

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

## Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost

*September 24, 2023*

### AS WE GATHER

When Paul wrote to his co-worker Timothy that he was “bound with chains as a criminal” (2 Timothy 2:9), he knew well the situation he was in. Acts 16 relates the time that he was thrown in jail in Philippi without benefit of a trial. He was later jailed in Jerusalem and then Caesarea and finally at Rome, where he was under a type of house arrest for two years. The final chapter of Acts finds Paul as a captive one more time, accepting this imprisonment as a prelude to his death. He writes to Timothy “the time of my departure has come” (2 Timothy 4:6). In the centuries since Paul gave his prison witness, countless Christian men and women have been imprisoned for their Gospel witness. We are encouraged to be faithful witnesses in our time by Paul, who writes to his young associate Timothy: “Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith” (1 Timothy 6:11–12a). Paul’s words from prison are good instruction for every situation!

### ✠ 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 “Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling” (LSB – 827 4 verses)

Hark, the voice of Jesus calling,  
Fields are white and harvests waiting -  
Loud and long the Master calleth;  
Who will answer, gladly saying,

Some take up His task in morning,  
Some are called in heat of midday,  
Even as the sun is setting,  
There to gather in the bounty

“Who will go and work today?  
Who will bear the sheaves away?”  
Rich reward He offers thee.  
“Here am I, send me, send me”?

To their Lord responding soon;  
Others late in afternoon;  
Some are sent into the fields,  
That God’s Word so richly yields.

For as rain and snow from heaven  
Causing them to bud and flower,  
So the Lord sends forth His promise,  
Never void to Him returning,

Water seeds in dusty soil,  
Giving bread to those who toil;  
Words of life and joy and peace -  
Bearing fruit with great increase.

Hearken to the Lord whose coming  
When with His angelic reapers  
Soon the night, the final harvest;  
Then the souls His grace has garnered

Marks the time when grace shall end,  
He in glory shall descend.  
Soon the time for work shall cease.  
Shall enjoy His Sabbath peace.

## INVOCATION

*(please stand)*

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make His face to shine upon us,

**People: that Your way may be known on earth, Your saving power among all nations.**

Pastor: Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!

**People: Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for You judge the peoples with equity and guide the nations upon earth.**

Pastor: Let the peoples praise You, O God; let all the peoples praise You!

**People: God shall bless us; let all the ends of the earth fear Him!**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: It is good and right that we should make confession of our sins and hear the words of absolution that assure us of God's forgiveness. The section on "Confession" in the Small Catechism written by Dr. Martin Luther instructs and directs us with these words:

**People: Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.**

Pastor: Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

**People: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your present and eternal punishment. By nature I am a sinful creature. By thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious**

**and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life.**

Pastor: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: 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: Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely and may your lives reflect His forgiveness. Be at peace!

**People: Amen.**

**✘ WORD ✘**

**INTROIT Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16; antiphon, v 17**

Pastor: I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.

Pastor: What shall I render to the LORD for all his benefits to me?

**People: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.**

Pastor: Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

**People: O LORD, I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant. You have loosed my bonds.**

**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: I will offer to you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call on the name of the LORD.

**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. Lord Jesus Christ, our strength and support in all situations, grant us the power and presence of Your Holy Spirit that we may be strong and steadfast in all situations, joyfully witnessing to the power of Your love and continually learning of You in every season; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and rules with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

## OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 55:6-9 *(The prophet encourages God's people.)*

6 Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near. 7 Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and he will have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will freely pardon. 8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the Lord. 9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE READING: Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30 *(Paul writes that to live is Christ.)*

12 Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. 13 As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. 14 And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

19 for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance. 20 I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. 21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; 24 but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. 25 Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, 26 so that through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me. 27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand

firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel 28 without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved - and that by God. 29 For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, 30 since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

**Reader:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

## **CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

**HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 20:1-16**

*(The parable of the laborers in the vineyard.)*

*(please stand)*

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

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

1 "For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire workers for his vineyard. 2 He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard. 3 "About nine in the morning he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing. 4 He told them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' 5 So they went. "He went out again about noon and about three in the afternoon and did the same thing. 6 About five in the afternoon he went out and found still others standing around. He asked them, 'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?' 7 "'Because no one has hired us,' they answered. "He said to them, 'You also go and work in my vineyard.' 8 "When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman, 'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.' 9 "The workers who were hired about five in the afternoon came and each received a denarius. 10 So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more. But each one of them also received a denarius. 11 When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner. 12 'These who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said, 'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.' 13 "But he answered one of them, 'I am not being unfair to you, friend. Didn't you agree to work for a denarius? 14 Take your pay and go. I want to give the one who was hired last the same as I gave you. 15 Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money? Or are you envious because I am generous?' 16 "So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'"

**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 "Take My Life and Let It Be" – (LSB 783 - 6 verses)

Take my life and let it be Take my moments and my days,	Consecrated, Lord, to Thee; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
Take my hands and let them move Take my feet and let them be	At the impulse of Thy love; Swift and beautiful for Thee.
Take my voice and let me sing Take my lips and let them be	Always, only for my King; Filled with messages from Thee.
Take my silver and my gold, Take my intellect and use	Not a mite would I withhold; Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
Take my will and make it Thine, Take my heart, it is Thine own,	It shall be no longer mine; It shall be Thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour Take myself, and I will be	At Thy feet its treasure store; Ever, only, all for Thee.

**MESSAGE: "Seek"**

**Philippians 1:3-6, 9-11, 25**

## 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!

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*(please stand)*

**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 GUIDANCE IN OUR CALLING**

Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**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 “Lift High the Cross” (LSB – 837 6 verses)**

*refrain:* **Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim  
Till all the world adore His sacred name.**

Come, Christians, follow where our Captain trod,  
Our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Refrain*

Led on their way by this triumphant sign,  
The hosts of God in conqu'ring ranks combine. *Refrain*

All newborn soldiers of the Crucified  
Bear on their brows the seal of Him who died. *Refrain*

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,  
As Thou hast promised, draw us all to Thee. *Refrain*

Let ev'ry race and ev'ry language tell  
Of Him who saves our lives from death and hell. *Refrain*

So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

## **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.**

**Prayer of thanksgiving for Dennis Parker's successful heart procedure to install 3 stents.**

**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****

**Jim Minica offers thanks be to God for the health improvements for his sister, **Linda Rose****

**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*

*We pray for discernment of for the reorganized SAPD Property Crimes department*

*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.*

## **SEPTEMBER ALTAR FLOWERS**

September 3<sup>rd</sup> – Bill & Linda Dicke – celebrating 39 years of marriage

September 10<sup>th</sup> – Steve & Janet Haberoth – thanksgiving for God's blessings

September 11<sup>th</sup> – R.J. & Pam Poulk – celebrating 55 years of marriage

September 17<sup>th</sup> – Tony & Kathy Giardinelli – in honor of Mark's birthday

September 17<sup>th</sup> – Pam Poulk – in honor of R.J.'s birthday

September 24<sup>th</sup> – Larry Risley – in honor of Pam's birthday

September 24<sup>th</sup> – R.J. Poulk – in honor of Pam's birthday

## 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*.

**Messiah's Kids Preschool** – With 30 dozen donuts on hand, coffee and juice, Messiah's Kids welcomed many grandparents and grandchildren on Thursday morning! This is always a special morning.

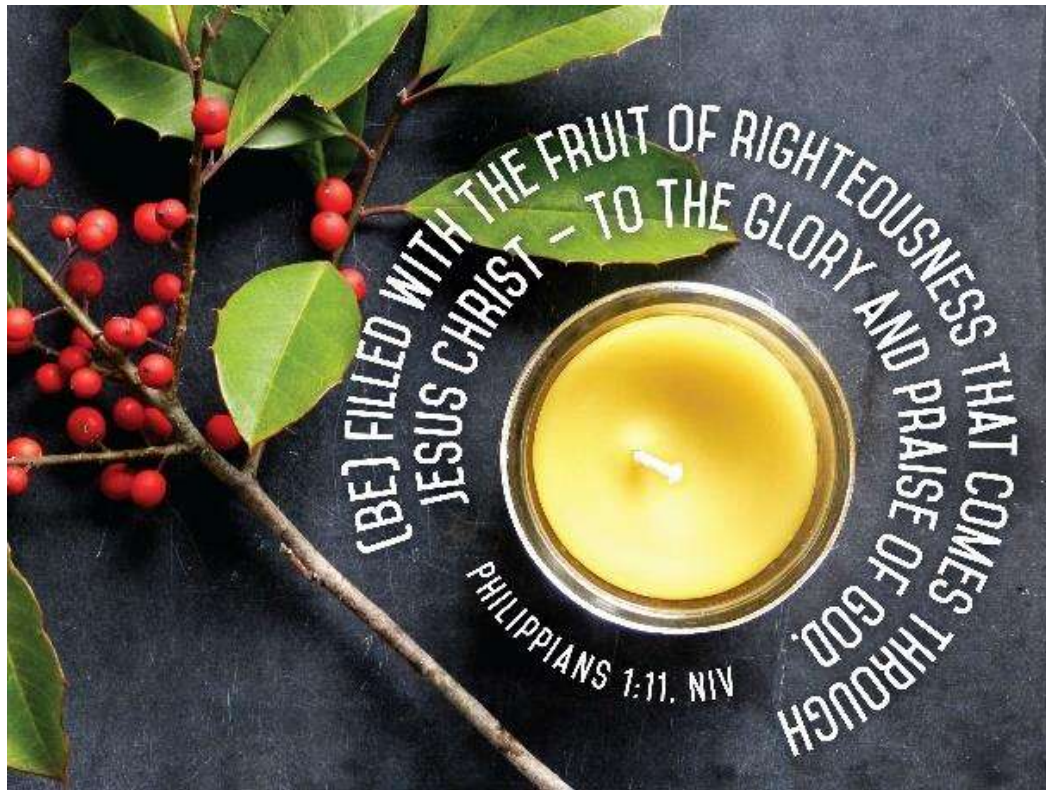
**Beautification Alert!** Please be aware of the many landscaping updates happening around the Family Life Center. Use caution when parking.

**Children's Church** – Mario & Eve Betancourt will host Children's Church this morning following the Epistle Reading.

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

- **Sep. 30th – Messiah's 5K Walk – Run** event at Old #9 Trail at Esser Road in Boerne from 7:30 to 10:30 am.
- **Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> – 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 15<sup>th</sup> – 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. 21<sup>st</sup> at 2pm in the Family Life Center! Come join us! Bring drinks, snacks, games, and friends!

**Issues, Etc.** - What does St. Paul mean when he writes about “rightly handling the word of truth?” *Issues, Etc.*, a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL, has an in-depth series with Pr. Will Weedon based on “The Proper Distinction Between Law & Gospel” by C.F.W. Walther. You can listen to the entire series at your convenience at [issuesetc.org/lawandgospel](http://issuesetc.org/lawandgospel).



## **MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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[www.messiahboerne.org](http://www.messiahboerne.org)*

*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 – September 24, 2023**

Elders: Bill Eichman & Roger Winkelmann  
Coffee: Joe & Verna Sorensen  
Treats: Lutheran High School  
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: Allen Leitko  
Ushers: Dennis Parker – Mike Stender – Tom Bibb – Tony Giardinelli  
Greeters: Kathy Giardinelli

**Serving us Next Sunday – 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 – Joe Sorensen – Maurice Doublett  
Greeters: Kathy Giardinelli

**Our Response to God Last Week**  
**Worship Attendance: 87 | Sunday School: 38**

<b>August 2023 Contributions</b>			
<b>General Fund</b>	<b>\$42,992.08</b>	<b>Building Fund</b>	<b>\$2,590.00</b>
<b>Renovation Fund</b>	<b>\$15,400.00</b>	<b>Family Life Center</b>	<b>\$400.00</b>