

Littleton United Methodist Church
October 4, 2009
The Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost
Service of Word and Table

Prelude *Dance of the Blessed Spirits* GLUCK
During the prelude, please silently prepare your hearts and minds for worship.

The Lighting of the Altar Candles

Welcome and Announcements

Members and guests please sign the attendance pad located at the end of the pew.

+Introit *Come! Come! Everybody Worship* Page 2271

+Greeting

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen**

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Like children receiving a gift of love,

People: **Like toddlers ripping open big mysteries from little packages, let us receive the presence of God.**

Pastor: Let our pride in receiving be small,

People: **And our faith be great, that we might plumb the depths of the grace God has given and cry no more tears over heights unattained.**

+Entrance Hymn #166 *All Praise To Thee, for Thou, O King Divine* SINE NOMINE

Prayer of the Day

God of our ancestors, whose dominion is over all time and space, we thank you for receiving us as your children, for melting the hardness of heart that locks us into our own narrow point of view, and keeps us from sharing our lives fully with partners who are different from us. We ask you now to touch us in ways that heal, address our fears, awaken hope in us, and open us to self-giving love. We long to live in a world refreshed by mutual caring and honest commitment. Teach us, that we might fulfill our role toward this vision. AMEN.

The First Reading *Job 1:1; 2:1-10* Mike Herman, Lay Reader

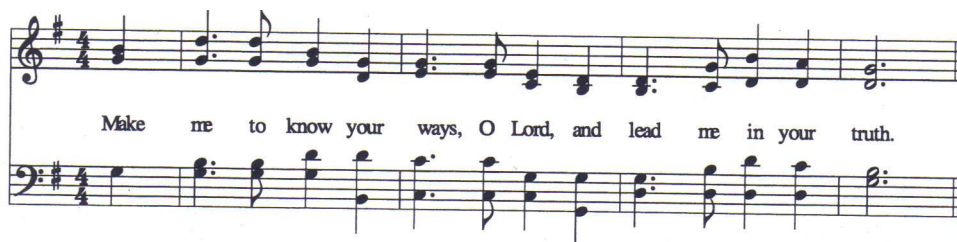
In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. On another day the angels came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came with them to present himself before him. And the LORD said to Satan, "Where have you come from?" Satan answered the LORD, "From roaming through the earth and going back and forth in it." Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason." "Skin for skin!" Satan replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life. But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face." The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you

must spare his life." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head. Then Job took a piece of broken pottery and scraped himself with it as he sat among the ashes. His wife said to him, "Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!" He replied, "You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?" In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.

Reader: This is the word of God for us, the people of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalter

Psalm 26



Make me to know your ways, O Lord, and lead me in your truth.

Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion
which cannot be moved, but stands fast forever.

**The hills stand about Jerusalem;
so does the Lord stand round about the chosen people,
from this time forth forevermore.**

The scepter of the wicked shall not hold sway over the land
allotted to the just, so that the just shall not put
their hands to evil.

**Show your goodness, O Lord, to those who are good
and to those who are true of heart.**

**As for those who turn aside to crooked ways,
the Lord will lead them away with the evildoers
but peace be upon Israel**

R

The Second Reading

Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12

In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven. So he became as much superior to the angels as the name he has inherited is superior to theirs. It is not to angels that he has subjected the world to come, about which we are speaking. But there is a place where someone has testified: "What is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you care for him? You made him a little lower than the angels; you crowned him with glory and honor and put everything under his feet." In putting everything under him, God left nothing that is not subject to him. Yet at present we do not see everything subject to him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. In bringing many sons to glory, it was fitting

that God, for whom and through whom everything exists, should make the author of their salvation perfect through suffering. Both the one who makes men holy and those who are made holy are of the same family. So Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers. He says, "I will declare your name to my brothers; in the presence of the congregation I will sing your praises."

Reader: This is the word of God for us, the people of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

+Hymn #2197

Lord of All Hopefulness

SLANE

+Gospel Acclamation #2043

Alleluia

CELTIC ALLELUIA

+The Holy Gospel

Mark 10:2-16

Some Pharisees came, and to test him they asked, 'Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife?' He answered them, 'What did Moses command you?' They said, 'Moses allowed a man to write a certificate of dismissal and to divorce her.' But Jesus said to them, 'Because of your hardness of heart he wrote this commandment for you. But from the beginning of creation, "God made them male and female." "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate.' Then in the house the disciples asked him again about this matter. He said to them, 'Whoever divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery against her; and if she divorces her husband and marries another, she commits adultery.' People were bringing little children to him in order that he might touch them; and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it.' And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord, the word of God for us, the people of God.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

"Extravagance"

Rev. Rob Licht

Anthem

In Memory of You

ALTHOUSE

+The Apostles' Creed

Page 881

Prayer of Confession

All-seeing God, we would like to wash our hands in innocence, but we cannot escape from the guilt we carry. We compare ourselves favorably with people we label worthless or hypocrites, but that very judgment breaks faith with you. We avoid bribery and other evil devices, yet we would still like to have advantages for ourselves over others. We are not bloodthirsty, but we have not yet adopted the way of peace. We humbly seek forgiveness as little children in need of your welcoming love. AMEN.

A Moment of Silent Confession

Words of Pardon

Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet Sinners; that

proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
People: **In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**
All: **Glory to God. Amen.**

The Offertory *Siciliano* BACH

A special note to our guests: The ministries and work of our church are supported by the generosity and sacrificial giving of our members and friends. You are our GUEST today. Please do not feel compelled to make a contribution. Please accept this time of worship as our gift to you. We hope that it has been meaningful and that you will worship with us again.

+The Doxology #95 OLD 100th

The Great Thanksgiving (Alternate Musical Setting) Laminated Sheet

The Lord's Prayer Page 895

+Giving of the Bread and Cup

Prayer After Communion

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery in which you have given yourself to us. Receive us as little children open to the wonder of your love. Grant that we may go into the world in the strength of your Spirit, to give ourselves for others, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **AMEN.**

+Closing Hymn #2238 *In the Midst of New Dimensions* NEW DIMENSIONS

+Dismissal with Blessing

+Congregational Response *The Trees of the Field* Page 2279

+Taking God's Light Into The World

+Chiming of the Trinity

+Postlude *Le Basque* MARAIS

+The congregation will stand as you are able

*** Communion rail offerings are designated for the Pastor's Discretionary Fund.*

*** Printed copies of the sermon are available after the service in each narthex.*

Our Presence

Attendance last week
Worship service: 49
Sunday school: 14



Today: 10:00 AM Worship Service
11:20 AM Sunday school
7:00 PM Charge Conference

Monday: 11:15 AM Trustees meeting
1:00 PM Mary Lucy Self Circle

Wednesday: 6:30 PM Bible Study
7:30 PM Choir Practice

Friday: 9:00 AM Food delivery
10:00 - noon Littleton ACTS Food Pantry open

Our Gifts



Offerings 09/20/09:	\$3,176.65
Offerings last week:	\$2,879.00

Our Mission Statement

Littleton United Methodist Church strives to provide all-inclusive worship of God through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

We are committed to deepening our spiritual growth.

We are to minister in Christ's name to the needy, the sick, the dying, the unchurched, and to each other.

We are to be active Christians, spreading the Good News.

We are to strive to witness for Jesus in our daily lives, in our community and throughout the world.



Our Service

Serving in Worship:

Choir Director / Organist: Tom Parker
Organist emeritus: Trudi May
Acolyte: Martha Sherman
Greeters: Peg Fowler (east)
Betsy Medlin (west)
Ushers: Jack May (west)
Lee Reinhardt (west)
George Alston (east)
Nursery: as needed
Sound: Dick O'Sullivan
Ed Angel

2009 Committee Chairpersons:

Administrative Council: Richard Sherman
Congregational Care: Jean Houston
Shepherding: Elizabeth Solovieff
Discipleship: Helen Burtchell
Age Level: TBA
Outreach: Helen Burtchell
Missions: Richard Sherman
Finance: Mike Herman
Pastor-Parish: Sherman Merchant
Lay Leadership: Rob Licht
Trustees: Shirley Anschutz
Kitchen: Marie Fields
Membership: Marj Prescott
Scholarship: Marvin Newsom III
Memorials: Matt Johnston
Newsletter: Susan Merchant
Sunday School Superintendent: Jean Jarvis

Serving in our Church, Community and World

If you are interested in knowing more about our mission projects, our church, or becoming a member, please call Pastor Rob at 252 586-5385.

We welcome **Janet Weaver** as our guest flutist today.

Our fall **Sunday School** series, "*The Mayberry Bible Study*" begins today at 11:20.

Our **Charge Conference** is this evening at 7:00 PM in the fellowship hall.

The **Trustees** will meet on Monday at 11:15 at Casa Mia's.

The **Mary Lucy Self circle** will meet on Monday at 1:00 in the board room.

Pastor Rob will be away Monday through Wednesday for continuing education.

Our **Bible Study**, this fall, will be the Companions in Christ series. We will begin meeting this Wednesday at 6:30 P.M. for the Orientation Session. At the orientation session, we will choose a morning or afternoon meeting time for all subsequent sessions.

The **Littleton ACTS Food Pantry** will be open this Friday from 10am - noon.

Coming up:

Tues (10/13) 6:00 pm - Burgers & Games at Mordecai's

Weds (10/14) noon - Women in Christian Fellowship at Lakeside Lutheran

*****Note—the side door will be locked during the worship service.**