

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

October 1, 2023

AS WE GATHER

The number of languages being spoken on our planet today is amazing. There are currently more than 6,500 individual languages in use. The smallest group that speaks in a singular language is a tribe of indigenous people in Canada, about 50 in number, who speak a distinct dialect of the Tsuu T'ina tongue. The most widely spoken language on earth is English, with some 1.4 billion users, including a large group for whom English is not their native language. We are blessed by God to hear His Word in our own language. Through Moses, God said to His chosen people: ***“Lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, . . . as long as the heavens are above the earth”*** (Deuteronomy 11:18, 21). We continue to respond to that directive in our generation by holding fast the Word of life - and by sharing it as well!

✠ PREPARATION ✠

HYMN “Blessed Jesus, at Your Word” (LSB 904 - 4 verses)

Blessèd Jesus, at Your Word	We are gathered all to hear You.
Let our hearts and souls be stirred	Now to seek and love and fear You,
By Your teachings, sweet and holy,	Drawn from earth to love You solely.

All our knowledge, sense, and sight	Lie in deepest darkness shrouded
Till Your Spirit breaks our night	With the beams of truth unclouded.
You alone to God can win us;	You must work all good within us.

Gracious Savior, good and kind,	Light of Light, from God proceeding,
Open now our heart and mind;	Help us by Your Spirit's pleading.
Hear the cry Your Church now raises;	Hear and bless our prayers and praises.

(stand)

Father, Son, and Spirit, Lord,	Praise to You and adoration!
Grant that we may trust Your Word,	Confident of our salvation,
While we here below must wander,	Till we sing Your praises yonder.

INVOCATION

(please stand)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: God shall arise, His enemies shall be scattered; and those who hate Him shall flee before Him!

People: But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God; they shall be jubilant with joy!

Pastor: Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation.

People: Our God is a God of salvation, and to GOD, the Lord, belong deliverances from death.

Pastor: Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel, and whose power is in the skies.

People: Awesome is God from His sanctuary; the God of Israel - He is the one who gives power and strength to His people. Blessed be God!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us humble ourselves before God, confess our sins to Him, and ask His gracious forgiveness.

People: We now confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and before one another, that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not always put God first and have too much followed the desires of our own hearts. We have used His holy name in ways that do not honor Him. We have been careless in our devotion and have not always honored those in authority over us. We have done violence to others in word and deed and have not always kept our thoughts, words, and deeds pure and honorable. We have taken what is not ours and have spoken that which is not helpful or true. We have wished for that which is not rightfully ours and have not put the best construction on all things and on all people. We pray God to have mercy on us, to forgive us all our sins, and to bring us to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Spare them, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to Your promises declared in Jesus Christ, our Lord. The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As

a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT Psalm 147:1–5; antiphon: v. 6

Pastor: The LORD lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked to the ground.

People: **Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.**

Pastor: The LORD builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the outcasts of Israel.

People: **He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.**

Pastor: He determines the number of the stars; He gives to all of them their names.

People: **Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure.**

ALL: **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.**

Pastor: The LORD lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked to the ground.

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Christ, have mercy,

People: **Christ, have mercy.**

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen. *(please sit)*

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

(The prophet gives words of warning.)

1 The word of the Lord came to me again: 2 “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’? 3 As I live, says the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. 4 Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sins shall die.

25 “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? 26 When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and commits iniquity, he shall die for it; for the iniquity which he has committed he shall die. 27 Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is lawful and right, he shall save his life. 28 Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions which he had committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die. 29 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? 30 “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. 31 Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of any one, says the Lord God; so turn, and live.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: Philippians 2:1-4, 14-18

(Christians are to look to the interests of others.)

1 So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any incentive of love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2 complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3 Do nothing from selfishness or conceit, but in humility count others better than yourselves. 4 Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

14 Do all things without grumbling or questioning, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast 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. 17 Even if I am to be poured as a libation upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. 18 Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 21:23-27

(please stand)

(Jesus and the elders.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

23 And when he 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?" 24 Jesus answered them, "I also will ask you a question; and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. 25 The baptism of John, whence was it? From heaven or from men?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' 26 But if we say, 'From men,' we are afraid of the multitude; for all hold

that John was a prophet.” 27 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.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE NICENE CREED

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 ☩ of the world to come. Amen. *(please be seated)*

HYMN: “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” - (LSB 655 - 3 verses)

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word; Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son	Curb those who by deceit or sword And bring to naught all He has done.
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Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow’r make known, Defend Your holy Church that we	For You are Lord of lords alone; May sing Your praise eternally.
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O Comforter of priceless worth, Support us in our final strife.	Send peace and unity on earth; And lead us out of death to life.
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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs . . . Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer

Pastor: Into your hands, O Father, we commend all for who we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen

OFFERING

(please be seated)

If you are a **visitor** this morning, you are our guest. Please do not feel obligated to give as the offering plate is passed. The offering is an opportunity for **members** to practice faithful stewardship and to support the ministries of Christ's church. Also, a red booklet, the Friendship Register, will be passed down each row. Please record your presence with us today.

OFFERING SONG: "We Give Thee But Thine Own" (LSB 781 - vv. 1-2)

(Please sing as the offering is presented at the Altar)

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

✘ SACRAMENT ✘

PREFACE

(please stand)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and proper that we should give thanks to You, O Lord, for in Jesus Christ, the Servant of all, You have shown Your saving love and have given us Your Word to bless and encourage us. Grant that, undeterred by persecution or scorn, we may live in humility and faithfulness, anticipating that time when Jesus, who is our host at this Holy Meal, serves in Your kingdom as the master of the great and eternal heavenly banquet. Pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us that we may rejoice in the gifts before us and praise You with thankful hearts.

People: Amen.

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of Sabaoth adored;
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord eternal, and blessed be Your name. In Your great love, You sent Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be the promised Savior, the Word Incarnate who in true humility fulfilled Your will and completed the work of our salvation. With thankfulness we receive the blessings He has obtained for us. Gather into one, we pray You, all Your people who now join at Your Holy Table. Bless and nourish us, so that all we who partake of Christ's holy body and blood may be strengthened to serve You and our neighbor, as You would have us do. To You, O God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - be all honor and glory in Your Holy Church, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

THE 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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen

AGNUS DEI

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,	You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,	Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,	You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,	And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(please be seated)

HYMN “The Lamb” (LSB 547 – 5 verses)

The Lamb, the Lamb,	O Father, where’s the sacrifice?
Faith sees, believes	God will provide the Lamb of price! Refrain

Refrain: *Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own!
The Lamb is reigning on His throne!*

The Lamb, the Lamb,	One perfect final offering.
The Lamb, the Lamb,	Let earth join heav’n His praise to sing. Refrain

The Lamb, the Lamb,	As wayward sheep their shepherd kill
So still, His will	On our behalf the Law to fill. Refrain

He sighs, He dies,	He takes my sin and wretchedness.
He lives, forgives,	He gives me His own righteousness. Refrain

Shall blossom in action for God and for all. His grace did invite us,
His love shall unite us To work for God's kingdom and answer His call.

With praise and thanksgiving To God ever-living,
The tasks of our ev'ryday life we will face. Our faith ever sharing,
In love ever caring, Embracing His children of each tribe and race.
With Your feast You feed us, With Your light now lead us;
Unite us as one in this life that we share. Then may all the living
With praise and thanksgiving Give honor to Christ and His name that we bear.

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious Lord, we thank You for having fed us with the body and blood of our Lord Jesus. Grant that the bread of life and blood of Christ that has been shared and received in this blessed Meal may be for us that life-giving food that sustains us as we hold fast the Word of Life; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen. *(please be seated)*

HYMN: "Great is Thy Faithfulness" (LSB 809 – 3 verses)

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.

Refrain

Refrain: *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!*

Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,
Join with all nature in manifold witness

Refrain

Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,

Refrain

Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

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MESSIAH PRAYER REQUESTS . . .

Prayers for continued healing –

Judy Beauford - Ed Mycock - Steven Haberoth - Linda Fults

For Family and Friends

Prayers for Rolf Schulz and wife, Linda Schulz

Prayers for Tony Giardinelli's mother Ella, as she is nearing the end of her earthly life

Rutledge Family requests prayers for Sister-in-Law Heather Mulledy battling breast cancer and Family friend Linda Young dealing with ALS

Mario & Eve Betancourt requests prayers for Reese Richeson, 16-year-old daughter of friends, undergoing treatment for brain cancer

Donna Cifers requests prayers for her 89-year-old mother's health issues – Margaret Chamness

Sally Gutierrez Beltran asks for prayer for her husband Felix for salvation, deliverance from alcohol and restoration of their marriage

For family discord, reconciliation, and healing

For Messiah's Learning Teams and Call Committee

Prayers for rescue for those in abusive relationships

Prayers for all those with physical, emotional, or other needs – your will be done

Prayers for all who are lost to hear and receive Jesus' Gospel message

We pray in Jesus's Holy Name, Amen.

OCTOBER ALTAR FLOWERS

October 3rd – Linda Dickey – in honor of Bill's birthday

October 8th – Russell & Margaret Leachman – in honor of Benton's birthday

October 8th – Pam Fields – in memory of Ed Fields

October 15th – Giardinelli Family – in honor of Operation Christmas Child

October 22nd – OPEN

October 29th – Steve & Janet Haberoth – in thanksgiving of God's Blessings

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

WELCOME . . . *Whoever you are . . . Wherever you have come from . . . we are so glad you are here!* Your presence increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior together. If you are visiting with us today, we'd love to get to know you! Please don't forget to sign your name and fill in your contact information in the red booklets on the inside aisle!

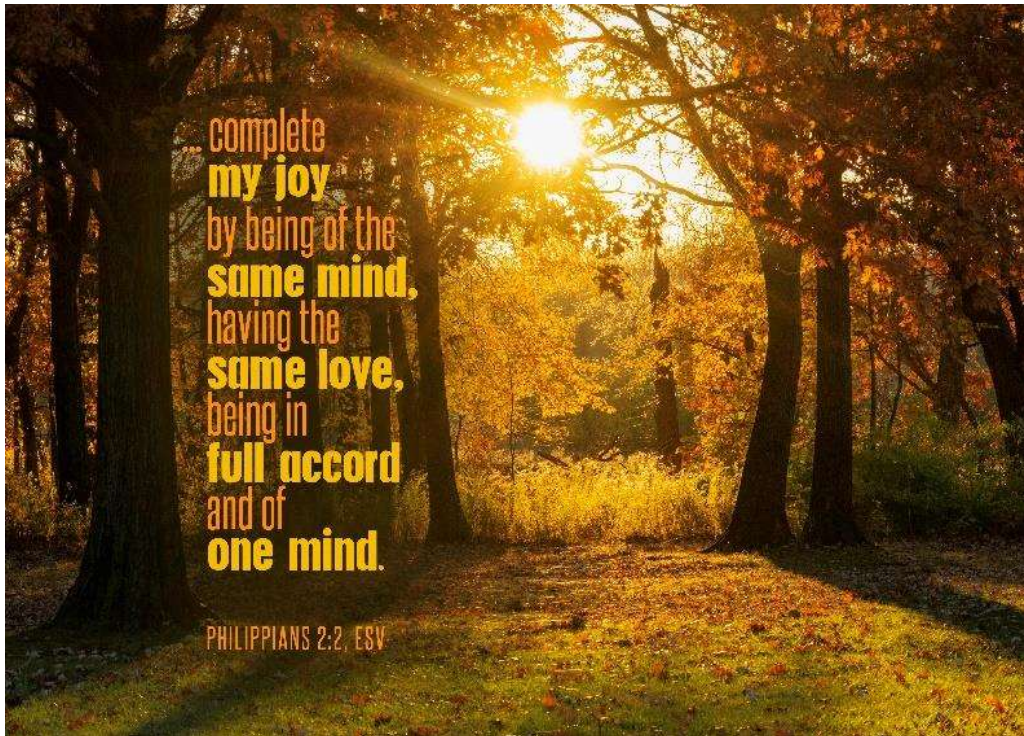
Pastor's Bible Study in the BEGIN Book - Pastor will continue with *The Gospel According to John*.

Church Work Day – Please mark your calendar for Saturday October 7th and join us at 8:00 am as we clean the Sanctuary and Narthex area as well as the grounds around the Church.

Upcoming Events – Detailed information can be found on MLC's website.

- Oct. 8th – **Dedication of Sanctuary** at 3:00 pm as we give thanks to God for the gift of New Creation
- Oct. 12th - **Ladies Day Out Lunch** – 11:00 am at The Rill (Old Gretel's) 518 River Road, Boerne. Meet outside. RSVP to Lindy Eschenko or sign up at church. Great food, staff, owner, cook and expanded menus to come!!
- Oct 15th – Fellowship Committee is hosting a **Potluck Dinner** following Worship Service to **Kick Off Operation Christmas Child** – Please sign up on the Meal Train for this meal.
- Oct 21st - **Messiah's Adult Game Day** - is scheduled for Sat. Oct. 21st at 2pm in the Family Life Center! Come join us! Bring drinks, snacks, games, and friends!
- Oct. 22nd – Lutheran High School Golf Tournament - "Mustangs and Mulligans"

Issues, Etc.- *A Lutheran View Of Depression...* You can listen to the new audiobook, "I Trust When Dark My Road: A Lutheran View of Depression" by Pastor Todd Peperkorn. Go to issuesetc.org, enter your email address, and you'll receive a link to "I Trust When Dark My Road." This new audiobook is produced by Lutheran Public Radio based in Collinsville, IL. LPR produces radio talk shows, podcasts, and 24/7 sacred music and talk stations.



...complete
my joy
by being of the
same mind,
having the
same love,
being in
full accord
and of
one mind.

PHILIPPIANS 2:2, ESV

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Dr. Richard S. Lofgren, Pastor

Gina Husky, Director of Messiah's Kids Preschool

David Rhoads, Facilities Manager

Maurine Maloy, Administrative Assistant



Serving us Today – October 1, 2023

Elders: Mike Lang & Hal Eschenko
Coffee: Shirley Moore
Treats: Shirley Moore
Tellers: Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care: Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician: Bob Shoaf
AV: Tony Giardinelli
Reader: Sue Parker
Ushers: Allen Leitko – David Theis – Maurice Doublett – Joe Sorensen
Greeters: Kathy Giardinelli & Sue Theis

Serving us Next Sunday – October 8, 2023

Elders: Mike Lang & Hal Eschenko
Coffee: Sue Parker
Treats: Janis & Joyce Meier
Tellers: Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care: Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician: Vickie Lautner
AV: David & Lorrie Wendeborn
Reader: Pam Fields
Ushers: Allen Leitko – David Theis – Maurice Doublett – Joe Sorensen
Greeters: Sue Theis

Our Response to God Last Week

Worship Attendance: 85 | Sunday School: 34

October 2023 Contributions			
General Fund	\$39,564.20	Building Fund	\$1,925.00
Renovation Fund	\$150.00	Family Life Center	\$1,750.00