# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP Sixteenth Sunday After Pentecost

# September 17, 2023

#### AS WE GATHER

This weekend on the Church calendar (September 16<sup>th</sup>), the bishop Cyprian of Carthage is remembered. As a Church leader in the third century, a time of Roman persecution, Cyprian had to deal with the problem of Christians who denied the faith under persecution but later wanted to be restored to the fellowship of the Lord. Cyprian helped craft a response to the situation that was based on forgiveness, allowing a lapsed Christian to be reinstated after a time in which they lived out their restored faithful confession. His own faithfulness unto death was fully demonstrated as he was executed by Roman authorities for his Christian beliefs in AD 258. Speaking words of forgiveness and living them out can come with a price - but is Christlike in every way!

#### **▼ PREPARATION ▼**

# HYMN "Today Your Mercy Calls Us" (LSB – 915 4 verses)

Today Your mercy calls us However great our trespass, However long from mercy Your precious blood can wash us

Today Your gate is open, Shall find a Father's welcome The past shall be forgotten, A future grace be promised,

Today our Father calls us; His blessèd angels gather No question will be asked us Although we oft have wandered, To wash away our sin.
Whatever we have been,
Our hearts have turned away,
And make us clean today.

And all who enter in And pardon for their sin. A present joy be giv'n, A glorious crown in heav'n.

His Holy Spirit waits; Around the heav'nly gates. How often we have come; It is our Father's home. O all-embracing Mercy, O ever-open Door,

What should we do without You When heart and eye run o'er?

When all things seem against us, To drive us to despair.

We know one gate is open, One ear will hear our prayer

INVOCATION (please stand)

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise! People:

Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds! . . . Pastor:

All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to People:

Your name."

Pastor: Come and see what God has done:

He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man. People:

Bless our God, O peoples; Pastor:

People: let the sound of His praise be heard.

#### CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

People: O most gracious God, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We know well

> that we are by nature sinful and unclean. Daily we have done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your faithful servants. We have been unforgiving and loveless and careless in the stewardship of Your creation. We deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is not in ourselves but in the merits of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us remission of all our sins and guide us into renewed lives that reflect Your

goodness and love.

Pastor: God is indeed gracious and merciful and hears our supplications. By the

> command of my Lord Jesus Christ and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\Box$  Son and of the

Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

#### ₩ WORD ₩

**INTROIT** Psalm 143:1-2; antiphon: v.9

Pastor: Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

People: I have fled to You for refuge!

Pastor: Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

People: In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness!

Pastor: Enter not into judgment with Your servant, **People:** for no one living is righteous before You.

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: Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

People: I have fled to You for refuge!

#### **KYRIE**

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,
People: Lord, have mercy.
Pastor: Christ, have mercy,
People: Christ, have mercy.
Pastor: Lord, have mercy,
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, You are always ready to hear the prayers of Your people.

Grant that we may with all boldness and courage bring to You our petitions with the assurance that for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ You will hear them, forgiving our trespasses and granting us Your guidance in this life and every blessing in the life to come. This we ask through the same 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: Genesis 50:15-21**

(Joseph and his brothers.)

15 When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." 16 So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: 17 'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you." And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. 18 His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." 19 But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? 20 As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. 21 So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**EPISTLE READING: Romans 14:1-12** 

(We belong to the Lord.)

1 As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. 2 One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. 3 Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. 4 Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. 5 One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. 6 The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. 7 For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. 8 For if we live, we live

to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. 9 For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. 10 Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; 11 for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." 12 So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

# CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 18:21-35 (please stand)

(The parable of the servant who would not forgive.)

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

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

21 Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" 22 Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times. 23 "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. 24 When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. 25 And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' 27 And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. 28 But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' 29 So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' 30 He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. 31 When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. 32 Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. 33 And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' 34 And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. 35 So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

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  $\maltese$  of the world to come. Amen.

(please be seated)

# HYMN: "Forgiveness – Matthew West" - (CCLI)

It's the hardest thing to give away
It always goes to those that don't deserve
When the pain they caused is just too real
Forgiveness
Forgiveness

And the last thing on your mind today It's the opposite of how you feel It takes everything you have just to say the word It flies in the face of all your pride

It moves away the mad inside

It's always anger's own worst enemy

Even when the jury and the judge

Say you gotta right to hold a grudge

It's the whisper in your ear saying "Set It Free"

Forgiveness Forgiveness Forgiveness

Show me how to love the unlovable Show me how to reach the unreachable

Help me now to do the impossible Forgiveness, Forgiveness

Help me now to do the impossible Forgiveness.

It'll clear the bitterness away

It can even set a prisoner free
There is no end to what it's power can do
So, let it go and be amazed

By what you see through eyes of grace The prisoner that it really frees is you Forgiveness Forgiveness Forgiveness

Show me how to love the unlovable Show me how to reach the unreachable

Help me now to do the impossible Forgiveness

I want to finally set it free So show me how to see what Your mercy sees

Help me now to give what You gave to me

Forgiveness Forgiveness Forgiveness

MESSAGE: "Now We Can Forgive!" Matthew 18:21-35

#### 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</u> 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 salutary that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have called us as Your people and have shown us Your kindness. Confident of Your love and assured of Your mercy, we come before You, asking that we may receive Your blessings with heartfelt thanksgiving. Pour out upon us the gift of Your Holy Spirit and grant that we receive the body and blood of our Lord as a guarantee of our salvation and a foretaste of the feast to come in Your eternal kingdom. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise, together with the Son and the Holy

Spirit, now and forever.

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 of heaven and earth. We bless You for sending

Your Son, Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness and to assure us of Your fatherly care. Through lives of faith and forgiveness that are directed by Your Holy Spirit, grant that we give evidence of our thankfulness as with joy we anticipate eternal life in Your heavenly kingdom, where saints and angels gather around Your throne expressing their gratitude in endless

praise.

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**

#### **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: "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 blessèd
Gladly, freely of Your own.
Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Warmed by You, at length believe
'Tis to give than to receive.

Wondrous honor You have given To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence, "You have done it all to Me."

Can it be, O gracious Master, Saying by Your poor and needy, 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.

# **HYMN: "Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart"** (LSB 806)

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks because He's given
Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks because He's given
And now let the weak say "I am strong,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.
Let the poor say "I am rich,"
Give thanks, give thanks.

Give thanks to the Holy One,
Jesus Christ His Son.
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Jesus Christ His Son.
Let the poor say "I am rich,"
And now let the weak say "I am strong,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.

#### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

(please stand)

Pastor:

Let us pray. Grant, O Lord, that this Sacrament that we have now received strengthen us in faith, faith demonstrated in loving service to one another and marked by forgiveness and care. As we have shared in the hospitality of Your Table, enable us to live each day as Your people who are given to hospitality, charity, and service in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, 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:** "When Peace, life a River" (LSB 763 – 4 verses)

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way; When sorrows, like sea billows, roll; Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.

Refrain: It is well (It is well) with my soul, (with my soul),

It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come, Let this blest assurance control, That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate And hath shed His own blood for my soul. *Refrain* 

He lives - oh, the bliss of this glorious thought; My sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul! *Refrain* 

And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend; Even so it is well with my soul. *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 recovering in Rehab and peace and strength for his wife, Linda Prayers for Kathy Giardinelli's family mourning the loss of her brother Phil's wife Barbara.

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!

<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.

<u>Town Hall Meeting TODAY</u> - following worship services to review results from the Pastor Profile Survey.

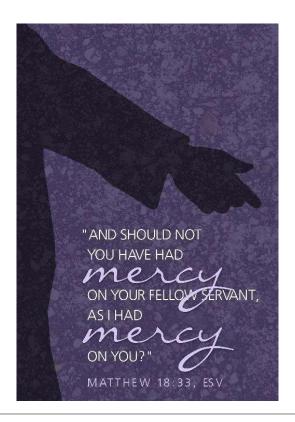
#### Upcoming Events in September – Detailed information can be found on MLC's website.

- Sep. 19th Hill Country Pregnancy Care Center's Annual Fundraising Gala
- Sep. 21st Ladies Day Out Trip to Camp Verde from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
- Sep. 30th <u>Messiah's 5K Walk</u> Run event at Old #9 Trail at Esser Road in Boerne from 7:30 to 10:30 am.
- Oct. 8<sup>th</sup> <u>Dedication of Sanctuary</u> at 3:00 pm as we give thanks to God for the gift of New Creation Thursday,
- Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> <u>Ladies Day Out Lunch</u> 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 <u>Potluck Dinner</u> following Worship Service to Kick Off <u>Operation Christmas Child</u>

<u>Junior Confirmation</u> – Pastor Lofgren is wondering if any of Messiah's families are interested in their children receiving Junior Confirmation instruction starting this Fall. If you have a child at least 9 years old, please contact the Office via phone (830) 755-4300 or email: <a href="mmaloy@messiahboerne.org">mmaloy@messiahboerne.org</a>.

<u>Food for the Poor</u> – is looking for a few more applicants for their Jamaica Mission Trip. Participants will be doing construction, visiting families, visiting an Angel's of Hope Children Home, visiting the disabled and feeding people. The deadline to apply is Sep. 25<sup>th</sup>. If interested go to Mission Trips at foodforthepoor.org.

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# MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

9401 Dietz, Elkhorn Boerne, Texas 78015 (830) 755-4300 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 17, 2023

Elders: Bill Eichman & Roger Winkelmann

Marilyn Mazurek Coffee: Treats: Beth Leachman Anthony Sansone Tellers: Chancel Care: Kim & Maurine Maloy Pastor Richard Lofgren Message: Kid's Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren

Musician: **Bob Shoaf** 

AV: Ernie & Marilyn Mazurek

Reader: Sue Parker

Ushers: Dennis Parker – Mike Stender – Tom Bibb – Tony Giardinelli

Sue Theis & Alana Kemmy Greeters:

# Serving us Next Sunday – September 24, 2023

Elders: Bill Eichman & Roger Winkelmann

Pastor Richard Lofgren

Coffee: Janis & Joyce Meier Treats: Lutheran High School Tellers: Anthony Sansone Chancel Care: Kim & Maurine Maloy Message: Pastor Richard Lofgren

Kid's Message: Musician: **Bob Shoaf** AV: Rutledge Family Reader: Allen Leitko

Ushers: Dennis Parker – Mike Stender – Tom Bibb – Tony Giardinelli

Kathy Giardinelli Greeters:

# Our Response to God Last Week

Worship Attendance: 80 | Sunday School: 32

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