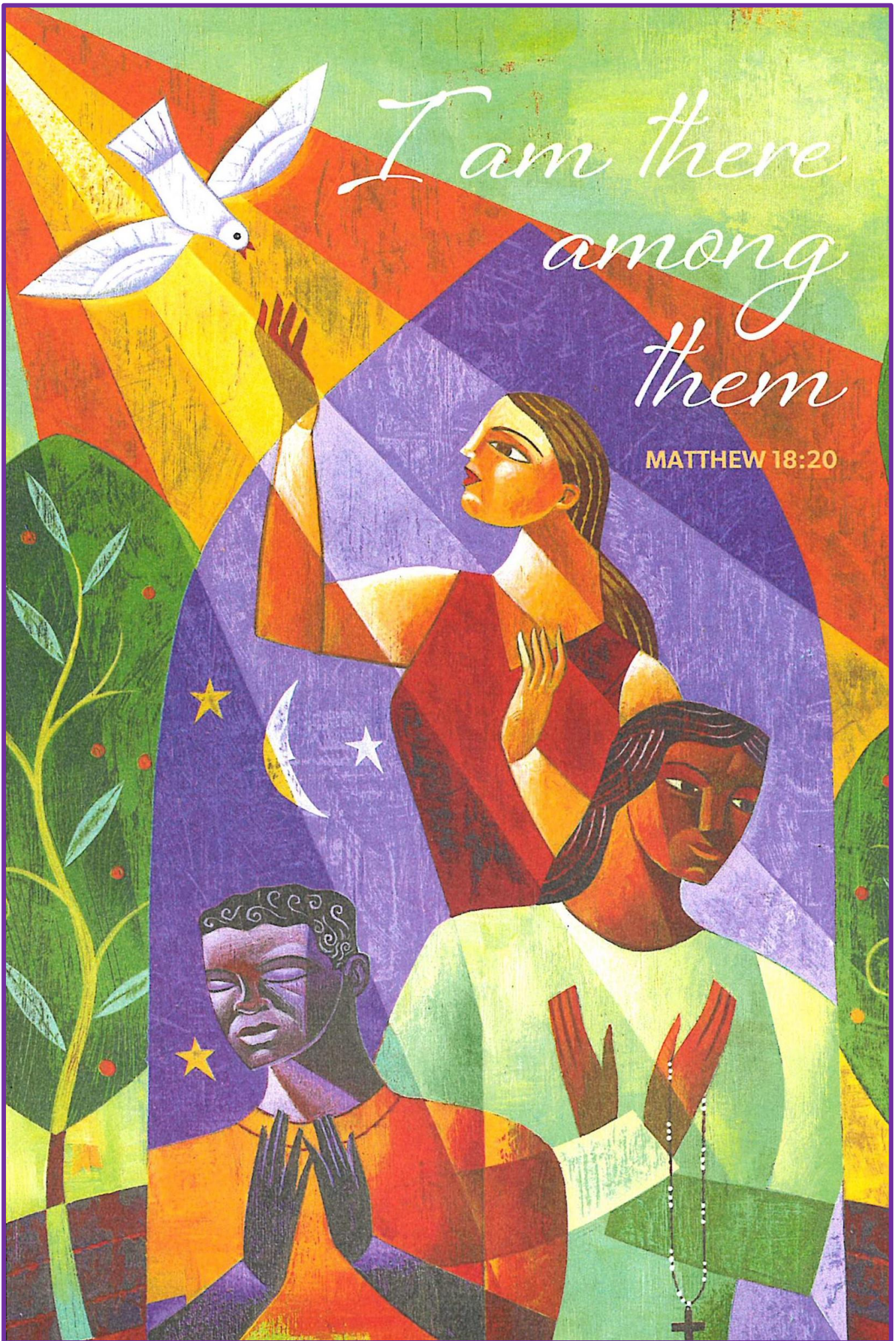


*I am there  
among  
them*

MATTHEW 18:20





+ The 15th Sunday After Pentecost +

# September 10, 2023

## AS WE GATHER

The word mentor can be both a noun describing a trusted counselor or a verb meaning to guide someone in new learning. The word originally was the name of a person from classical literature: Mentor was a friend of the Greek hero Odysseus who was entrusted with the education of his son Telemachus. You may have had special mentors throughout your life. We are reminded that Jesus our Lord is our best and most devoted mentor. A well-loved hymn by German writer Sigismund von Birken begins with these words: “Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow His example pure” (LSB 685:1). Jesus is our merciful mentor who gently leads us day by day along the path that leads to eternal life. We follow gladly in His footsteps!

**The pottery vessels on the altar remind us that although Holy Communion is not celebrated today, our Lord’s sacred gifts are still central to our life of faith. Holy Communion is celebrated every 1st, 3rd, and 5th weekend (and major festivals).**

***Liturgical Color:***

***Green is the color of life and growth in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.***

***Visitors:*** We are glad you have chosen to be with us today! We would especially like to follow-up with you beyond today, so please take a moment to leave your best contact information in the guest books at each entrance/exit. ***A cry-room for parents and children is just off from the front entryway, and there’s a wonderful nursery downstairs at the end of the fellowship hall for you to make use of at any time. Do you have any questions about anything here? Don’t hesitate to ask one of the ushers or elders or talk to the pastor.***

**Prelude** .....Jerrode Marsh

## Pastoral Welcome

*(Prayer request cards will be collected by an usher passing through the aisle.)*

# Gathering Hymn..... "When Aimless Violence Takes Those We Love", #764



1 When aim - less vi - o - lence takes those we love,  
2 When pass - ing years rob sight and strength and mind  
3 Our faith may flick - er low, and hope grow dim,  
4 Be - cause Your Son knew ag - o - ny and loss,  
5 Through long grief - dark - ened days help us, dear Lord,



When ran - dom death strikes child - hood's prom - ise down,  
Yet fail to still a strong - ly beat - ing heart,  
Yet You, O God, are with us in our pain;  
Felt des - o - la - tion, grief and scorn and shame,  
To trust Your grace for cour - age to en - dure,



When wrench - ing loss be - comes our dai - ly bread,  
And grief be - comes the fab - ric of our days,  
You grieve with us and for us day by day,  
We know You will be with us, come what may,  
To rest our souls in Your sup - port - ing love,



We know, O God, You leave us not a - lone.  
Dear Lord, You do not stand from us a - part.  
And with us, shar - ing sor - row, will re - main.  
Your lov - ing pres - ence near, al - ways the same.  
And find our hope with - in Your mer - cy sure.

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## Morning Prayer

Opening Verses..... page 235



**L** O Lord, o - pen my lips,



**C** and my mouth shall de - clare Your praise.



**C** Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son and to the Ho - ly Spir - it;



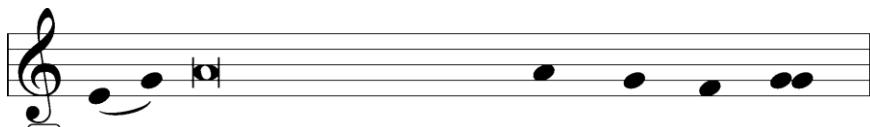
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men.



**C** Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

## Psalmody

Antiphon..... page 235



**L** Give glory to God, our light and our life.



**C** O come, let us wor - ship Him.

Venite..... page 236



**C** O come, let us sing to the Lord;



let us make a joy - ful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.



**I** Let us come in - to His pres - ence with thanks - giv - ing;



let us make a joy - ful noise to Him with songs of praise.



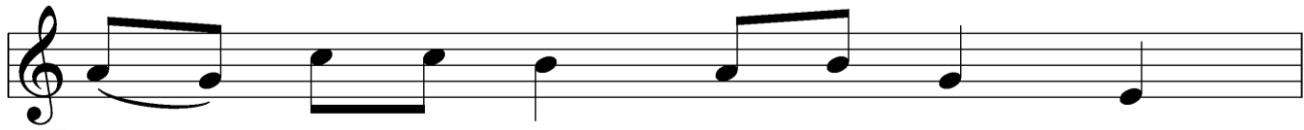
II For the Lord is a great God and a great king a - bove all gods.



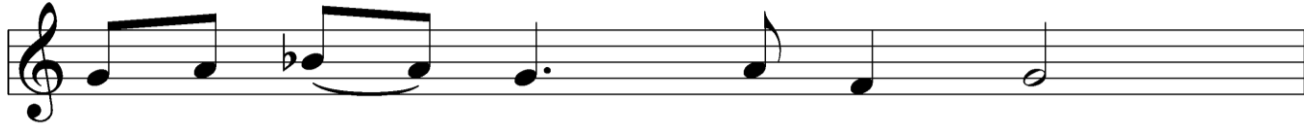
I In His hand are the depths of the earth;



the heights of the moun - tains are His al - so.



II The sea is His, for He made it;



and His hand formed the dry land.



I O come, let us wor - ship and bow down;



let us kneel be - fore the Lord, our mak - er.



II For He is our God, and we are the peo - ple



of His pas - ture and the sheep of His hand.

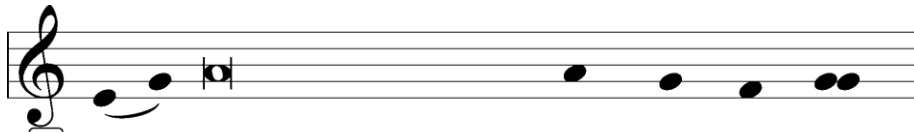


**C** Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Spir-it;



as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A-men.

**Antiphon** .....page 237



**L** Give glory to God, our light and our life.



**C** O come, let us wor - ship Him.

**Psalm 32** .....(*front of hymnal, spoken responsively*)

Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,  
**whose sin is covered.**

Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,  
**and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away  
**through my groaning all day long.**

For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;  
**my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;  
**I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"**  
**and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;

**surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not reach him.**

You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;  
**you surround me with shouts of deliverance.**

I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go;  
**I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

Be not like a horse or a mule, without understanding,  
**which must be curbed with bit and bridle, nor it will not stay near you.**

Many are the sorrows of the wicked,  
**but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.**

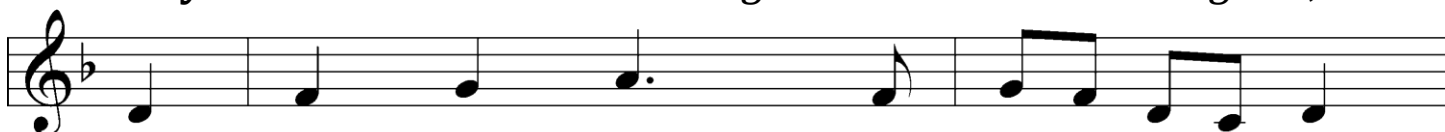
Be glad in the LORD, and rejoice, O righteous,  
**and shout for joy, all you upright in heart!**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

**Office Hymn.....** *“Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive”, #843*



1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,”  
2 How can Your par - don reach and bless  
3 In blaz - ing light Your cross re - veals  
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls



You taught us, Lord, to pray; But You a - lone can  
The un - for - giv - ing heart That broods on wrongs and  
The truth we dim - ly knew: What triv - ial debts are  
And bid re - sent - ment cease; Then, bound to all in



grant us grace To live the words we say.  
will not let Old bit - ter - ness de - part?  
owed to us, How great our debt to You!  
bonds of love, Our lives will spread Your peace.

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## Readings

### First Reading .....Ezekiel 33:7-9

“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. But if you warn the wicked to turn from

his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**Epistle Reading ..... Romans 13:1-10**

Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, for he is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God’s wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God’s wrath but also for the sake of conscience. For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.

Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet,” and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

**P** O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Please rise.*

**Holy Gospel ..... Matthew 18:1-20**

At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him



to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.

“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire.

“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. For the Son of Man came to save the lost. What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.

“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

**P** In many and various ways, God Spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

**C** **But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.**

**Apostles' Creed**..... *(back cover of hymnal)*

**C** **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died and was buried.**

He descended into hell.  
 The third day He rose again from the dead.  
 He ascended into heaven  
 and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
 From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
 the holy Christian Church,  
 the communion of saints,  
 the forgiveness of sins,  
 the resurrection of the body,  
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

**Children's Song** ..... *"I've Got the Joy"*

**Children's Message**

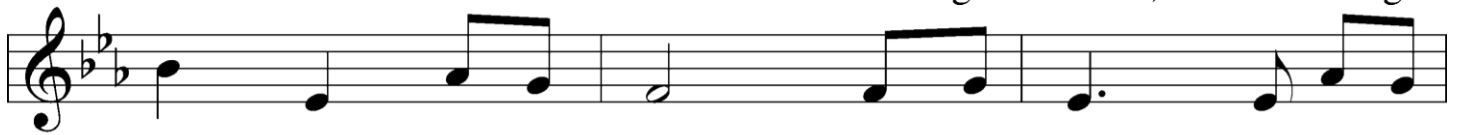
**Sermon**..... *"Present Where Least Expected"*

*Please rise.*

**Beatitude Hymn**..... *"Jesus Sat with His Disciples", #932*



1 Je - sus sat with His dis - ci - ples On a  
 2 "Bless-ed are the meek and hum - ble, All the  
 3 "Bless-ed are God's sons and daugh - ters, Mak - ing



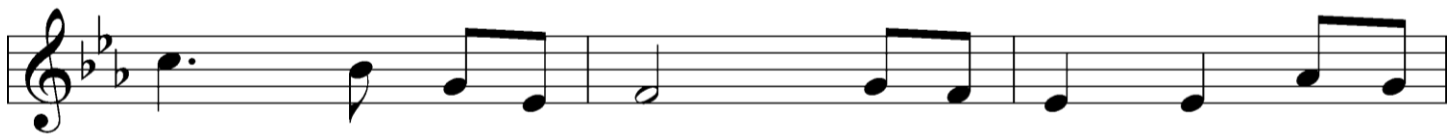
moun - tain - side one day; As the crowds of peo-ple  
 earth to them is willed. Those who hun - ger to be  
 peace where there is strife. Bless - ed are the per - se -



gath - ered, He be - gan to teach and say:  
 ho - ly, They are bless'd and will be filled.  
 cut - ed, Who for righ - teous-ness lose life;



"Bless-ed are the poor in spir - it, Heav - en's  
 Yes, the mer - ci - ful are bless - ed, Mer - cy  
 Their re - ward is great in heav - en, In the



king - dom they will share. Bless - ed are the sad and  
 will to them be shown. And the pure in heart are  
 king - dom up a - bove— So be glad to share My



mourn - ing, Joy and com - fort will be theirs.  
 bless - ed, They have eyes for God a - lone.  
 suf - f'ring And re - joice to know My love.”

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*Please be seated.*

## Offering

*Please rise.*

# Prayer

## Collect of the Day ..... *(spoken in unison)*

O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

*(Additional Collects of Intercession and Thanksgiving)*

## Collect for Grace ..... *page 241*

**P** O Lord, our heavenly Father, almighty and everlasting God, You have safely brought us to the beginning of this day. Defend us in the same with Your mighty power and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger, but that all our doings, being ordered by Your governance, may be righteous in Your sight; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer..... *page 241*

## Benedicamus ..... *page 241*

## Benediction..... *page 242*

# Sending Hymn..... "Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way" #857



1 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -  
 2 You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord, But  
 3 No gold - en scep - ter but a towel You  
 4 You bid us bend our hu - man pride Nor  
 5 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -



ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -  
 pow'r You laid a - side. You lived Your years in -  
 place with - in the hands Of those who seek to  
 count our - selves a - bove The low - est place, the  
 ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -



get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.  
 ser - vant - hood; In low - li - ness You died.  
 fol - low You And live by Your com - mands.  
 mean - est task That waits the gift of love.  
 get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.

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## Dismissal ..... (Bethlehem's Mission)

- P** Grow in Christ,
- C** Live in Love and Share the Faith!

## Postlude ..... Jerrode Marsh

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### Next week's readings:

**OT: Genesis 50:15-21; Romans 14:1-12; Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35**

**Attendance Last Saturday: 39**

**Total Offering: \$6,046.03**

**Home Use: \$5,727.00**

**Attendance Last Sunday: 56**

**Missions: \$32.00**

**Benevolences: \$287.03**

### Serving us today:

Elders.....Willie Crespo

Musicians .....Jerrode Marsh

Altar Committee..... Peggy Hoyer (Chair), Mary Creswell,  
Stephanie Schumaker, Lauryn Schumaker  
Flower Committee ..... Penny Humphrey (Chair), Diana Holland

### **This Week's Schedule**

Sunday	12:00 p.m.	Thrivent Planning Meeting
Monday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	2:00 p.m.	Moms and Tots at the Park
		NO MMG Meeting—date changed to 9-21
Tuesday		Pastor at Monthly Circuit Meeting
	9:30 a.m.	Quilting
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council Meeting
Wednesday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
	10:30 a.m.	Bible Study
	6:30 p.m.	Choir Practice
	7:00 p.m.	Gender & Sexuality Study
Thursday	9:30 a.m.	Pr. Joel at WCS for Chapel
	1:00 p.m.	Games and Cards Group
	4:00 p.m.	Adult Catechesis— <i>Rooted in the Faith</i>
	5:30 p.m.	Fellowship Meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Friday	9:30 a.m.	Exercise Class
Saturday	9:00 a.m.	Orphan Grain Train in Concordia
	11:00 a.m.	Trustees' Meeting
	5:30 p.m.	Holy Communion
Sunday	9:15 a.m.	Christian Education
	10:30 a.m.	Holy Communion
	12:00 p.m.	Youth Acolyte Training
	1:00p.m.	Youth Catechesis
	3:00 p.m.	Youth Get-Together for Volleyball

### **Prayers**

**For Sustenance, Healing, and Provision**—We remember those who are dealing with illness, are homebound or in nursing homes, are undergoing and recovering from surgery, as well as going through hospitalization and rehabilitation: Charlie Becker, Pr. Ricky Bertels, Mel Bockelman, Paula Brewer, Mark Brown, Ray & Mary Carstensen, Bob & Barbara Compton, Marion Droege, Wilma Gertz, George Goldsmith (Steve's dad), Karen Haase, Juanita Holcomb (Peggy Forstad's mother),

Mary Johnson, Wanda Kreisel, Lloyd McCarter, Jeannie Peterson, Judy Pierce, Maryanna Savery, Denny Spanton, Rose Steitz, and & Joe Zeman.

**For Military Members**—We remember all service and support personnel who are deployed and stationed away from us and their families.

**Prayer Requests & Spiritual Care**—If you would like to make a prayer request, contact Pr. Joel or email the church office. Also, if you're feeling the strain, feel free to call or text Pr. Joel or contact your elder or the church office. We rely upon the Holy Spirit and his gifts in Christ during every time of uncertainty and can never be thankful enough for the gift of each other!

### Special Days for Members This Week

**Birthdays**—Scott Humphrey-9<sup>th</sup>, Jenna Jenkins-10<sup>th</sup>, Susie Mills-10<sup>th</sup>, Harvey Allison-14<sup>th</sup>, Luke Hagle-15<sup>th</sup>. **Anniversaries**—Galen and Eunice Cobb-13<sup>th</sup>.

### Worship Services

**Saturday Services start at 5:30 p.m. Sunday Services are at 10:30 a.m.** Sunday's Services are live on Facebook and YouTube and the webpage at [blchurch.com](http://blchurch.com).

### Sunday School and Christian Education

**Sunday Bible Study Resumes**—*Oh, to love wisdom and live wisely!* How many times have you said and thought that? Join us for a new Sunday Bible study—*Living (& Loving) Wisdom*—which explores the book of Proverbs through the lens of the Ten Commandments and Christ “the Wisdom of God” (I Cor. 1:24). There's room for all of us to grow in wisdom through this study until the end of November. Pr. Joel will be drawing from David Coe's *Provoking Proverbs*—a recent CPH book. **We will start on September 10<sup>th</sup> at 9:20 a.m.** (in the conference room) ... *following a combined devotional opening with the children and youth downstairs from 9:15 to 9:20.*

**Sunday School is at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings downstairs for ages Preschool through 12<sup>th</sup> grade.** We will start out with a combined opening with the adults to kick off the new Sunday School year. The children will continue working on songs with the goal of singing in the church service once per month. We invite all children to come and be a part of this time growing together in Christ!

**Wednesday Bible Study**—We've started exploring the last book of the Old Testament—the book of the Hebrew prophet Malachi. Join us in the conference room **from 10:30 'til noon** to see how this is the perfect lead-in to the New Testament fulfillment in Christ Jesus.

**Gender and Sexuality Study**—In September and October, Rebecca (our Congregational Life Facilitator) is leading a study on gender and sexuality guided by

four booklets in Concordia Publishing's *A Biblical Response to...* series on **Wednesdays at 6:30-7:30 pm in the fellowship hall**. We will work through the booklets and referenced Scripture in detail, as well as related passages and explanations in the Small Catechism. The goal is to equip all with knowledge for responding faithfully to these issues with firm grounding and compassion. The pamphlets and a study schedule will be available on the table by the mailboxes. **Please download the "Band" app or email or text Rebecca to send you an invite.**

**Thursday Bible Study at 7:00 p.m.** will be back in session next week. Pastor Ricky is holding a Bible Study on the Old Testament book of Ezekiel. Everyone is invited to attend & learn about the word of the Lord that Ezekiel prophesied long ago and its meaning for us still.

**Youth Catechesis**—7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> graders will be meeting on from **3 to 5 p.m. on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month (starting on the 17<sup>th</sup>)** in the conference room for this time faith formation and growth in Christ's Baptized life. If you haven't been contacted, and have a child in this age range, contact Pr. Joel so that he can put you on the list.

**Adult Catechesis/Rooted in the Faith**—If you'd like to know more about the Christian faith through Scripture and Luther's Small Catechism—in preparation for Baptism or Confirmation or both (or simply to learn and grow in knowing for now)—please let Pr. Joel know. A new session will be starting **this Thursday, September 14 @ 4:00 p.m. and meeting every Thursday at that time**. If this time or day doesn't work for you and you'd still like to proceed, talk to Pr. Joel.

### **Special Services**

**The Fall Mission Festival** will be the weekend of **September 23-24** with the emphasis being Lutheran Deaf Outreach (based in St. Charles). Rev. Dr. Charles Reinke will be our guest preacher and presenter. Over 98% of Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals do not know Jesus or attend any Christian church—due to various factors. LDO exists to change this, arming deaf people with the Gospel. LDO provides resources and training specifically designed for deaf people so they may learn more about the love of Jesus and share it with others. Please plan on attending to learn more about the important Gospel witness of this international agency. For more information regarding LDO, please go to their webpage, [www.lutherandeafoutreach.org](http://www.lutherandeafoutreach.org).

**Fellowship Coffee**—The Mission Board will be sponsoring a Fellowship Coffee after service on **Saturday and Sunday, the 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>** in the fellowship hall. This is an

opportunity to talk with Rev. Reinke and ask questions about Lutheran Deaf Outreach.

### Acolyte Training

There will be an acolyte training session held by Abby Humphrey on **Sunday, September 17**, right after service. Anyone in grades 4-12 can come to this and learn the details about assisting in this way during our worship services.

### Junior High & Senior High Youth Get-Together

**Third Sunday @ 3—Junior and Senior high school youth** will be getting together then—**September 17**—to spend some time playing sand volleyball and enjoying each other's company as brothers and sisters in Christ. Plan to be here!

### College Students

**The Lutheran Student Center** has an evening meal and Bible study on **Thursdays at 5:00 p.m.** at 215 S. Holden. You're welcome to attend and be a part of this time for growth and fellowship together! Check out our Facebook page for more.

### Opportunities to Serve

**Join the Mission Board on Saturday, September 16** as we go to Concordia to help sort items which will later be distributed to those in need by Orphan Grain Train. Many donations are received, and they desperately need assistance in sorting and boxing these things. We will meet at the church building at **9:00 am and return at 12 noon**. Please contact Darlene Laubenstein or the church office if you plan to help or if you have questions. Thanks for thinking about this opportunity!

**Diaper Drive**—The American Heritage Girls Troop MO2415, in which the VanWeys and Murrells are involved in, is collecting supplies for New Beginnings Women's Center. Specific requests include diapers (especially sizes 4-6), pull-ups, wipes, and self-care items for mothers. A blue crate for donated items is located at the North door. If you prefer to donate money to New Beginnings, there are baby bottle banks at the front and North entrances. We will deliver donations to New Beginnings on September 16, AHG's National Day of Service, **so please have them to the church building by Friday the 15th**.

**The Thrivent Group and Mission Board is again collecting food items during September for the Migrant Farm Workers Project**, which will be taken to Lexington on Monday afternoon on October 2nd. These families come to that area each year to harvest the delicious apples from the orchards. The Migrant Farmworkers Assistance Fund was established to work with these Farmworkers when they first arrive at the orchards in late summer. That includes assistance with medical and



dental needs as well as completion of school enrollment for their children. The MSAF continues to work with them for their critical needs until they migrate elsewhere. Some of those critical needs are food and clothing. We, at Bethlehem, have contributed to these needs for many years, as have other churches in the area, and we plan to do so again this year. **We have a container at the northeast entrance to collect small bags of dry pinto beans and canned vegetables (corn, carrots, green beans or peas).** Please consider helping, as you can, by placing your contributions there by **Noon on Monday, October 2nd.** Thank you for your consideration!

**Festival of Sharing Events** are opportunities in which resource packs, hygiene kits, school kits, and much more are gathered and assembled for sharing around Missouri and the world—in addition to raising awareness of how to help. This year's regional events are from **9:30am-3:00pm on September 23 at Red Bridge UMC in Kansas City and on October 14 at Tipton UMC.** Bethlehem youth and adults have taken part numerous times over the years, but each year has its own scheduling challenges. If anyone would like to attend, please contact Pr. Joel or Penny Humphrey.

**Choir has resumed!** I'm so excited about this coming worship season, and I want you to know if you can carry a reasonable tune, I want YOU to come join us!! **We will start with some fellowship time in the basement at 6:30 p.m. and choir will start at 7:30 p.m. in the conference room.** I typically bake something yummy and try to accommodate allergies and dietary needs. That's a critically important meeting, because we spend time getting to know each other, and doing a quick run-through of the anthems we will share between September and November. If you have any questions call Peggy Forstad at 913-568-6921.

**Bulletin Board—A section of the bulletin board at the North entrance has been dedicated to our congregation members who are home-bound and in nursing homes.** Please check it out to see how you can reach out to those who can no longer come to services regularly. Send a card or leave one in the pocket on the board to be delivered during a visit. If you have a picture of a loved one you can share, please send it to Rebecca to have it posted!

### **Fellowship**

The **Thrivent group** will have a Fall Planning meeting on **September 10** following the Sunday service in the upstairs conference room.

**The Lunch Bunch will meet on September 21 at 11:00 a.m.** Lunch will be provided—soups, sandwiches and dessert. We will be painting rocks hosted by Rebecca Holland. Rock painting is fun to do, and the fun continues when you place your rocks

outside for others to find! Some cheerful colors, a happy word or saying, a cute animal and more are ways to decorate your rocks to bring some fun and joy to someone's day. There is a Facebook group called Warrensburg Rocks that people use to give clues about where they hide painted rocks around town, and finders post pictures when they find the rock, and then either keep it or re-hide it. Painted rocks are also a fun way to dress up potted plants by placing them on the dirt around the stem.

**Mary Martha Guild Meeting date change—Our September meeting is changed to Thursday, September 21 at 7:00 p.m.** This is the only date that our guest speaker, Carol Cook, could attend. She is known as the “Stamp Lady” for the Concordia LWML Zone. She sorts and then sells the stamps to stamp vendors that you put in our stamp collection box. This money (over \$18,000) is given to the mites collection which supports the mission projects of LWML.

**Crafternoons—On the fourth Fridays from 3-5 pm** let's get together to craft! A project and supplies will be waiting for you in the fellowship hall. We'll make seasonal crafts and cards that can be shared with others and conspire to deliver them with good cheer and a visit. Cards, door decorations, and suncatchers are some examples of projects we can do together. Children are welcome to craft alongside us or to play nearby.

**Exercise Class** happens at **9:30 a.m. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays** in the Fellowship Hall. This class is low impact exercise open to anyone, men or women.

**The Games and Card Group** meets on **Thursdays at 1:00 p.m.** in the Youth Room downstairs. Everyone is welcome to come to this fellowship time.

**The Quilting Group** meets on the **second and fourth Tuesday** of the month from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. (September through May). Anyone is welcome to help with this project. No special sewing skills needed. Bring your own lunch. If you have any questions, please contact Georgia Luker.

### **This & That**

**Annual Smorgasbord—**Zion Lutheran Church in Corder will hold their Annual Smorgasbord on **Sunday, September 24** from **11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** Tickets are \$12.00 for adults, \$5.00 children 6-12 and under 6 are free.

**Saint Paul Servants of Saints** (in Concordia) will have the annual Fall Rummage Sale starting **September 27**. For more details on dates, time and location, please check out the flyer at the end of the bulletin.

**Medical Care & Housing Assistance**—Katy Trail Community Health’s mobile unit is in Warrensburg for the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, so the next clinic day will be on **September 12<sup>th</sup>** from **9am to 3pm**. Someone from the Katy Trail clinic should still be present for making appointments and assisting on non-clinic Tuesdays, and folks from the Johnson County Resource Center will be present for housing, employment, and other assistance as well. A free lunch is served **from 11:30am-1pm**. All are welcome, and financial assistance is available! **Call 877-733-5824 to schedule an appointment, and make sure to refer others too.**

**Ongoing thanks** to those who generously give to the Bethlehem Emergency Fund, which enables Pr. Joel to assist members and certain people in the community who are in crisis situations. Much appreciation for your good support in shining the light of Christ! If you’d ever like to hear some of the stories of how these funds have been used, just ask Pr. Joel.

### 2023 Elders

**Willie Crespo** (last name begins A-F) 660-679-8121, [crespo6fam@gmail.com](mailto:crespo6fam@gmail.com)

**Ricky Bertels** (last name begins G-K), 660-262-8080, [rick1janice2@gmail.com](mailto:rick1janice2@gmail.com)

**Jack Easterwood** (last name begins L-O) 660-678-2045, [easter.egg2380@gmail.com](mailto:easter.egg2380@gmail.com)

**Alan Miller** (last name begins P-Z) 660-909-1764, [alormiller@aol.com](mailto:alormiller@aol.com)



Saint Paul Servants of the Saints



# FALL SALE RUMMAGE

PREVIEW SALE FEE \$5.00    WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27    6:00 PM-8:00 PM  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 28    7:00 AM-6:00 PM  
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 29    8:00 AM-6:00 PM  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30    8:00 AM-12 NOON

## **\$5.00 BAG SALE SATURDAY!**

CLOTHING	CHILDREN'S CLOTHING	TOOLS
SHOES/PURSES	KITCHENWARE	ANTIQUES
TOYS	HOME DECOR	BOOKS

### *Questions?*

Call or text:

Rita (660) 441-7924

Rachael (816) 674-6363



Check us out on Facebook! Join our group SERVANTS OF THE SAINTS RUMMAGE SALE for updates.

**WEIS GYM ANNEX  
SPLHS CAMPUS  
205 S. MAIN STREET  
CONCORDIA, MO**

Please park behind the gym  
and use the north door.

## Contact Information

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 607 N. Maguire, Warrensburg, MO 64093**

### **Our Mission**

· Grow in Christ · Live in Love · Share the Faith

### **Our Vision**

To be a community of believers, disciples, and servants while we deepen our personal faith and reach others for Christ.



#### **Rev. Joel R. Kurz**

Tuesday & Thursday: 8am–5pm, Wednesday & Friday: 10am-5pm

Otherwise by appointment

Office: 660-747-6742

Cell Phone: 660-441-5710

Email: [jkurz@blchurch.com](mailto:jkurz@blchurch.com)

Website: [www.blchurch.com](http://www.blchurch.com)      Facebook: [blcwarrensburg](https://www.facebook.com/blcwarrensburg)

#### **Office Manager**

Cindy Smith

Monday–Friday: 8am-5pm

660-747-6742

[csmith@blchurch.com](mailto:csmith@blchurch.com)

#### **Congregation Life Facilitator**

Rebecca Holland-VanWey

Wednesday: 1pm-5pm

Thursday: 1pm-5pm

[rholland@blchurch.com](mailto:rholland@blchurch.com)

#### **Bookkeeper**

Teresa Hillsman

Tuesday: 9am-11am

Thursday: 9am-11am

[thillsman@blchurch.com](mailto:thillsman@blchurch.com)

Please note that Bethlehem Lutheran Church has a closed-circuit video system. This allows for live streaming on the web, viewing of the service on screens in the building and helps to enhance our security. Please see a trustee or an elder if you have any questions.