

Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Year B August 22, 2021
INVITATION AND GATHERING

WELCOME

CENTERING WORDS

This is a call to be united and to look after one another as we journey together.

*SCRIPTURE READING Psalm 84

* OPENING HYMN: #733..... Marching to Zion

OPENING PRAYER

Holy One of mystery and power, there is no God like you in heaven above or on earth below, keeping covenant and steadfast love with all who walk before you with pure and upright hearts. Fill our lives with your glory, as you filled the temple with cloud when Solomon first brought the ark into your holy dwelling place. Give us the strength and the power to withstand the forces of evil at work in our lives and in our world. Amen.

* Let us pray (Congregation):

Hear our prayers, Lord. How we long to cease this struggle against one another -- futile, endless, prideful struggle. Hear us over the noise of restlessness and worry. Forgive us, Lord, and hear our prayers even when we have run everywhere else first -- *before* turning to you. Remind us that the real struggle is not against blood and flesh. Remind us that the real fight is spiritual. Prepare us for the real battle. Clothe us in your armor. Teach us to pray in your Spirit, to pray for one another, to pray for boldness to be what you have created us to be. Hear our prayers, Lord. Amen.

* LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS:

#328..... Surely the Presence of the Lord

PROCLAMATION AND RESPONSE

*PRAYER OF CONFESSION (Unison)

Spirit of God, we confess that we put on airs more often than we put on the armor of God. We are guilty of girding ourselves with lies instead of the truth. We try to protect ourselves with arrogance, superstition, and self-reliance instead of righteousness, faith, and your gift of salvation. Our footsteps do not follow your path of peace. And we are quick to use your Word to attack one another, instead of striking out against the sins we personally commit. Forgive us, Holy God. Gift us with the wisdom and strength to change our ways, so that we may live as your faithful ambassadors of the Good News.

* LET'S WORSHIP THE LORD WITH HYMNS: #514

Stand Up, Stand Up

*SCRIPTURE READING: Ephesians 6:10-20

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

People: Thanks be to God.

THE WORD MADE FLESH: “Gearing up for life-Armored” Janice Cooper

* RESPONSE TO THE WORD: #575 Onward, Christian Soldiers

CONGREGATION IN PRAYER: Joys and Concerns

Let us pray: The Lord's Prayer

* PRAYER HYMN: # 2200 O Lord, Hear My Prayer

* CLOSING HYMN: #462..... 'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus (vs 1)

* DISMISSAL BLESSING

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1st Scripture Reading: Psalm 84 (NKJV)

How lovely ^{is} Your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts! ² My soul longs, yes, even faints For the courts of the LORD; My heart and my flesh cry out for the living God. ³ Even the sparrow has found a home, And the swallow a nest for herself, Where she may lay her young—*Even* Your altars, O LORD of hosts, My King and my God. ⁴ Blessed *are* those who dwell in Your house; They will still be praising You. *Selah.* ⁵ Blessed *is* the man whose strength *is* in You, Whose heart *is* set on pilgrimage. ⁶ As *they* pass through the Valley of ^{the} Baca, They make it a spring; The rain also covers it with ^{the} pools. ⁷ They go from strength to strength; ^{the} *Each one* appears before God in Zion. ⁸ O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; Give ear, O God of Jacob! *Selah* ⁹ O God, behold our shield, And look upon the face of Your ^{anointed}. ¹⁰ For a day in Your courts *is* better than a thousand. I would rather ^{be} a doorkeeper in the house of my God Than dwell in the tents of wickedness. ¹¹ For the LORD God *is* a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good *thing* will He withhold From those who walk uprightly. ¹² O LORD of hosts, Blessed *is* the man who trusts in You!

2nd Scripture Reading: Ephesians 6:10-20 (NKJV)

¹⁰ Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹ Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the ^{the} wiles of the devil. ¹² For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of ^{the} the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*. ¹³ Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. ¹⁴ Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, ¹⁵ and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. ¹⁷ And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; ¹⁸ praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints— ¹⁹ and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, ²⁰ for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak.



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LeRoy United Methodist Church
A Community Church: Moving Forward
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