Looks Up to Thee,"
Music by Lowell Mason, arr. Shoup

"... my zeal inspire..."

CALL TO WORSHIP

Here we are, Lord!

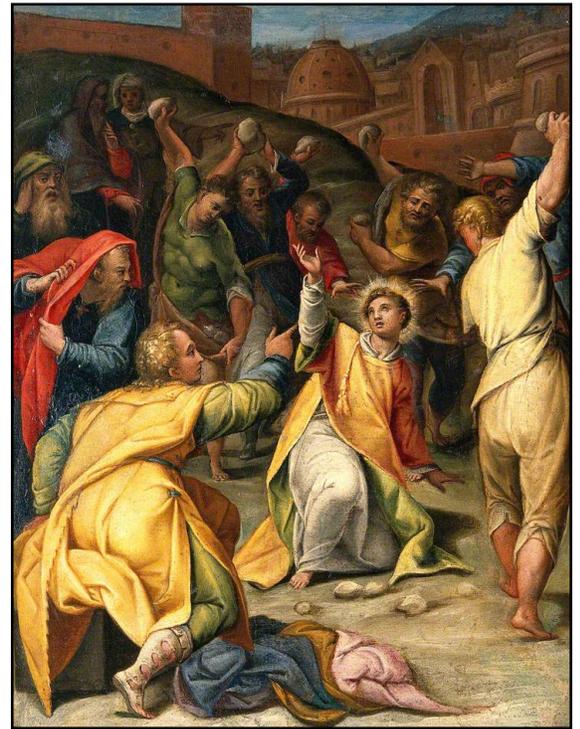
**We come from the busy-ness of our daily lives, from the
hubbub of our work and play, from the hue and cry of the
world around us, we come to worship you.**

In this hour, we long to meet you, to feel your presence
surrounding us, enveloping us, loving us.

**We long to settle into silence, laying aside our worries and
our cares, aware of your presence around us, before us, behind us, within us.**

Come, Lord Jesus.

Come, Lord Jesus, come.



THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

— *We Recognize Our Need to Grow Closer to God* —

CALL TO RECONCILIATION

We are good at rules: making them and then breaking them. Paul reminds us that, when we gain Christ Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we receive exactly what we need—forgiveness, grace, and hope. Let us confess our sins to God, that we might know God's healing love for us.

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

*Lead me, guide me, along the way, for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with you; lead me my whole life through.*

CONFESSING OUR SIN

If we were to name all the gods we have before you, forgiving God, we would be here a very long time. We elevate politicians into saviors, though they are as broken as we are. We misuse your name so much during the day, that we have trouble speaking to you in prayer at night. We are so busy that we do not notice how creation witnesses to your goodness and grace. Forgive us. Help us to let go of what we value most, so that we may open our lives to the healing and loving presence of Jesus Christ. Still our hearts, almighty God, as we pray in silence, recognizing our need to change and to grow in you.

RECEIVING GRACE

Persistently, patiently, lovingly, God pours out grace and joy into our lives, healing our brokenness, forgiving our sin.

Loved, we are sent to love.

Forgiven, we are freed to forgive.

Graced, we can offer grace to everyone we meet.

Thanks be to God. Amen.

— We Hear the Word —

INSTRUMENTAL HYMN MEDITATION “Come to the Savior Now”

Lyrics for meditation:

*Come to the Savior now, he gently calls to you
in true repentance bow, let him your heart renew
come like poor, wandering sheep returning to his fold;
his arm will safely keep, his love will ne'er grow cold.*

TIME OF DISCOVERY

SCRIPTURES Acts 7:54-8:3; Philippians 3:2-16

MESSAGE “Tempering Our Zeal: Christ and Paul’s Regarding All as Loss”

INSTRUMENTAL HYMN MEDITATION “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”

Hymn text below provided for meditation while listening:

*... skills and time are ours for pressing toward the goals of Christ, your Son...
... now direct our daily labor lest we strive for self alone...*

— We Respond to God’s Word —

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH

BENEDICTION

And now to the One, who by the power at work within us is able to do immeasurably more than we could ask or imagine, to him be the glory in Christ Jesus and the church, both this day and forever more. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE “Lead On, O King Eternal,” Music by Henry T. Smart, arr. Shoup

*“... Lead on... till sin’s fierce war shall cease,
and holiness shall whisper the sweet amen of peace...”*