

MATTHEW 21:29 KJV

He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went.

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 1, 2023

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Setting Four

Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

Joys & Concerns

Confession and Forgiveness

P. Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C. Amen

P. Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P. Steadfast and faithful God,

C. you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.

We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.

We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.

For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.

**For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation,
forgive us.**

For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.

Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;

in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

P. Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven

C. Amen

Gathering Hymn

Morning Has Broken

ELW 556

The Greeting

P. From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

C. And also with you.

This is the Feast



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

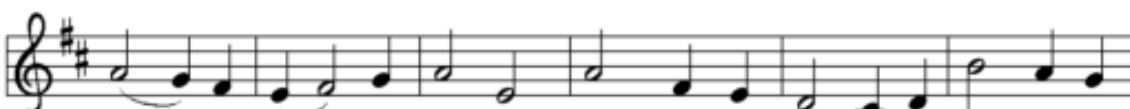
Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

A. Let us pray

C. **God of love, giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

First Reading

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25--32

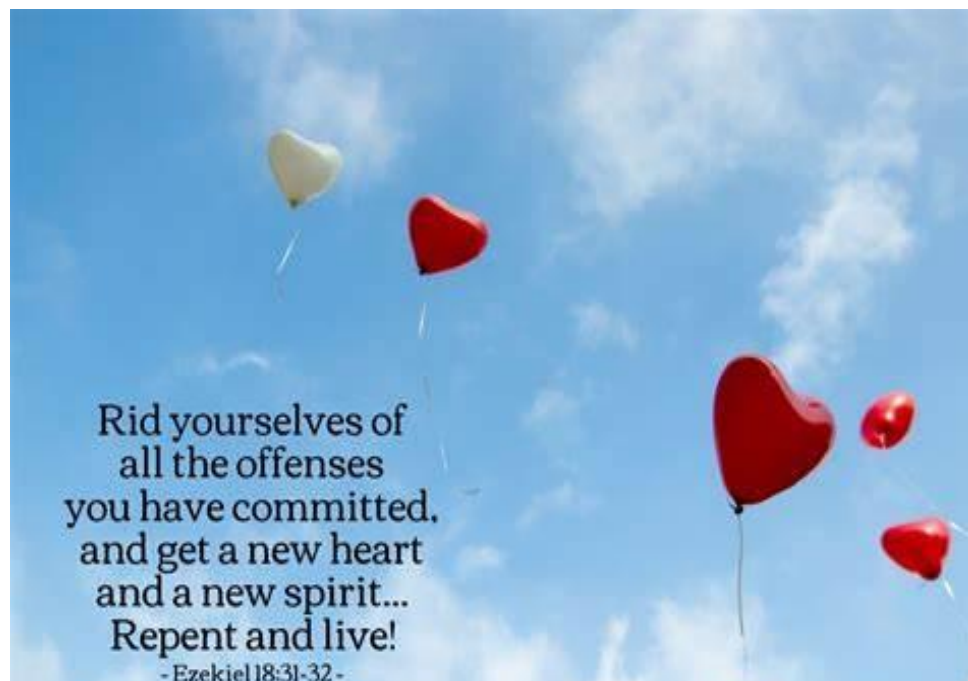
The word of the LORD came to me: What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, “The parents have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge”? As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. Know that all lives are mine; the life of the parent as well as the life of the child is mine: it is only the person who sins that shall die.

Yet you say, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair? When the righteous turn away from their righteousness and commit iniquity, they shall die for it; for the iniquity that they have committed they shall die. Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. Yet the house of Israel says, “The way of the Lord is unfair.” O house of Israel, are my ways unfair? Is it not your ways that are unfair?

Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, all of you according to your ways, says the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. **Thanks be to God.**





Psalm

Psalm 25:1-9

Read in Unison

To you, O LORD,
I lift ^l up my soul.

My God, I put my ^l trust in you; let me not be ^l put to shame,
nor let my enemies triumph ^l over me.

Let none who look to you be ^l put to shame;
rather let those be put to shame ^l who are treacherous.

Show me your ^l ways, O LORD,
and teach ^l me your paths.

Lead me in your ^l truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all ^l the day long.

Remember, O LORD, your compas- ^l sion and love,
for they are from ^l everlasting.

Remember not the sins of my youth and ^l my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love
and for the sake of your good- ^l ness, O LORD.

You are gracious and up- ^l right, O LORD;
therefore you teach sinners ^l in your way.

You lead the low- ^l ly in justice
and teach the low- ^l ly your way.

Second Reading

Philippians 2:1-13

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited,

but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness.

And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death -- even death on a cross.

Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

L. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

P. The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 21:23-32

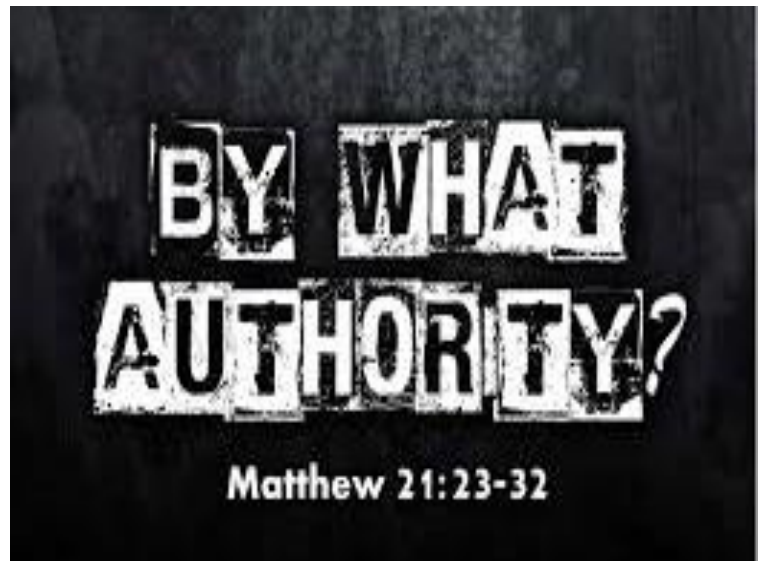
When Jesus entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, "By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" Jesus said to them, "I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did

the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?" And they argued with one another, "If we say, 'From heaven,' he will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We do not know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said, "The first." Jesus said to them, "Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.



Sermon

John Petry, Interim Pastor

Hymn of the Day

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

ELW 772

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary,

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

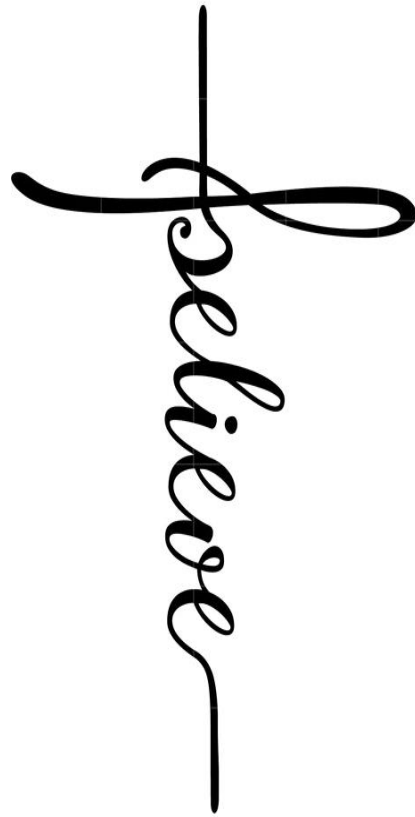
the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen



Prayers of Intercession

A. Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

A brief silence

We put our trust in you as we pray for the church. Give bishops, pastors, deacons, and teachers the gifts of wisdom and discernment.

Be with them in bold truth and faithful witness. Merciful God,

C. receive our prayer.

P. Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ.

C. Amen.

The Peace

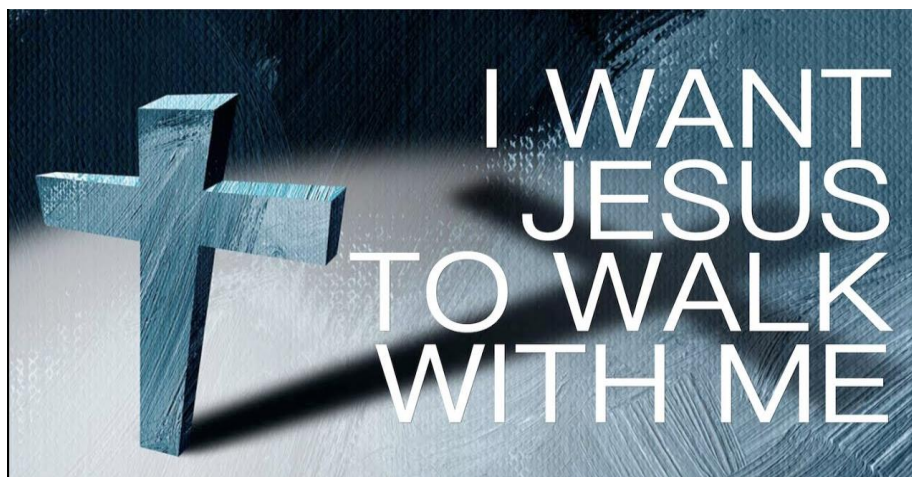
P. Jesus said, Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled. May His peace be with you always.

C. And also with you.

The Offering

Anthem



Choir

Let the Vineyards...



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u - nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble



with your pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

- A. God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

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

Invitation to Communion

- P. Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live. Everyone is invited, no exceptions.
- C. Amen.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Do this in
remembrance
of me



Communion Music

Ashokan Farewell ~ Jay Ungar

Post Communion Blessing

- P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his peace.
- C. Amen

Post Communion Prayer

A. Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray.

C. Amen.

Blessing

P. The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

C. Amen.

Sending Hymn

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

ELW 543

Dismissal

A. Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C. Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Jesus, Joy of Man's Desiring ~ J. S. Bach

Servers for Sunday, October 1st

Assisting Minister..... Shannon Thomsen

Reader Shannon Thomsen

Altar Guild Barbara Kyles

Greeters/Counters.... Neil Brennecke/Shannon Thomsen

Guest MusiciansAutumn Brand, Violin

..... Daniel Cook, Guitar

Serve
the Lord
with
gladness



UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct. 6 7:00 pm LOL Men's Group Meeting

Oct. 14 11:00 am

Peg Stamp

Celebration
of Life

October 22nd – Ministry Fair

YOU CAN MAKE A
DIFFERENCE

Various committees and groups will host tables in the Fellowship Hall **after the worship service**. Please join us to learn more about Lord of Life's ministries and enjoy refreshments and fellowship with us.



Flowers this week are in honor of Sawyer Michael Eggert who is 1 year old.



Candles for the month of October are given by Julia Lochra in celebration of many family Birthdays.

Honor a loved one by making a donation for the candles in the sanctuary for the month or the flowers that beautify the church each Sunday. Sign-up sheet is on the board in the hallway.



*Pray for your
Call Committee*

Family of Peg Stamp

Family of Ellis (Tony) Guedel

Family of Tomma Hargraves

Family of Monna Stamm

Forrest Smith – recovering from ablation

Rita's co-worker, Elizabeth Alexander – colon cancer

Kathy Hart's brother, Dan – recovering from a stroke

Ginny King's sister, Mary Anna Strickler – broken hip; hip replacement

Sylvia Lambert's grandson, Ian – deployment to Republic of Niger, West Africa

Tess Andrews' brother, David Van Benschoten

Wendy Casey's mom, Barbara – under hospice care

Lora Clark's friend, Rebecca Bowman – recovering

Clyde Bogle's sister-in-law, Wanda - cancer

Sheryll's friend Tony – terminal cancer

Mr. Smith, neighbor of Carolyn Watkins

Father of Julia Mirro - (Gale's friend)

Holly Hans' sister, Heather House & her family

Linda Hash's brother, Charles Barlow

Linda Hash's sister-in-law, Beth Hash Lennon

Pam Klawiter's co-worker, Carolyn Harbertson – breast cancer

Tim & Rita's sister-in-law, Jane Clark – breast cancer has returned

Rebecca Swanson's sister in PA – Post Polio Syndrome

Rebecca Swanson's nephew – Dr. David Shaefer

Sheila Dorey – recovering from angioplasty

Diana Havenstein

Rob Havenstein

Donna Hannah – bad fall

Mary Ann Jackson

Jim Powers Sharon Vietri

Jonathan McCoy

Holly Han's mother, Carol Hardy

Andrew Avakian – MS

