THE ORDER OF WORSHIP Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

October 15, 2023

AS WE GATHER

Living in the ups and downs of this mortal life, in a world opposed to Christ and His purposes, it may seem like peace is a secret that must be found to be enjoyed. There is no secret, as it were, but the peace that passes understanding is hidden - hidden in Christ. This peace is not some relative calm against the upset of the world but knowing Christ and living in His strength, comfort, forgiveness, joy, and peace amid every circumstance of life. This is not to be confused with happiness, which is hard to find and ever harder to define. No, this gift of peace means knowing with contentment the steadfast love and mercy of God given to us in Christ Jesus, His Son.

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 118:24

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

▼ PREPARATION ▼

HYMN "I Love Your Kingdom, Lord" (LSB 651 - 5 verses)

I love Your kingdom, Lord,	The place of Your abode,	
The Church our blest Redeemer saved	With His own precious blood.	
Beyond my highest joy Its sweet communion, solemn vows,	I prize its heav'nly ways, Its hymns of love and praise.	
I love Your Church, O God,	Your saints in ev'ry land,	
Dear as the apple of Your eye	And graven on Your hand.	
For them my tears shall fall;	For them my prayers ascend;	
For them my cares and toils be giv'n	Till toils and cares shall end.	
Sure as Your truth shall last, The brightest glories earth can yield	To Zion shall be giv'n And brighter bliss of heav'n.	

INVOCATION (please stand)

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: I will praise the LORD as long as I live;

People: my soul shall exult in my God,

Pastor: for He has clothed me with the garments of salvation; **People:** He has covered me with the robe of righteousness.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean.

We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your

holy name. 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.

People: Amen.

₩ WORD **₩**

INTROIT Antiphon, Psalm, 48:1; Psalm 34:1-4, 17

Pastor: Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise, **People:** in the city of our God, his holy mountain.

Pastor: I will extol the Lord at all times,

People: his praise will always be on my lips.

Pastor: My soul will boast in the Lord,

People: let the afflicted hear and rejoice.

Pastor: Glorify the Lord with me;

People: let us exalt his name together.

Pastor: I sought the Lord, and he answered me; People: He delivered me from all my fears.

Pastor: The righteous cry out, and the Lord hears them;

People: he delivers them from all their troubles.

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: Great is the Lord, and most worthy of praise, **People:** in the city of our God, his holy mountain.

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. Merciful Father, in Your mercy You have visited us with Your Son

that we might know the joy of His salvation. Grant that this joy we know in Christ may be with us in every circumstance and be fulfilled in us when we are delivered through death into everlasting life; 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 sit)

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 25:6-9

(On this mountain the Lord will make a feast for all peoples and will cast off the veil of death forever.)

6 On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wine, of rich food full of marrow, of aged wine well refined. 7 And he will swallow up on this mountain the covering that is cast over all peoples, the veil that is spread over all nations. 8 He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. 9 It will be said on that day, "Behold, this is our God; we have waited for him, that he might save us. This is the Lord; we have waited for him; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: Philippians 4:4-13

("Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, Rejoice.")

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. 8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. 9 What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me - practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you. 10 I rejoiced in the Lord greatly that now at length you have revived your concern for me. You were indeed concerned for me, but you had no opportunity. 11 Not that I am speaking of being in need, for I have learned in whatever situation I am to be content. 12 I know how to be brought low, and I know how to abound. In any and every circumstance, I have learned the secret of facing plenty and hunger, abundance and need. 13 I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14 (please stand)

(Many are called; few are chosen.)

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

chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

1 And again Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying, 2 "The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding feast for his son, 3 and sent his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding feast, but they would not come. 4 Again he sent other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast." 5 But they paid no attention and went off, one to his farm, another to his business, 6 while the rest seized his servants, treated them shamefully, and killed them. 7 The king was angry, and he sent his troops and destroyed those murderers and burned their city. 8 Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding feast is ready, but those invited were not worthy. 9 Go therefore to the main roads and invite to the wedding feast as many as you find.' 10 And those servants went out into the roads and gathered all whom they found, both bad and good. So the wedding hall was filled with guests. 11 "But when the king came in to look at the guests, he saw there a man who had no wedding garment. 12 And he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding garment?' And he was speechless. 13 Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand and foot and cast him into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' 14 For many are called, but few are chosen."

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 \$\mathbb{E}\$ of the world to come. Amen. (please be seated)

HYMN: "Built on the Rock" - (LSB 645 - 5 verses)

Built on the Rock the Church shall stand Crumbled have spires in ev'ry land; Calling the young and old to rest, Longing for rest everlasting. Even when steeples are falling. Bells still are chiming and calling, But above all the souls distressed,

Surely in temples made with hands High above earth His temple stands, Yet He who dwells in heav'n above Making our bodies His temple. God, the Most High, is not dwelling; All earthly temples excelling. Chooses to live with us in love,

We are God's house of living stones, He through baptismal grace us owns Were we but two His name to tell, With all His grace and His favor.

Built for His own habitation. Heirs of His wondrous salvation. Yet He would deign with us to dwell

Here stands the font before our eyes, The altar recalls Christ's sacrifice Here sound the Scriptures that proclaim And evermore, our Redeemer. Telling how God has received us. And what His Supper here gives us. Christ yesterday, today, the same, Grant, then, O God, Your will be done, Many in saving faith may come "I know My own; My own know Me. My peace I leave with you. Amen." That, when the church bells are ringing, Where Christ His message is bringing: You, not the world, My face shall see.

MESSAGE: "Kingdom" Philippians 3:20-21; 4:1,6,9,11,13

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. <u>Please record your presence with us today</u>.

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 good and right, our duty and our delight, to offer You praise and

thanksgiving at all times and in all places, O holy Lord, almighty Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who redeemed us by His blood, restored us to You as Your own sons and daughters, and is now working in us to finish what You have begun, that we might receive the prize of everlasting salvation, through the merits and mercy of Christ our Lord. Therefore with angels and archangels, with patriarchs and prophets, with apostles and evangelists and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name and join their unending

hymn, evermore praising You and saying:

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: Holy and mighty Lord, we give You thanks for having made all things and for

Your patient mercy in dealing with us sinners who deserved nothing of Your kindness. Grant us grace in Christ that all our sins be forgiven and that we be covered with the righteousness of Christ and may worthily approach the Table of our Lord today and in eternity be welcomed into the marriage feast of the

Lamb in His kingdom without end.

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

(please be seated)

HYMN: "What Is This Bread" (LSB 629 – 5 verses)

What is this bread? Christ's body risen from the dead:

This bread we break, This life we take,

Was crushed to pay for our release. O taste and see - the Lord is peace.

What is this wine? The blood of Jesus shed for mine;

The cup of grace Brings His embrace

Of life and love until I sing! O taste and see - the Lord is King.

So who am I, That I should live and He should die

Under the rod? My God, my God,

Why have You not forsaken me? O taste and see - the Lord is free.

Yet is God here? Oh, yes! By Word and promise clear,

In mouth and soul He makes us whole -

Christ, truly present in this meal. O taste and see - the Lord is real.

Is this for me? I am forgiven and set free!

I do believe That I receive

His very body and His blood. O taste and see - the Lord is good.

HYMN: "At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing" (LSB 633 – 8 verses)

At the Lamb's high feast we sing

Praise to our victorious King,

Who has washed us in the tide Flowing from His piercèd side. Alleluia!

Praise we Him, whose love divine Gives His sacred blood for wine,

Gives His body for the feast - Christ the victim, Christ the priest. Alleluia!

Where the paschal blood is poured, Death's dread angel sheathes the sword;

Israel's hosts triumphant go Through the wave that drowns the foe.

Praise we Christ, whose blood was shed, Paschal victim, paschal bread;

With sincerity and love Eat we manna from above. Alleluia!

Mighty Victim from the sky, Hell's fierce pow'rs beneath You lie;

You have conquered in the fight, You have brought us life and light. Alleluia!

Now no more can death appall, Now no more the grave enthrall;

You have opened paradise, And Your saints in You shall rise. Alleluia!

Easter triumph, Easter joy! This alone can sin destroy;

From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, Newborn souls in You to be. Alleluia!

Father, who the crown shall give,

Savior, by whose death we live,

Spirit, guide through all our days: Three in One, Your name we praise.

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

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*

He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows. His song prolong Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. *Refrain*

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

(please stand)

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

People: for His steadfast love endures forever!

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste

of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one

God, now and forever.

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: "Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise" (LSB 917 – 4 verses)

Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise With one accord our parting hymn of praise; Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease, Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.

Grant us Thy peace upon our homeward way; With Thee began, with Thee shall end, the day. Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame, That in this house have called upon Thy name.

Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the coming night; Turn Thou for us its darkness into light. From harm and danger keep Thy children free; For dark and light are both alike to Thee.

Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life, Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife; Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease, Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.

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 - Steven Haberoth - Linda Fults

For Family and Friends

Prayers for Rolf Schulz and wife, **Linda Schulz** as Rolf's medical procedure didn't work as planned and Rolf will have to wait 2-4 weeks for re-scheduling

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 – 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!

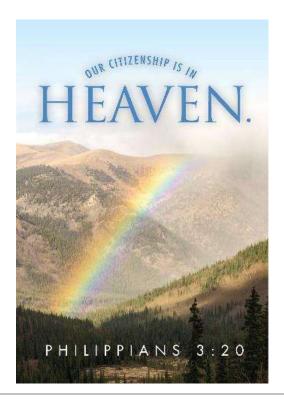
<u>WELCOME</u>... Whoever you are... Wherever you have come from... we are so glad you are here! Your presence increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior together. If you are visiting with us today, we'd love to get to know you! Please don't forget to sign your name and fill in your contact information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

<u>Pastor's Bible Study in the BEGIN Book</u> - Pastor will continue with The Gospel According to John.

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

- <u>TODAY</u> Messiah's Fellowship Committee will be hosting a **Potluck Dinner** after worship service to **Kick Off Operation Christmas Child**!
- Oct. 21st Messiah's Adult Game Day is scheduled at 2:00 pm in the Family Life Center!
- Oct. 22nd Lutheran High School Golf Tournament "Mustangs and Mulligans"
- Oct 22nd Tie Dye T-Shirt Multigenerational Event following worship service.
- Nov. 4th Messiah's Adult Game Day at 2:00 pm at the home of Hal & Lindy Eschenko!
- Nov. 5th Tie Dye T-Shirt Multigenerational Event during the Sunday School Hour
- Nov. 17th Ladies Day Out Lunch at Alstadt Brewery in Fredericksburg at 12:30 pm the same day as Fredericksburg Trade Days nearby. Everyone is invited to join for lunch at the big hall for German food and listen to the band!! RSVP to Lindy Eschenko 979-229-7760 or email or sign up at church!
- Dec. 2nd Messiah's Adult Game Day at 2:00 pm at the home of Hal & Lindy Eschenko!
- Dec. 3rd Mark Giardinelli's Jamica Mission Trip Commissioning
- Dec. 7th Ladies Day Out Lunch at 11:00 am gift exchange and lunch at Albe Vita, an Italian food restaurant next to HEB in Leon Springs!! Previously was Scuzzi's!! RSVP to Lindy Eschenko or sign up at church!! Gift exchange is always optional \$10-15.
- Dec. 9th Messiah's Annual Christmas Party sponsored by the Fellowship Committee

<u>Issues, Etc.</u>- Finding Jesus In The Old Testament ... Do you have a difficult time reading the Old Testament? The key to understanding the Old Testament is to find Jesus. Issues, Etc., a radio talk show and podcast produced by Lutheran Public Radio in Collinsville, IL, recently interviewed Dr. Reed Lessing and Dr. Andrew Steinmann, co-authors of the new book "The Messianic Message." You can listen to this multi-part series at issuesetc.org/findingjesus.ons.



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 15, 2023

Elders: Mike Lang & Hal Eschenko
Coffee: Ernie & Marilyn Mazurek

Treats: Sue Parker

Tellers: Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care: Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid's Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren

Musician: Bob Shoaf

AV: Ernie & Marilyn Mazurek

Reader: Sharon Loren

Ushers: Allen Leitko – David Theis – Maurice Doublett – Joe Sorensen

Greeters: Alana Kemmy

Serving us Next Sunday - 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

Our Response to God Last Week

Worship Attendance: 88 Sunday School: 22

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