As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” Acts 8:36

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP: God says, “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; when you walk through the fire, you will not be burned; the flames will not set you ablaze. For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.” Let us worship our redeeming God.

INVOCATION: All glorious God, we give you thanks: in your Son, Jesus Christ, you have given us every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms. You chose us, before the world was made, to be your holy people, without fault in your sight. You adopted us as your children in Christ. You have set us free by his blood; you have forgiven our sins. You have made known to us your secret purpose, to bring heaven and earth into unity in Christ. You have given us your Holy Spirit, the seal and pledge of our inheritance. All praise and glory be yours, O God, for the richness of your grace, for the splendor of your gifts, for the wonder of your love. We praise you as we share the words Jesus taught us when he said, “Our Father….”

ACT OF PRAISE: Psalm 22:16-26

16 Dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me. My hands and feet have shriveled;  
17 I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me;  
18 they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.  
19 But you, O LORD, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid!  
20 Deliver my soul from the sword, my life[c] from the power of the dog!  
21 Save me from the mouth of the lion! From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.  
22 I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:  
23 You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!  
24 For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.  
25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.  
26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the LORD. May your hearts live forever!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

JOYS & CONCERNS

PASTORAL PRAYER
MOMENT WITH THE CHILDREN

SPECIAL MUSIC

SCRIPTURE LESSON: Acts 8:26-40
26 Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Get up and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” (This is a wilderness road.) 27 So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship 28 and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. 29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over to this chariot and join it.” 30 So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” 31 He replied, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. 32 Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:
“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter, and like a lamb silent before its shearer,
so he does not open his mouth. 33 In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation? For his life is taken away from the earth.”
34 The eunuch asked Philip, “About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” 35 Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. 36 As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, “Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?” 38 He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip baptized him. 39 When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. 40 But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

MESSAGE: Growing the Gospel

THE LORD’S SUPPER
Invitation
Blessing the bread and cup
Sharing

CLOSING PRAYER: O Creator and Mighty God, you have promised strength for the weak, rest for the laborers, light for the way, grace for the trials, help from above, unfailing sympathy, undying love. O Creator and Mighty God, help us to continue in your promise, through Christ or Lord. Amen.

POSTLUDE