

## **The Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost 9-6-20**

How great are your works, O LORD!

**Your thoughts are very deep!**

It is good to give thanks to the LORD,

**to sing praises to your name, O Most High;**  
to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

**and your faithfulness by night,**  
to the music of the lute and the harp,  
**to the melody of the lyre.**

For you, O LORD, have made me glad by your work;

**at the works of your hands I sing for joy.**

**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.**

How great are your works, O LORD!

**Your thoughts are very deep!**

### **Collect**

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.

**[Ezekiel 33:7-9]** "Now, son of man, I am making you a watchman for the people of Israel. Therefore, listen to what I say and warn them for me. <sup>8</sup> If I announce that some wicked people are sure to die and you fail to warn them about changing their ways, then they will die in their sins, but I will hold you responsible for their deaths. <sup>9</sup> But if you warn

them to repent and they don't repent, they will die in their sins, but you will not be held responsible.

**[Romans 6:1-11]** Well then, should we keep on sinning so that God can show us more and more kindness and forgiveness? <sup>2</sup> Of course not! Since we have died to sin, how can we continue to live in it? <sup>3</sup> Or have you forgotten that when we became Christians and were baptized to become one with Christ Jesus, we died with him? <sup>4</sup> For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. <sup>5</sup> Since we have been united with him in his death, we will also be raised as he was. <sup>6</sup> Our old sinful selves were crucified with Christ so that sin might lose its power in our lives. We are no longer slaves to sin. <sup>7</sup> For when we died with Christ we were set free from the power of sin. <sup>8</sup> And since we died with Christ, we know we will also share his new life. <sup>9</sup> We are sure of this because Christ rose from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him. <sup>10</sup> He died once to defeat sin, and now he lives for the glory of God. <sup>11</sup> So you should consider yourselves dead to sin and able to live for the glory of God through Christ Jesus.

**[Matthew 18:1-20]** About that time the disciples came to Jesus and asked, "Which of us is greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven?" <sup>2</sup> Jesus called a small child over to him and put the child among them.

<sup>3</sup> Then he said, "I assure you, unless you turn from your sins and become as little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven. <sup>4</sup> Therefore, anyone who becomes as humble as this little child is the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven. <sup>5</sup> And anyone who welcomes a little child like this on my behalf is welcoming me. <sup>6</sup> But if anyone causes one of these little ones who trusts in me to lose faith, it would be better for that person to be thrown into the sea with a large millstone tied around the neck. <sup>7</sup> "How terrible it will be for anyone who causes others to sin. Temptation to do wrong is inevitable, but how terrible it will be for the person who does the tempting. <sup>8</sup> So if your hand or foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better to enter heaven crippled or lame than to be thrown into the unquenchable fire with both of your hands and feet. <sup>9</sup> And if your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better to enter heaven half blind than to have two eyes and be thrown into hell. <sup>10</sup> "Beware that you don't despise a single one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels are always in the presence of my heavenly Father. <sup>11</sup> <sup>12</sup> "If a shepherd has one hundred sheep, and one wanders away and is lost, what will he do? Won't he leave the ninety-nine others and go out into the hills to search for the lost one? <sup>13</sup> And if he finds it, he will surely rejoice over it more than over the ninety-nine that didn't wander

away! <sup>14</sup> In the same way, it is not my heavenly Father's will that even one of these little ones should perish. <sup>15</sup> "If another believer sins against you, go privately and point out the fault. If the other person listens and confesses it, you have won that person back. <sup>16</sup> But if you are unsuccessful, take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If that person still refuses to listen, take your case to the church. If the church decides you are right, but the other person won't accept it, treat that person as a pagan or a corrupt tax collector. <sup>18</sup> I tell you this: Whatever you prohibit on earth is prohibited in heaven, and whatever you allow on earth is allowed in heaven. <sup>19</sup> "I also tell you this: If two of you agree down here on earth concerning anything you ask, my Father in heaven will do it for you. <sup>20</sup> For where two or three gather together because they are mine, I am there among them."