

THE LORD'S DAY                      11:00 A.M.                      OCTOBER 1, 2023  
THE EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
LWML Sunday

*Preservice Music, Ringing of the Bell, Welcome*

**LUTHERAN WOMEN'S MISSIONARY LEAGUE PLEDGE**

R In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C Amen.**

R In fervent gratitude for the Savior's dying love

**C And His blood-bought gift of redemption,**

R We dedicate ourselves to Him with all that we are and have;

**C And in obedience to His call for workers in the harvest fields,**

R We pledge Him our willing service wherever and  
whenever He has need of us.

**C We consecrate to our Savior our hands to work for Him,**

R Our feet to go on His errands,

**C Our voice to sing His praises,**

R Our lips to proclaim His redeeming love,

**C Our silver and our gold to extend His Kingdom,**

R Our will to do His will,

**C And every power of our life to the great task of bringing the lost and erring**

R Into eternal fellowship with Him.

**C Amen.**

**OPENING SONG**

*Serve the Lord with Gladness (Tune: 662 LSB)*

**"Serve the Lord with gladness!" It is He alone,  
Who redeemed us sinners, Guides us as His own  
To enjoy the blessings Of His love and grace,  
Will at last in glory Meet us face to face.**

Refrain: **Onward, then, for Jesus! Let this be our aim:  
"Serve the Lord with gladness!" Glorify His name.**

**"Serve the Lord with gladness!" He gave us command  
To proclaim His Gospel, Now in every land**

**So that fellow sinners, May, like us, be blest.  
Leading them to Jesus, We can serve Him best.**

**Refrain**

**“Serve the Lord with gladness!” There’s no greater joy  
Than to serve the Master, Work in His employ.  
As we build His kingdom, Angels, too, rejoice  
Over every sinner, Brought to hear His voice.**

**Refrain**

*Written by Prof. Ernest Lewerenz*

## **FIRST READING**

*Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32*

The word of the LORD came to me: “What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. “Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live.”

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **THE EPISTLE READING**

*Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18*

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Do

all things without grumbling or questioning, that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**"Make Us One"**

**As we gather together in Your Son,**

**Let us know the joy of being one!**

**Let the time we share in this place**

**Be a time of love and friendship in Your grace.**

**By Your Spirit help us be ... one in faith and unity.**

**Bless us here as we gather in Your Son.**

**Give us joy. Grant us peace. Make us one. Repeat**

*Stand*

## **GOSPEL READING**

*Matthew 21:23-27*

When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?" And they discussed it among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'From man,' we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

**P** This is the gospel of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **GOD'S PEOPLE CONFESS**

**P** Having heard the Word of God, join me in a confession that our ways are not always God's ways...

**C** **"I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out... For in my heart I delight in God's law; but I see**

**another law at work in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within my members.”** *Romans 7:18*

**I confess with all my heart that I am a sinner. I have not lived the perfect life that God demands. I am sorry for my sins. For Jesus’ sake, have mercy on me. Forgive me and restore me to Your favor.**

## **ABSOLUTION**

**P** What you cannot achieve, God has already achieved in the life, death and ultimate victory of Jesus over sin, death and the devil.

**C** **“There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death.”** *Romans 8:1*

**P** Peace be with you. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, I announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:22*

**C** Amen.

## **NICENE CREED**

**C** **I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from  
heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;**

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the  
Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the  
living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped  
and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic  
Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life  $\dagger$  of the world to come. Amen.

## **CHILDREN'S TALK**

## **SONG OF THE DAY LSB 655 *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word***

**SERMON** *"Hold Fast to the Word of Life!" Philippians 2:16*

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

## **OFFERING**

## **PRAYERS**

## **SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Prepare your hearts to welcome the Lord.

**C** We open our hearts to Jesus, our Savior.

P Let us thank the Lord, Our God.

**C We give thanks to Him, now and forever**

## **COMMUNION PRAYER**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

### **PEACE**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

### **(Sit)**

**"Great is Thy Faithfulness"**

Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father

There is no shadow of turning with Thee;

Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;

As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

Chorus:

Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided

Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

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### **"Seek Ye First"**

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness,

And all these things shall be added unto you,

Allelu, alleluia.

Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word

That proceeds from the mouth of God,

Allelu, alleluia.

Ask, and it shall be given unto you.

Seek, and ye shall find.

Knock, and the door shall be opened unto you,

Allelu, alleluia.

*Matthew 6:33 © 1972 Maranatha! Music (ASCAP) CCLI 187269 RMP 243*

### *“Hosanna”*

Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest  
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest:  
Lord, we lift up Your Name with hearts full of praise  
Be exalted, oh Lord, my God, Hosanna in the highest

Glory, Glory, Glory to the King of kings  
Glory, Glory, Glory to the King of kings  
Lord, we lift up Your Name with hearts full of praise  
Be exalted, oh Lord, my God, Glory to the King of kings

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## **THE BENEDICTION**

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

**People: Amen!**

## **THE CLOSING SONG OF PRAISE**

### *“How Great Is Our God”*

The splendor of the King  
Clothed in majesty  
Let all the earth rejoice  
All the earth rejoice  
He wraps Himself in light  
And darkness tries to hide  
And trembles at His voice  
And trembles at His voice

*Chorus* How great is our God  
Sing with me  
How great is our God  
And all will see how great  
How great is our God

And age to age He stands  
And time is in His hands  
Beginning and the End  
Beginning and the End  
The Godhead three in one  
Father Spirit Son  
The Lion and the Lamb  
The Lion and the Lamb      Chorus

*(Bridge)*

Name above all names  
Worthy of all praise  
My heart will sing  
How great is our God

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