

Order of Worship for October 1, 2023

Welcome

Children's Sermon

Gathering Hymn ELW #818 O Master, Let Me Walk with You

- 1 O Master, let me walk with you
in lowly paths of service true;
tell me your secret; help me bear
the strain of toil, the fret of care.
- 2 Help me the slow of heart to move
by some clear, winning word of love;
teach me the wayward feet to stay,
and guide them in the homeward way.
- 3 Teach me your patience; share with me
a closer, dearer company,
in work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
in trust that triumphs over wrong,
- 4 In hope that sends a shining ray
far down the future's broad'ning way,
in peace that only you can give;
with you, O Master, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, ✠ Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us come before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God, **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.**

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. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

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

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²What 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"? ³As I live, says the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Know 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.

²⁵Yet 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? ²⁶When 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. ²⁷Again, when the wicked turn away from the wickedness they have committed and do what is lawful and right, they shall save their life. ²⁸Because they considered and turned away from all the transgressions that they had committed, they shall surely live; they shall not die. ²⁹Yet 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?

³⁰Therefore 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. ³¹Cast 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? ³²For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, says the Lord GOD. Turn, then, and live.

Second reading Philippians 2:1-13

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, ⁸he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross.

⁹Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, ¹⁰so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

¹²Therefore, 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; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure. Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel acclamation

Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your word.
Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow and peace is understood.
When my heart is hard, break the stone away.
When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.
When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

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Gospel reading Matthew 21:23-32

The holy gospel according to _____. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²³When [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?" ²⁴Jesus 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. ²⁵Did 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?' ²⁶But if we say, 'Of human origin,' we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet." ²⁷So 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.

²⁸"What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' ²⁹He answered, 'I will not'; but later he changed his mind and went. ³⁰The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, 'I go, sir'; but he did not go. ³¹Which 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. ³²For 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." The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ACS #1084 God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me

- 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

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Apostle's Creed

We believe in God the Father, God Almighty by whose plan Earth and heaven sprang to being, all created things began.

We believe in Christ the Savior, Son of God in human frame, Virgin-born, the child of Mary upon whom the Spirit came. Christ, who on the cross forsaken, like a lamb to slaughter led, suffered under Pontius Pilate, he descended to the dead. We believe in Jesus risen, heaven's king to rule and reign, to the Father's side ascended till as judge he comes to reign.

We believe in God the Spirit; in one church, below, above; Saints of God in one communion, one in holiness and love. So by faith, our sins forgiven, Christ our Savior, Lord and Friend, we shall rise with him in glory to the life that knows no end.

Prayers of the People

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

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. God of abundance, **receive our prayer.**

Lead us in your truth as we pray for creation. Empower us to look to the interests of others as we make choices that impact the environment. Summon us to be advocates for healthy waterways, habitats, and air. God of abundance, **receive our prayer.**

Lead us in justice as we pray for those in government, the military, and other positions of authority. Give them humble and willing hearts, looking to the needs of others. We pray also for our enemies. God of abundance, **receive our prayer.**

Trusting your goodness, we pray for all caregivers and people who are sick or suffering in any way. Give them encouragement and consolation in your presence. God of abundance, **receive our prayer.**

Teach us your paths as we pray for this congregation. Be at work in us and unite us in your love as we labor together for the sake of the gospel. God of abundance, **receive our prayer.**

We give thanks for all the saints who died secure in the knowledge of salvation. Keep us fearless in our faith and certain of your resurrection. God of abundance, **receive our prayer.**

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. **Amen.**

Noisy Offering

Offering Prayer

Dear God, **thank you for all our blessings. Help our blessings be a blessing to others. In your name we pray, Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

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

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also 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.**

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

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosana in the highest. Blesses is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosana in the
highest hosana in the highest.

Words of Institution

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.

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

Lamb of God

Come to the table of mercy,
prepared with the wine and the bread.

All who are hungry and thirsty,
come, and your souls will be fed.

Come at the Lord's invitation;
receive from his nail-scarred hand.

Eat of the bread of salvation;
drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

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Meal of Holy Communion

Prayer after Communion

Gracious God, **we rejoice that you have used the harvest of field and vineyard to renew and**

sustain us. Lead us as we go from this life-giving meal into lives of grateful service to you and your cherished creation; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Sending hymn ACS #1067 For the Wholeness of the Earth

- 1 We lift this prayer for the wholeness of the earth.
We lift this prayer for the wholeness of the earth.
We lift this prayer for the wholeness of the earth.
Can you feel it rising in you?
- 2 We turn our lives to the wholeness of the earth.
We turn our lives to the wholeness of the earth.
We turn our lives to the wholeness of the earth.
Can you feel it spinning in you?
- 3 Give thanks to God for the wholeness of the earth.
Give thanks to God for the wholeness of the earth.
Give thanks to God for the wholeness of the earth.
Can you feel it rising in you?

Text: Bret Hesla, b. 1957
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Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.