

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP
Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 8, 2023

AS WE GATHER

We all have a past. From the people whose names are known to all to the anonymous known only to God, we all come with history that has marked us for sin and death. The gift of God is that He forgives that sinful past, removes all condemnation, and bestows a future upon us. Nowhere is this more obvious than in the story of Paul. The Lord forgave his past, restored him beyond every expectation, and gave him a future serving as an apostle in life with the prize of eternal life in death. No matter who we are, we have the same promise. God forgives all our sin, restores us to be His own and live under Him in His kingdom, and bears in us the fruit of the Kingdom now and the prize of everlasting life in His own time. All of this we know now by faith, trusting in the righteousness that God has given to us in Christ and not in ourselves.

✠ 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 “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*

INVOCATION

(please stand)

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

People: Amen.

Pastor: Restore us, O God of hosts;

People: let Your face shine, that we may be saved!

Pastor: Then we shall not turn back from You;

People: give us life, and we will call upon Your name!

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Holy and gracious God,

People: I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know - the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed - but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.

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: May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT Psalm 118:22-24; antiphon, v 1

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

People: for His steadfast love endures forever!

Pastor: The stone that the builders rejected

People: has become the cornerstone.

Pastor: This is the LORD's doing;

People: it is marvelous in our eyes.

Pastor: This is the day that the LORD has made;

People: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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: Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

People: for His steadfast love endures forever!

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 abundant love You redeemed us from our sin and restored us as Your own children in Christ. As You have crowned us with love and mercy, keep us in this grace and favor that we may strive to complete the race and receive from Your hand the crown of 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 be seated)*

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 5:1-7

*(The Lord planted His people to be His vineyard,
but they produced wild grapes worthy only of judgement.)*

1 Let me sing for my beloved my love song concerning his vineyard: My beloved had a vineyard on a very fertile hill. 2 He dug it and cleared it of stones, and planted it with

choice vines; he built a watchtower in the midst of it, and hewed out a wine vat in it; and he looked for it to yield grapes, but it yielded wild grapes. 3 And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. 4 What more was there to do for my vineyard, that I have not done in it? When I looked for it to yield grapes, why did it yield wild grapes? 5 And now I will tell you what I will do to my vineyard. I will remove its hedge, and it shall be devoured; I will break down its wall, and it shall be trampled down. 6 I will make it a waste; it shall not be pruned or hoed, and briars and thorns shall grow up; I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it. 7 For the vineyard of the Lord of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah are his pleasant planting; and he looked for justice, but behold, bloodshed; for righteousness, but behold, an outcry!”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

(“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God.”)

4b If anyone else thinks he has reason for confidence in the flesh, I have more: 5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6 as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. 7 But whatever gain I had, I counted as loss for the sake of Christ. 8 Indeed, I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith - 10 that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead. 12 Not that I have already obtained this or am already perfect, but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13 Brothers, I do not consider that I have made it my own. But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14 I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 21:33-46

(The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.)

(please stand)

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

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

33 “Hear another parable. There was a master of a house who planted a vineyard and put a fence around it and dug a winepress in it and built a tower and leased it to tenants, and went into another country. 34 When the season for fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the tenants to get his fruit. 35 And the tenants took his servants and beat one, killed another, and stoned another. 36 Again he sent other servants, more than the first. And they did the same to them. 37 Finally he sent his son to them, saying, ‘They will respect my son.’ 38 But when the tenants saw the son, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Come, let us kill him and have his inheritance.’ 39 And they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. 40 When therefore the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?” 41 They said to him, “He will put those wretches to a miserable death and let out the vineyard to other tenants who will give him the fruits in their seasons.” 42 Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures: “‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes’? 43 Therefore I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people producing its fruits. 44 And the one who falls on this stone will be broken to pieces; and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.” 45 When the chief priests and the Pharisees heard his parables, they perceived that he was speaking about them. 46 And although they were seeking to arrest him, they feared the crowds, because they held him to be a prophet.

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 “The Church’s One Foundation” – (LSB 644 - 5 verses)

The Church’s one foundation
She is His new creation
From heav’n He came and sought her
With His own blood He bought her,

Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
By water and the Word.
To be His holy bride;
And for her life He died.

Elect from ev’ry nation,
Her charter of salvation:
One holy name she blesses,
And to one hope she presses

Yet one o’er all the earth;
One Lord, one faith, one birth.
Partakes one holy food,
With ev’ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder
By schisms rent asunder,
Yet saints their watch are keeping;
And soon the night of weeping

The world sees her oppressed,
By heresies distressed,
Their cry goes up, “How long?”
Shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation
She waits the consummation
Till with the vision glorious
And the great Church victorious

And tumult of her war
Of peace forevermore
Her longing eyes are blest,
Shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth has union
And mystic sweet communion
O blessèd heav’nly chorus!
That we, like saints before us,

With God, the Three in One,
With those whose rest is won.
Lord, save us by Your grace
May see You face to face.

MESSAGE: “His”

Philippians 3:7-12, 17

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

(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 THE CHURCH

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 “Christ Is Our Cornerstone” (LSB – 912 - 3 verses)

Christ is our cornerstone,
With His true saints alone
On His great love
Of present grace

On Him alone we build;
The courts of heav’n are filled.
Our hopes we place
And joys above.

Here may we gain from heav’n
And may that grace, once giv’n,
Until that day
To endless rest

The grace which we implore,
Be with us evermore
When all the blest
Are called away.

Oh, then, with hymns of praise
Our voices we will raise
And thus proclaim
Both loud and long,

These hallowed courts shall ring;
The Three in One to sing
In joyful song,
That glorious name!

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 family as they mourn the loss of his Mother Ella

Ernie Mazurek gives thanks to God that he is recovering from Covid

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!

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*.

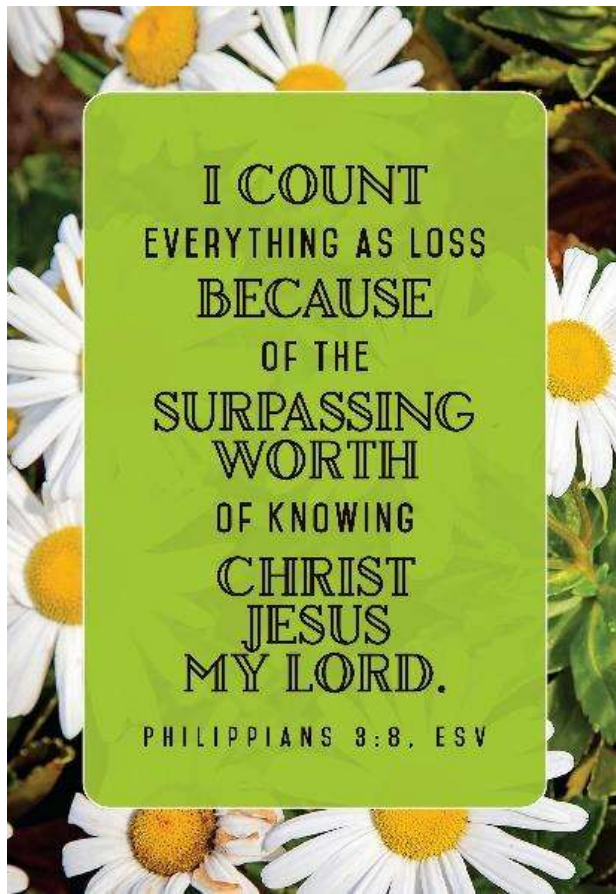
Re-Dedication of Church Building – This afternoon at 3:00 pm we will be gathering for a Re-dedication of the New Creation of our Church Building, Pastor Mark Dankis and Pastor Steve Fick will be officiating the service. Nancy Knettel will be playing piano, and Artie Dolt, Friends in Harmony and Harmony Belles will be singing. Messiah's Fellowship Committee will be providing light snacks for the reception following.

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

- 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 - 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 for Sat. Oct. 21st 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. Everyone is invited to join us for lunch at the big hall for German food and Live interactive band!

Monday, October 9th – is Columbus Day – the Church Office will be closed.

Issues, Etc.- *Equipping The Priesthood Of All Believers... 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 *Myths About Christopher Columbus, The Need for Masculine Men, Understanding Polygamy in Scripture, The Expulsion of the Canaanites* and more. You can listen at your convenience at issuesetc.org, the LPR mobile app and your favorite podcast provider.



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 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 – Joe Sorensen – Maurice Doublett
Greeters:	Sue Theis

Serving us Next Sunday – 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 – Joe Sorensen – Maurice Doublett
Greeters:	Alana Kemmy

Our Response to God Last Week
Worship Attendance: 110 | Sunday School: 36

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