

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
October 22, 2023

AS WE GATHER

One of the most famous sayings of Jesus appears to provide a neat and tidy divide between the worldly power of government and the spiritual power of the Church. Is that really what Christ is doing? Is He marking the divide or is He commending all things and the ultimate authority to the saving purpose of our heavenly Father? The things that belong to Caesar appear to be valuable in the moment but are temporary and temporal. The things of God are everything - all things in heaven and earth. They are eternal. In reality, there is nothing that does not belong to God, although the Lord assigns different people with the different responsibilities of church and state. In this question of who is in charge, God makes it clear that He is always in charge and always working for our salvation.

✠ PREPARATION ✠

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 118:24

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

HYMN “With the Lord Begin Your Task” (LSB – 869 - 5 verses)

With the Lord begin your task;	Jesus will direct it.
For His aid and counsel ask;	Jesus will perfect it.
Ev’ry morn with Jesus rise,	And when day is ended,
In His name then close your eyes;	Be to Him commended.
Let each day begin with prayer,	Praise, and adoration.
On the Lord cast ev’ry care;	He is your salvation.
Morning, evening, and at night	Jesus will be near you,
Save you from the tempter’s might,	With His presence cheer you.
With your Savior at your side,	Foes need not alarm you;
In His promises confide,	And no ill can harm you.
All your trust and hope repose	In the mighty Master,
Who in wisdom truly knows	How to stem disaster.

If your task be thus begun
Safely then your course will run,
Good will follow ev'rywhere
You at last the joy will share

With the Savior's blessing,
Toward the promise pressing.
While you here must wander.
In the mansions yonder.

Thus, Lord Jesus, ev'ry task
May Your will be done, I ask,
Jesus, in Your name begun
Grant that it may well be done

Be to You commended;
Until life is ended.
Be the day's endeavor;
To Your praise forever.

INVOCATION

(please stand)

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: My help comes from the LORD,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: The LORD will keep you from all evil;

People: He will keep your life.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.st.

People: Amen.

✘ WORD ✘

INTROIT **Antiphon, Psalm 121:5; Psalm 121:1-4, 7-8**

Pastor: The Lord watches over you – the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

Pastor: I will lift my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from?

People: My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: He will not let your foot slip – he who watches over you will not slumber.

People: indeed, he who watches over Israel will neither slumber nor sleep.

Pastor: The Lord will keep you from all harm – he will watch over your life;

**People: the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and
forevermore.**

**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 watches over you – the Lord is your shade at your right hand.

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. O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that
with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we
lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives
and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen. *(please be seated)*

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

(“I am the Lord, and there is no other.”)

1 Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: 2 “I will go before you and level the exalted places, I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron, 3 I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places, that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name. 4 For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me. 5 I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, 6 that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. 7 I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the Lord, who does all these things.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

(Become imitators of us and of the Lord.)

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. 2 We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4 For we know, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. 6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8 For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. 9 For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come Jesus.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

(please stand)

(Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.)

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

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

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. 16 And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20 And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" 21 They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." 22 When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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)

HYMN “Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us” – (LSB 851 - 4 verses)

Lord of glory, You have bought us
Never grudging for the lost ones
And with that have freely given
To the unthankful and the evil

With Your lifeblood as the price,
That tremendous sacrifice;
Blessings countless as the sand
With Your own unsparing hand.

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You
With the sunshine of Your goodness
Till our cold and selfish natures,
That more happy and more blessed
Wondrous honor You have given
In Your own mysterious sentence,
Can it be, O gracious Master,
Saying by Your poor and needy,

Gladly, freely of Your own.
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Warmed by You, at length believe
'Tis to give than to receive.
To our humblest charity
“You have done it all to Me.”
That You deign for alms to sue,
“Give as I have giv’n to you”?

Lord of glory, You have bought us
Never grudging for the lost ones
Give us faith to trust You boldly,
But, oh, best of all Your graces,

With Your lifeblood as the price,
That tremendous sacrifice.
Hope, to stay our souls on You;
With Your love our love renew.

MESSAGE: “Seek First His Kingdom”

Philippians 4:19-20

PRESENTATION OF OUR COMMITMENTS

OFFERING

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!

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, who has taught us to pray:

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.

FOR THE CHURCH

Let us pray. Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve You and, in the confession of Your name, abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

BENEDICTION

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

People: **Amen.** *(please be seated)*

HYMN “O God of Mercy, God of Might” (LSB – 852 - 6 verses)

O God of mercy, God of might,
Teach us, as ever in Thy sight,

In love and pity infinite,
To live our lives in Thee.

And Thou, who cam'st on earth to die
O hear us; for to Thee we cry,

That our lost world might live thereby,
In hope, O Lord, to Thee.

Teach us the lesson Thou hast taught:
That ev'ry word and deed and thought

To feel for those Thy blood hath bought,
May work a work for Thee.

All are redeemed, both far and wide,
Grant us the will and grace provide

Since Thou, O Lord, for all hast died.
To love them all in Thee!

In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
May we, where help is needed, there

May we each other's burdens share;
Give help as unto Thee!

And may Thy Holy Spirit move
Till Thou shalt greet in heav'n above

All those who live to live in love
All those who live in Thee.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSIAH PRAYER REQUESTS . . .

Prayers for continued healing –

Judy Beauford - Steven Haberoth - Linda Fults

For Family and Friends

*Prayers for the family of **Mark “Buck” Rogers** pasts Member of Messiah as Buck passed away October 14th – Please keep Suzie and her family in your prayers*

*Praise to God for **Mark Giardinelli** being accepted to **Mission Aviation Fellowship** as an Advocate and prayers for him as he starts training and presenting about the ministry.*

*Prayers for the MAF Family - **Will and Jennelle Wolf and their 3 children.***

Prayers for Rolf Schulz and wife, Linda Schulz

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 Call Committee and the Pastor God is preparing for us

Prayers for Justice & Peace in the Middle East

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 – Joyce & Janis Meier – in memory of their mother Alama Meier

October 22nd – Mario & Eve Betancourt – celebrating 21 years of marriage

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 - Pastor will continue with *The Gospel According to John*.

Discipleship/Stewardship - *Living the Christian Lifestyle: Time, Talent and Interest Surveys* will be emailed to all members with email addresses. Please check your email, follow the instructions to complete the survey and return to church by email (or Printed). Paper copies will be available at church. Please return to church by Oct 29th.

Help needed – Wednesday, Oct. 25th at 4:00 pm - David Rhoads needs help setting up all of the tables and chairs in the Gym at the FLC for Messiah's Kids Dad's Breakfast Thursday, Oct. 26th morning.

OCC Shoeboxes – please stop by Mark Giardinelli's table to pick up a shoebox which helps reach children with the Gospel, as they are a tangible way of expressing God's love.

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

- **TODAY - Multigenerational Tie-Dye Party is taking place immediately after today's service outside the Family Life Center. Thrivent is providing the Subway sandwich lunch.**
- **TODAY – Lutheran High School Golf Tournament - "Mustangs and Mulligans"**
- **Oct. 29th - Hill Country Daily Bread Ministries Thanksgiving Food Drive is taking place today and next Sunday, October 29. A complete list of items needed is available in October's Messiah Newsletter and also at the table outside Pastor Lofgren's office.**

Issues, Etc. - *Educating A New Generation Of Lutherans... Issues, Etc.* is a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL and hosted by LCMS Pastor Todd Wilken. This week's topics include: *The Scientific Vocation, The Age of the Earth, The Lord's Prayer, Church Music for the Care of Souls* and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.

**My God will supply every
need of yours according to his
riches in glory in Christ Jesus.**

Philippians 4:19, 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 22, 2023

Elders: Mike Lang & Hal Eschenko
Coffee: Sharon Loren
Treats: Sharon Loren
Tellers: Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care: Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician: Bob Shoaf
AV: Rutledge Family
Reader: Sharon Sattler
Ushers: Anthony Sansone – Dennis Parker – Mike Stender – Tom Bibb
Greeters: David & Sharon Sattler

Serving us Next Sunday – October 29, 2023

Elders: Mike Lang & Hal Eschenko
Coffee: Sue Parker
Treats: Lindy Eschenko
Tellers: Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care: Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician: Bob Shoaf
AV: **OPEN**
Reader: Kathy Rottman
Ushers: Anthony Sansone – Dennis Parker – Mike Stender – Tom Bibb
Greeters: Larry & Kathy Rottman

Our Response to God Last Week
Worship Attendance: 86 | Sunday School: 18

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