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**Dennis J. Lauritsen, Pastor**  
**David B. Richards, Parish Musician**  
**Karen Rouleau, Administrative Assistant**



## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*During the Prayers of Intercession, you are invited to add your own prayer(s) either in speech or in silence as indicated by the line: "Other intercessions may be added here." You may wish to use this insert to write down your prayer(s) which you may then offer aloud during that time. If you wish to have your prayers added to the Prayer of the Church during the coming weeks, please remove and place this card in the offering plate.*

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EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

*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.*

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**HOLY COMMUNION**

**WITH BLESSING OF PETS**

***EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FOUR, PAGES 147-155***

**GATHERING**

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*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

\*WELCOME AND CALL TO WORSHIP

*based upon Psalm 8 and Genesis 1*

**“O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!**

**Your glory is higher than the heavens.”**

**We gather to praise you!**

**“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...”**

**“O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!**

**Your glory is higher than the heavens.”**

**We gather to celebrate you!**

**“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...”**

**And God saw that it was good...”**

**We gather to celebrate our God.**

**“O Lord, our Lord, the majesty of your name fills the earth!**

**Your glory is higher than the heavens.”**

**We gather to worship you!**

**“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth...”**

And God saw that it was very good...”  
We gather to worship our God!  
**All praise, honor, majesty and power  
belongs to our Creating God! Amen**

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\*GATHERING HYMN

*O Holy Spirit, Enter In*

ELW 786

- 1 O Holy Spirit, enter in,  
and in our hearts your work begin,  
and make our hearts your dwelling.  
Sun of the soul, O Light divine,  
around and in us brightly shine,  
your strength in us upwelling.  
In your radiance  
life from heaven  
now is given  
overflowing,  
gift of gifts beyond all knowing.**
  
- 2 Left to ourselves, we surely stray;  
oh, lead us on the narrow way,  
with wisest counsel guide us;  
and give us steadfastness, that we  
may follow you forever free,  
no matter who derides us.  
Gently heal those  
hearts now broken;  
give some token  
you are near us,  
whom we trust to light and cheer us.**

**3 O mighty Rock, O Source of life,  
let your good Word in doubt and strife  
be in us strongly burning,  
that we be faithful unto death  
and live in love and holy faith,  
from you true wisdom learning.  
Lord, your mercy  
on us shower;  
by your power  
Christ confessing,  
we will cherish all your blessing.**

Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606-1673; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, adapt.

**\*GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. 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**

**WORD**

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*God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**FIRST READING**

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

*Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot turn from their wicked ways. God insistently invites people to turn and live.*

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*As part of a call for harmony rather than self-seeking, Paul uses a very early Christian hymn that extols the selflessness of Christ in his obedient death on the cross. Christ's selfless perspective is to be the essential perspective we share as the foundation for Christian accord.*

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 172

## Halle, Halle, Hallelujah

Hal-le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le, hal - le, hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah. Hal - le - lu - jah.

Music: Caribbean traditional

## \*GOSPEL

Matthew 21:23-32

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew...  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.*

The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

- 1 God, be the love to search and keep me;  
God, be the prayer to move my voice;  
God, be the strength to now uphold me:**

**Refrain**

**O Christ, surround me; O Christ, surround me.**

- 2 Bind to myself the name of Holy,  
great cloud of witnesses enfold;  
prophets, apostles, angels witness: *Refrain***
- 3 Brightness of sun and glow of moonlight,  
flashing of lightning, strength of wind,  
depth of the sea to soil of planet: *Refrain***
- 4 Walking behind to hem my journey,  
going ahead to light my way,  
and from beneath, above, and all ways: *Refrain***
- 5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me,  
Christ in the ears that hear my voice,  
Christ in the hearts of all who know me: *Refrain***

Text: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, b. 1967

Text © 2004 This Here Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

**BLESSING OF ANIMALS**

Let us pray. Blessed are you, Lord God, maker of all living creatures. You called forth fish in the sea, birds in the air and animals on the land. You inspired Saint Francis to call all of them his brothers and sisters. We ask you to bless these pets. By the power of your love, enable them to live according to your plan. May we always praise you for all your beauty in creation. Blessed are you, Lord our God, in all your creatures. **Amen**

Psalm 8: *Prayed together in unison.*

**O Lord, our Sovereign,**

**how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

**You have set your glory above the heavens.**

**Out of the mouths of babes and infants**

**you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,**

**to silence the enemy and the avenger.**

**When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,**

**the moon and the stars that you have established;**

**what are human beings that you are mindful of them,**

**mortals that you care for them?**

**Yet you have made them a little lower than God,**

**and crowned them with glory and honor.**

**You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;**

**you have put all things under their feet,**

**all sheep and oxen,**

**and also the beasts of the field,**

**the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,**

**whatever passes along the paths of the seas.**

**O Lord, our Sovereign,**

**how majestic is your name in all the earth!**

*All who have brought pets may come forward for a prayer of blessing.*

Holy God, we thank you for the gift of [*pet's name*]. Through this animal you have brought many blessings. Today we pause to name our gratitude, and to pray a blessing on this pet. For the companionship of our pets and other animals we say thanks. Bless this animal's life in our care; may it know love through all its days. **Amen**

*When all have returned to their places, the following blessing may be offered.*

Gracious and loving God, you place all living things into the care of humankind. We pray that companionship with household pets will deepen our care for animals everywhere. Help us to balance our needs with theirs, and lead us in ways of life together that will be sustainable for all. We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen**

## \*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Strengthened by the Spirit who gives us words to speak and hearts that care, let us bring our hopes and needs to God who listens.

Almighty and everlasting God, set your church as a sentinel to watch for your coming into the world. Urge us to announce to others your gracious presence among us. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Renew your creation where it has been shaken by disaster. Encourage people who rebuild; bring plants again to blossom. Restore calm in the midst of chaos. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Support the work of people who find paths of diplomacy and peace among the nations. Strengthen them in weariness, that they may fulfill the calling you have given them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Create opportunities for healing conversation and comforting hospitality in nursing care facilities, hospitals, and homes. Bring joy to those burdened by illness, especially... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*Other prayers may be added here in speech and in silence.*

Remembering the saints, especially Francis and others whom we name... who stood steadfast in the faith through many trials. Guide us to put our trust in you until we receive the fulfillment of your promise. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

All these things and whatever else you see that we need, we entrust to your mercy; through Christ our Lord. **Amen**

## \*PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

## ANTHEM

*Cantate*





## MEAL

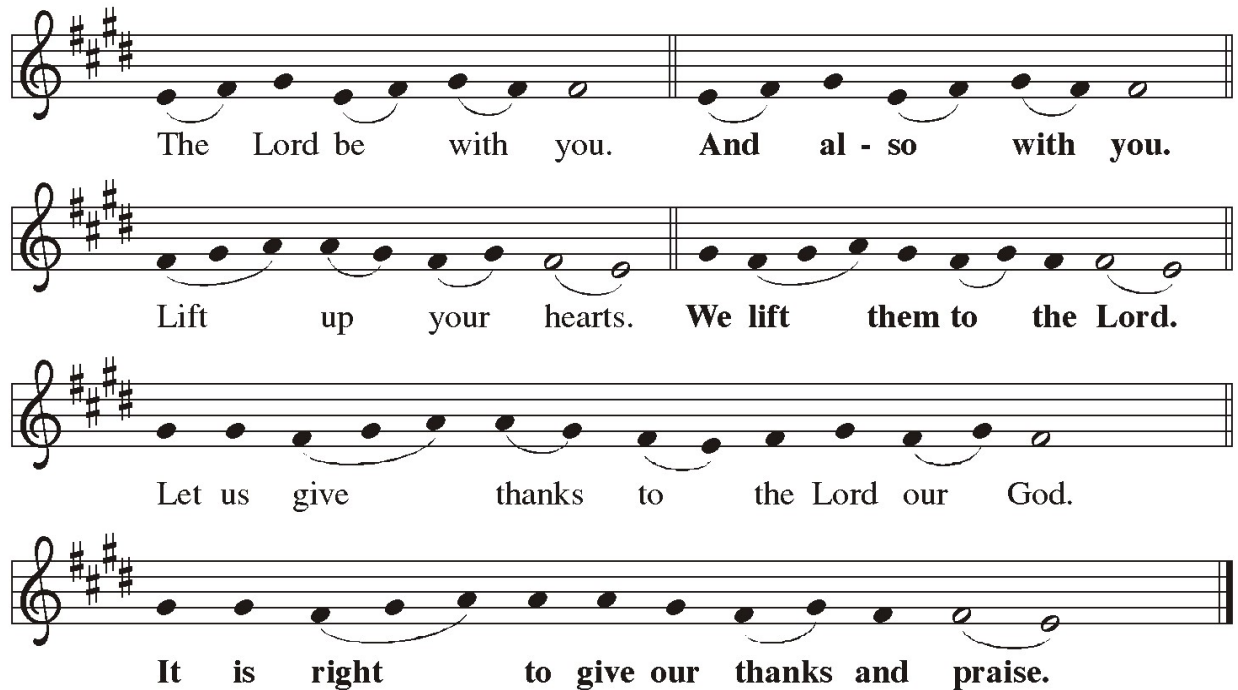
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*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

### \*DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

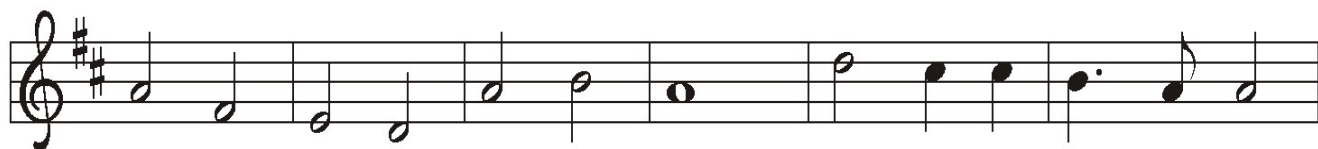
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

### \*PREFACE FOR SUNDAYS

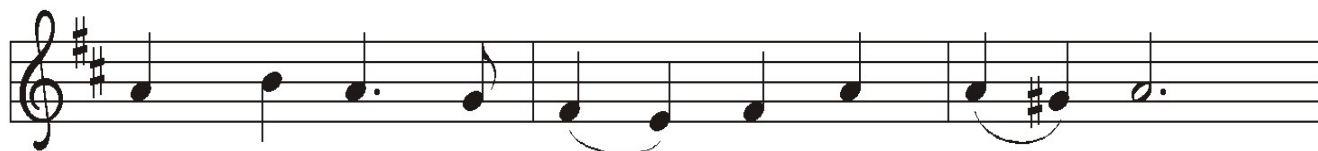
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



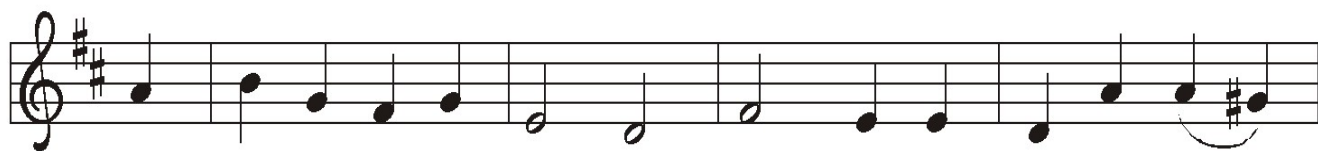
## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



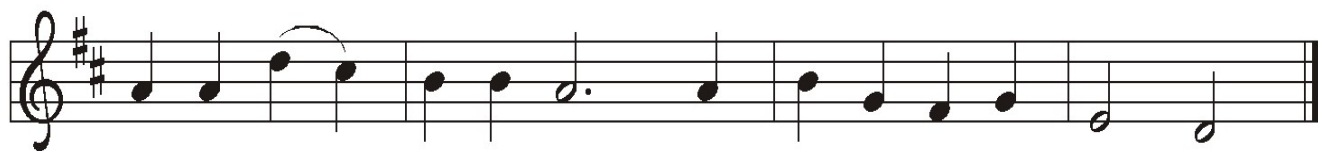
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:  
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.  
You have filled all creation with light and life;  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:  
the promise to Israel,  
the rescue from Egypt,  
the gift of the promised land,  
the words of the prophets;  
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,  
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed  
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,  
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.  
**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup  
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.  
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,  
we await his coming in power  
to share with us the great and promised feast.  
**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,  
that we who share in Christ's body and blood  
may live to the praise of your glory  
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.  
**Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.**

Join our prayers with those of your servants  
of every time and every place,  
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest  
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**Through him, with him, in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,  
now and forever. Amen**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.  
**Our Lord's body let us take together.**

DISTRIBUTION

*Prayer*

Sebastian Temple

**\*BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray. Almighty God, we give you thanks that you have fed us with this heavenly food. In your grace and by your Spirit, help us to be what we celebrate, the body of Christ in the world. Send us out, renewed by this sacramental meal, to do the work you have given us to do: to witness for Christ, to love you with singleness of heart, and to serve you with clarity of purpose; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

## SENDING

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*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### \*BENEDICTION

The blessing of the living God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, surround and sustain you, keep you from harm, and fill you with courage. **Amen**

### \*SENDING HYMN

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

WOV 732

**Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

Text: Psalm 51:10-12

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace and joy. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## SERVING IN THE LITURGY

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PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Brandon Michaels

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

SERVICE LEADER

Beverly Tarbox

LECTOR

Beverly Tarbox

USHER

John Kostelny

LIVE STREAM

Charles Matthies

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Janice Hapgood



## UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

***Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church, died 1226***

***Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>***

Born into the family of a wealthy merchant, Francis gave up his inheritance to serve poor people. He formed the Order of Friars Minor (called Franciscans), who took on poverty and the task of preaching "using words if necessary." Francis had a spirit of gratitude for all of God's creation.

***Theodor Fliedner, renewer of society, died 1864***

***Wednesday, October 4<sup>th</sup>***

Fliedner helped to bring about a revival of the ministry of deaconesses among Lutherans. He was influenced in this by Moravian deaconesses he had met. The motherhouse he founded in Kaiserswerth, Germany, inspired many around the world to take up this ministry.

***William Tyndale, translator, martyr, died 1536***

***Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>***

Tyndale was ordained a priest in England, and wished to translate the Bible into English. He was opposed in this by King Henry VIII, causing him to flee to Germany. He completed the New Testament in 1525, but before he could finish the Old Testament, he was tried for heresy and burned at the stake.

***Henry Melchior Muhlenberg, pastor in North America, died 1787***

***Saturday, October 7<sup>th</sup>***

Divided Lutherans in America asked leaders in Europe to send someone who could take charge and unite their work. Muhlenberg was sent, and was effective in organizing the American Lutherans. Among other accomplishments, his liturgical principles became the basis for the Common Service of 1888.



## Do

In order to better understand the very first question asked by the chief priests and elders in today's gospel—"By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?" (Matt. 21:23)—it will help to review what "these things" are. "These things" include: Jesus entering Jerusalem on a donkey to wild reception by the crowd; Jesus overturning the money changers' tables in the temple; healing people who are blind and lame; offering interpretation of his actions based on scripture; and withering an unproductive fig tree.

This is a lot of action for one chapter of Matthew, but it is almost essential background information in order to hear today's gospel well. Jesus is a man on the move, a man of action, a man who fits his teaching in among his healing, withering, donkey riding, and more.

In context, his teaching and debate with the religious leaders makes much more sense. They want to quiz him, but when they are unable to answer a question, he decides not to answer because they are indecisive. Essentially he is saying, "I am not going to do your own hard work for you." Then he offers a parable that is simple to explain, even while it is paradoxical. Those who do God's will are those who *do* God's will, not those who promise to do it but then don't actually *do* it.

Certainly, even speaking and questioning is a certain kind of doing. But there are spoken deeds that include follow-through, and other speech acts that are simply blowing smoke. The good news is that when you find yourself simply doing even that which you had verbally resisted, that is the Spirit alive in you, going and doing what Jesus would have done.