EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST
OCTOBER 1, 2023
IMMANUEL LUTHERAN
CHURCH
Missouri Synod



703 W 3<sup>RD</sup> Street Mercedes, Texas 78570 956.565.1518 Immanuelmercedes @gmail.com Rev. Ed Weber, Pastor 956.463.1305

<u>Website:</u> lutheranmercedes.com

eweber10@aol.com

Sunday 9:00 AM Worship Service 10:30 AM

Adult Bible Class Sunday School

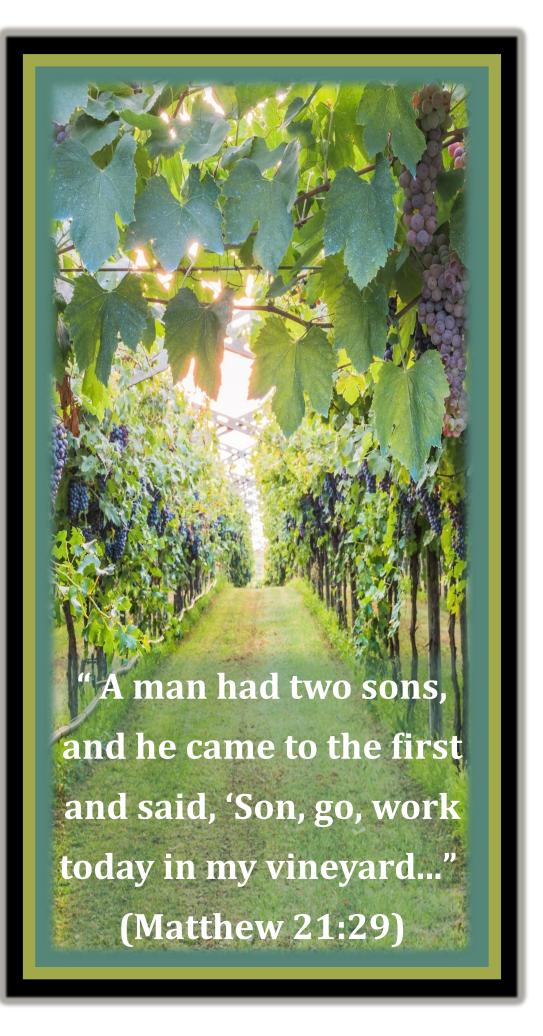
Holy Communion: 1st, 3rd & 5th Sunday

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Office Hrs, M-F 8 am to 12 pm CCLI # 2585510



# EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST OCTOBER 1, 2023

# **WELCOME to IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this morning. It is our hope that you will benefit by your worship here with us, and that you will return again soon. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would fill out an Attendance/Communion card so that we can keep track of our attendance. They are located in the pew racks in front of you.

This week we celebrate Holy Communion. We teach that in the receiving of the Lord's Supper each person receives the real presence of the Body and Blood of Christ for the forgiveness of their sins. If you are not a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and desire to partake of Communion, please ask to speak with Pastor Weber or one of the elders prior to the service.

- A Prayer Upon Entering Church God of love, by Your grace I have come to hear Your Word. Grant that I may ever find in it my greatest treasure and hold fast to it as a lamp to my feet and a light to my path, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.
- AS WE GATHER Among the flags of the fifty states of the United States, one of the most distinctive is the flag of Rhode Island. It is a simple design featuring a golden anchor on a field of white, surrounded by thirteen golden stars which commemorate the fact that Rhode Island was the thirteenth of the original colonies to become a state officially. There is just one word on the flag: hope. The likely inspiration for the inclusion of this word is from Hebrews: "We who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul" (Hebrews 6:18–19). The founders of the colony of Rhode Island were hopeful of

finding a place of refuge to express their Christian faith freely in their times. In our time, we also are people of Christian hope, as well as people abiding in faith who are given to charity in Christ's name.

## **DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR**

**PAGE 203** 

#### **WELCOME**

**PRELUDE** 

(A quiet time for prayer and meditation)

**OPENING HYMN** All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name LSB 549; vs. 1-4



- 1 All hail the pow'r of Je sus' name! Let an gels pros-trate fall;
- 2 Crown Him, ye mar-tyrs of our God, Who from His al tar call; 3 Ye seed of Is-rael's cho-sen race, Ye ran-somed from the fall,
- 4 Hail Him, ye heirs of Da-vid's line, Whom Da vid Lord did call,



Bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem And crown Him Lord of all. Ex - tol the stem of Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all. Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all. The God in - car-nate, man di - vine, And crown Him Lord of all.



Lord Bring forth di - a - dem And crown Him of all. the roy - al Jes - se's rod And crown Him Lord of all. Ex - tol the stem of Hail Him who saves you by His grace And crown Him Lord of all. in - car-nate, man di - vine, And crown Him of all. The Lord

Text and tune: Public domain

## Please stand

## **INVOCATION**

- P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is

not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(We take a moment of silence to reflect on our sin and our need for the Savior.)

- P O almighty God, merciful Father,
- I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

## + SERVICE OF THE WORD +

**INTROIT** Psalm 147:1–5; antiphon: v. 6

- P The Lord lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked down to the ground.
- C Praise the Lord! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and praise is beautiful.
- P The Lord builds up Jerusalem; He gathers together the outcasts of Israel.
- C He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.
- P He counts the number of the stars; He calls them all by name.
- C Great is our Lord, and mighty in power; His understanding is infinite.
  - 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.

P The Lord lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked down to the ground.

#### **KYRIE**



C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

## **GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**



In To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth; 2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro-claimed at Je-sus' birth!

O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing— Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King. Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,

In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

## **SALUTATION**

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And with your spirit.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

#### C Amen.

Please sit

# **OLD TESTAMENT READING** Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

(The prophet gives words of warning.)

1 The word of the Lord came to me again, saying, 2 "What do you mean when you use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying:

'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge'?

- 3 "As I live," says the Lord God, "you shall no longer use this proverb in Israel.
- 4 "Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son

is Mine; the soul who sins shall die.

25 "Yet you say, 'The way of the Lord is not fair.' Hear now, O house of Israel, is it not My way which is fair, and your ways which are not fair? 26 When a righteous man turns away from his righteousness, commits iniquity, and dies in it, it is because of the iniquity which he has done that he dies. 27 Again, when a wicked man turns away from the wickedness which he committed, and does what is lawful and right, he preserves himself alive. 28 Because he considers and turns away from all the transgressions which he committed, he shall surely live; he shall not

die. 29 Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not fair.' O house of Israel, is it not My ways which are fair, and your ways which are not fair?

30 "Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways," says the Lord God. "Repent, and turn from all your transgressions, so that iniquity will not be your ruin. 31 Cast away from you all the transgressions which you have committed, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. For why should you die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord God. "Therefore turn and live!"

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

## **PSALM** *Psalm 25:1–10*

- P To You, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- C O my God, I trust in You; let me not be ashamed; let not my enemies triumph over me.
- P Indeed, let no one who waits on You be ashamed; let those be ashamed who deal treacherously without cause.
- C Show me Your ways, O Lord; teach me Your paths.
- P Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; on You I wait all the day.
- C Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses, for they are from of old.
- P Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgressions; according to Your mercy remember me, for Your goodness' sake, O Lord.
- C Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He teaches sinners in the way.
- P The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way.
- C All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.

## **EPISTLE** *Philippians 2:1–18*

(Christians are to look to the interests of others.)

1 Therefore if there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any fellowship of the Spirit, if any affection and mercy, 2 fulfill my joy by being like-minded, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. 3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

5 Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bond-servant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross. 9 Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure. 14 Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16 holding fast the word of life, so that I may rejoice in the day of Christ that I have not run in vain or labored in vain.

17 Yes, and if I am being poured out as a drink offering on the sacrifice and service of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. 18 For the same reason you also be glad and rejoice with me.

- P This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

#### Please stand

## **ALLELUA and VERSE**



## **HOLY GOSPEL**

*Matthew 21:23–32* (Jesus and the elders.)

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

## C Glory to You, O Lord.

23 Now when He came into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people confronted Him as He was teaching, and said, "By what authority are You doing these things? And who gave You this authority?"

24 But Jesus answered and said to them, "I also will ask you one thing, which if you tell Me, I likewise will tell you by what authority I do these things: 25 The baptism of John—where was it from? From heaven or from men?"

And they reasoned among themselves, saying, "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will say to us, 'Why then did you not believe him?' 26 But if we say, 'From men,' we fear the multitude, for all count John as a

prophet." 27 So they answered Jesus and said, "We do not know." And He said to them, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

28 "But what do you think? A man had two sons, and he came to the first and said, 'Son, go, work today in my vineyard.' 29 He answered and said, 'I will not,' but afterward he regretted it and went. 30 Then he came to the second and said likewise. And he answered and said, 'I go, sir,' but he did not go. 31 Which of the two did the will of his father?"

They said to Him, "The first."

Jesus said to them, "Assuredly, I say to you that tax collectors and harlots enter the kingdom of God before you. 32 For John came to you in the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him; but tax collectors and harlots believed him; and when you saw it, you did not afterward relent and believe him.

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.

#### **NICENE CREED**

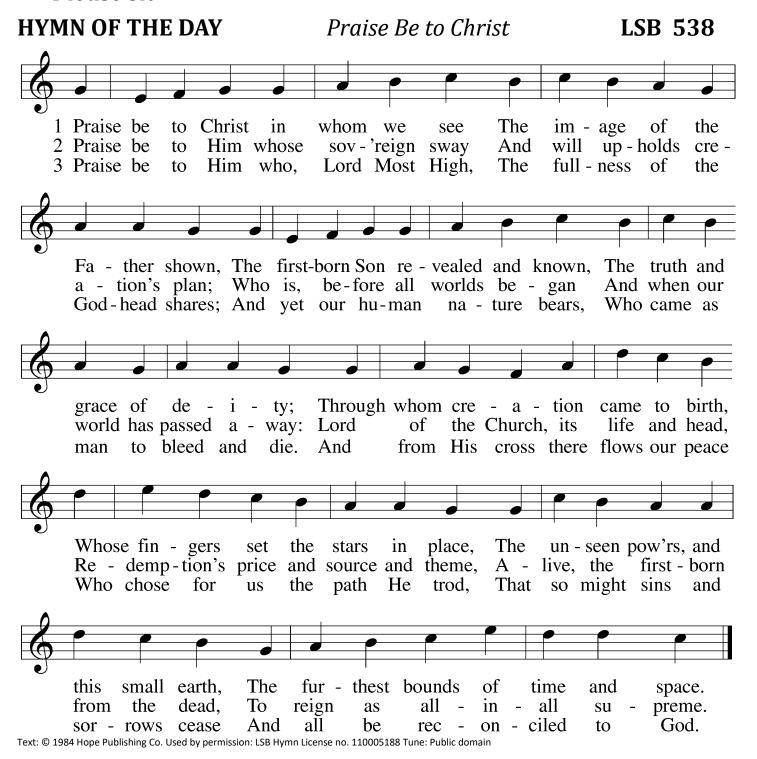
All I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

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 of the world to come. Amen.

#### Please sit



## **SERMON**

# "The right answer that God graciously gives"

(Matthew 21:23-24)

## **OFFERING**

#### Please stand



SHARING OF THE PEACE "Peace be with you" (John 20:21)
(Sharing through ASL (American Sign Language))

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Gathered as God's people in supplication, let us pray for the whole Church.

Gracious Father, we beseech You for Your Holy Church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is in error, reform it; where it is in need, supply it; where it is right, strengthen and confirm it; and where it is in conflict, heal its divisions. Lord, in Your mercy,

## C hear our prayer.

P Let us pray for the world in which we live. Lord of all the worlds that are, Savior of mankind, we pray for the whole creation. Order the unruly powers, crush every tyranny, rebuke injustice, feed and satisfy the nations that we, laboring as Your people, may enjoy the good world that You have made and bring glory to Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

## C hear our prayer.

P Let us pray for the sick and the sorrowing. O God of all comfort, we commend to You all who are afflicted in any way, [especially ..]. Grant them the consolations they need and assure them that nothing can separate them from Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

# C hear our prayer.

P Let us pray for our students and all places of learning; let us also pray for friends and family. O God our Father, bless all our students and teachers and the places where they learn. Inspire and encourage teachers and school administrators with a sense of purpose and responsibility that all may grow in grace. Bless those whom we love and enable us to love those whom You have blessed, that, drawing close to You, we may be drawn closer to one another. With gratefulness, we remember the saints who have gone before us and now are in Your eternal care. Teach us to follow in their ways of faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

# C hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, since You have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications to You and have promised to hear us, fulfill our petitions as may be best for us

according to Your grace and mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

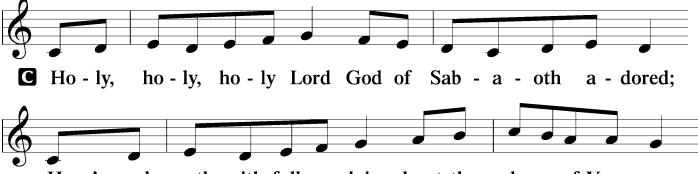
#### C Amen.

## +SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

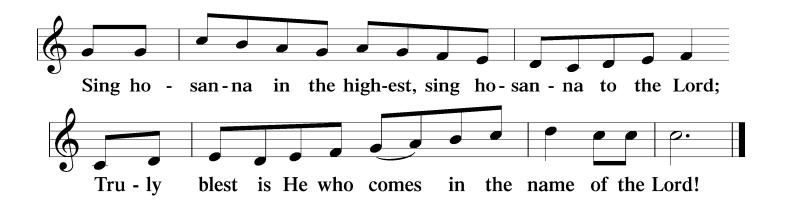
## **PREFACE**

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And with your spirit.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.
- P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, Lord our God. Holy are You and great is the majesty of Your glory. You did so love the world that You sent Your only Son to be our Redeemer. By His sacrificial life He has brought us salvation and has shown us the path to life eternal. Pour upon us now the gift of the Holy Spirit, the One who counsels, comforts, and encourages us, that we may receive the body and blood of our Lord with true devotion. Grant us a foretaste of the feast to come, heavenly Father, that we may with increased faith joyfully await a blessed eternity in Your glorious presence.

## **SANCTUS**



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



#### PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P Blessed are You, O Lord of heaven and earth. We give thanks to You for having sent Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, to be our Redeemer, saving us from the power of sin, death, and the devil. Invited by Your grace and encouraged with hopeful hearts, we come to Your Table with thanksgiving and praise. Grant that we with true faith and trust in Your words of promise receive the bread and wine, that is, the very body and blood of Christ, as a guarantee of the salvation that He purchased for us through His innocent suffering and death on the cross. Receive our prayers and praises, and grant us Your abiding peace. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and praise with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## **LORD'S PRAYER** (*Matthew 6:9–13*)

C 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 OUR LORD

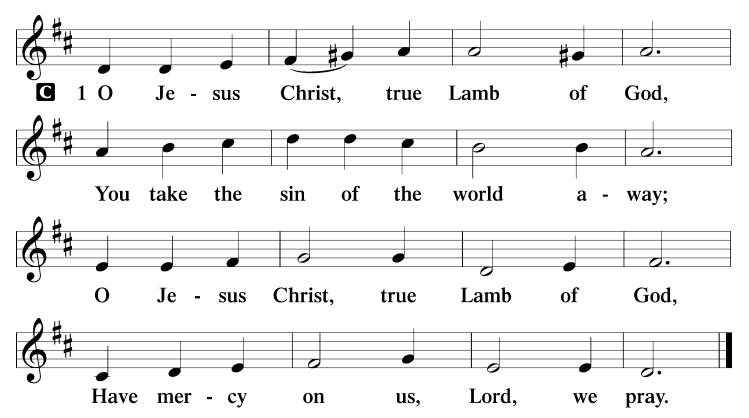
P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

# Pax Domini

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C Amen.

# **AGNUS DEI**

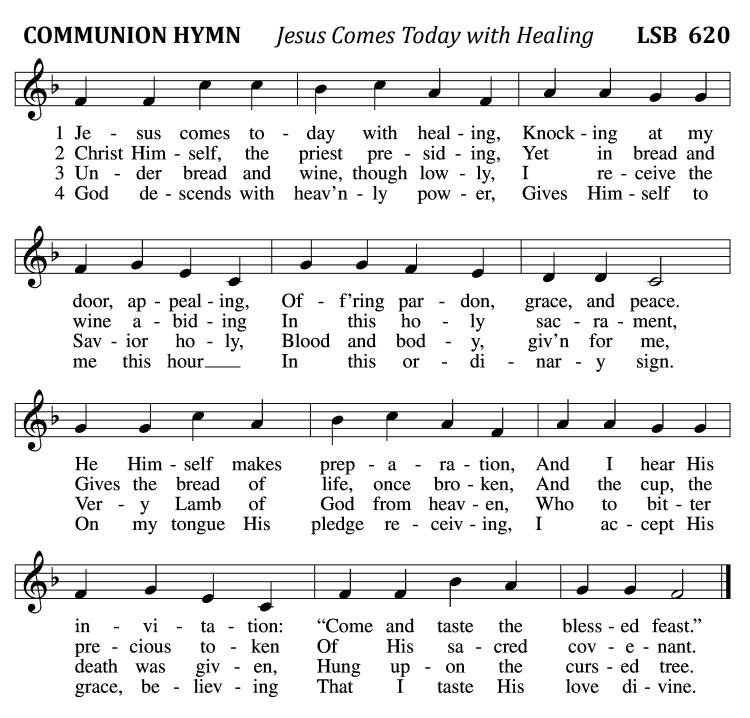


2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

## Please sit

## SILENT PRAYER before COMMUNING

Heavenly Father, in my Holy Baptism you have called me to be Your own possession. Prepare my heart to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all my sins. Strengthen my faith, increase my love and hope, and assure me a place at Your heavenly table, where I will eat eternal manna and drink of the river of the water of life freely, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.



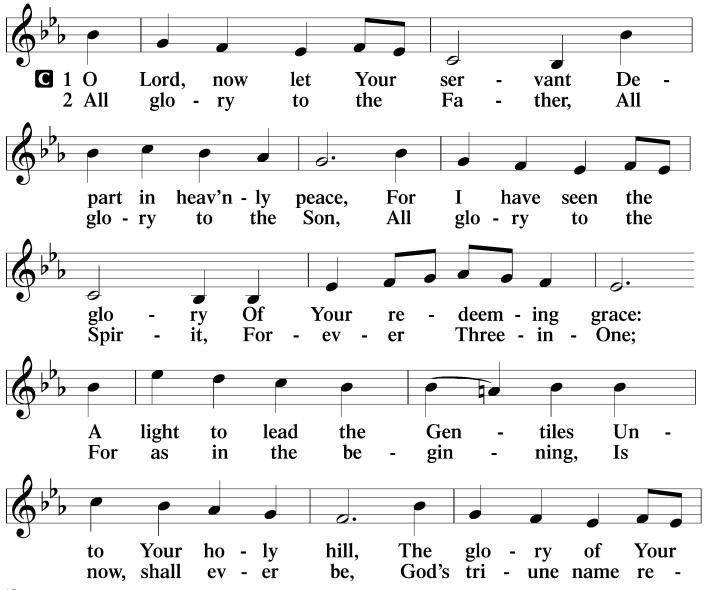
5 Let me praise God's boundless favor, Whose own feast of love I savor. Bidden by His gracious call.
Wedding garments He provides me,
With a robe of white He hides me,
Fits me for the royal hall.

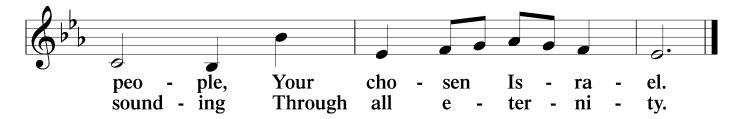
6 Now have I found consolation, Comfort in my tribulation, Balm to heal the troubled soul. God, my shield from ev'ry terror, Cleanses me from sin and error, Makes my wounded spirit whole.

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#### Please stand

#### **NUNC DIMITTIS**





#### POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P Let us pray. Grant that Your Son's body and blood, O Lord, which You have given us to eat and to drink, may abide in us as our source of strength and encouragement, as we continue on our pilgrim journey through this world to Your heavenly kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.
- C Amen.

## **BENEDICAMUS**

- P Let us bless the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

#### **BENEDICTION**

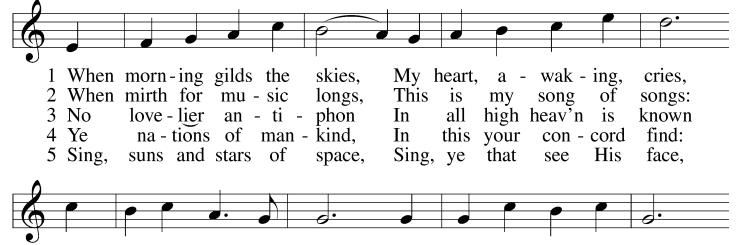
(Numbers 6:24-26)

- P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you, and give you peace.
- C Amen.

## **SENDING HYMN**

## When Morning Gilds the Skies

LSB 807



eve - ning shad - ows fall, "May Je - sus Christ be praised!" When ho - ly house of prayer "May Je - sus Christ be praised!" God's Than "Je-sus Christ to the e - ter - nal Word be praised!" There "May Je - sus Christ be praised!" the earth a - round Let all Sing, "Je-sus Christ be praised!" God's whole cre - a - tion o'er,



This rings my cur-few call: Hath none that can com-pare The e-ter-nal psalm is heard: Ring joy-ous with the sound: Both now and ev-er-more "May Je Christ be praised!" sus "Je praised!" Christ be With sus "May Je Christ be praised!" sus "May Christ be praised!" Je sus Shall Je Christ be praised! sus

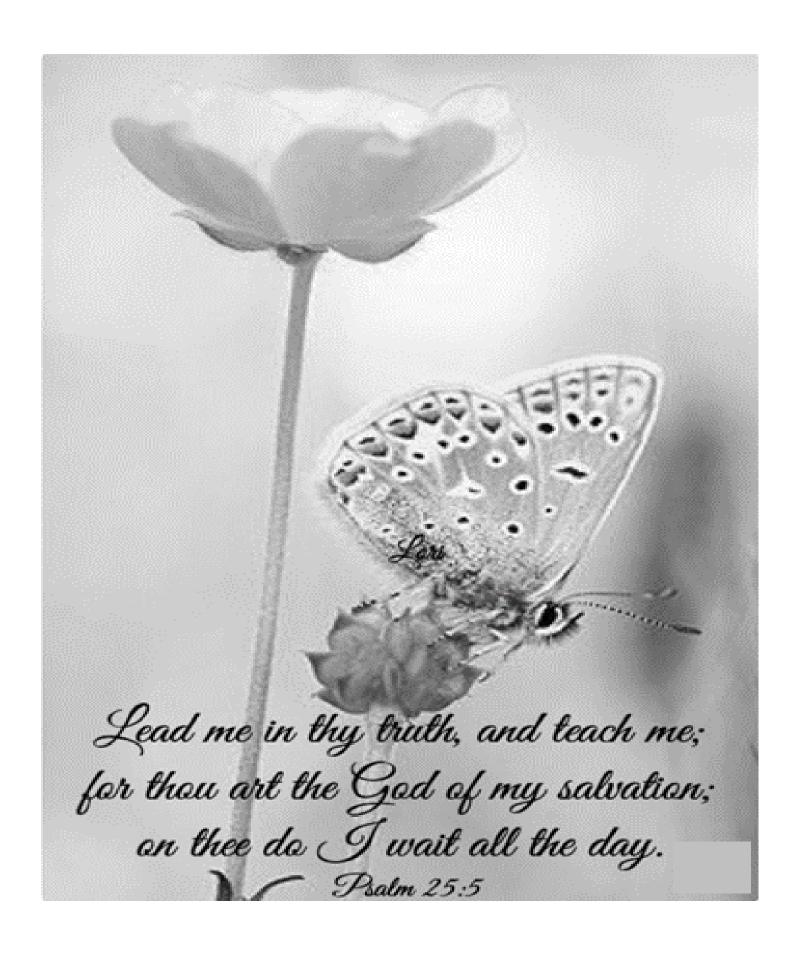
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## **DISMISSAL**

- P Go in peace as you serve the Lord!
- C Thanks be to God!

## **POSTLUDE**

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Sermon Notes					

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Portals of Prayer** for October to December 2023 are available in the Narthex or office.

Adult Bible Class/Sunday School at 10:30 a.m. Rev. Weber will be leading the class.

## **October Activities**

Elders' Meeting

Tuesday, October 3rd 9:00 a.m.

## Pastor Appreciation Day

Sunday, October 8th (October is Pastor Appreciation Month)

## Third Quarterly Voters' Meeting

Tuesday, October 17th 7:30 p.m.

### Immanuel Lutheran School

It's kettle popcorn time, place your order between October 10th-20th. Popcorn will be delivered between Oct. 27th and 30th.

#### Fall Market

Saturday, October 28th from 5 to 8 p.m., school grounds. (Vendor space available, text Lorri for more details @ 956-472-4313.)

#### Trunk or Treat

Tuesday, October 31st from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.; church parking spaces around the building.

(Church members and Winter Texans participation welcome)

## Memory Verse Challenge

This week's memory verse: **Proverbs 22:6** 

Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

## The Cross of Christ Opens to Us the Way of Repentance to Life with God

The way of the Lord is righteous and just: "The soul who sins shall die" (Ezek. 18:4). However, because the Lord has "no pleasure in the death of anyone" (Ezek. 18:32), He calls sinners to repentance and faith in His gracious forgiveness of sins. The man who is thus turned away from his wickedness, who henceforth lives by the grace of God, "shall surely live; he shall not die" (Ezek. 18:28). This way of repentance has been opened for us by the cross of Christ. In the righteousness of faith and love, "he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death" (Phil. 2:8), and He was vindicated in His resurrection from the dead. Indeed, "God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name" (Phil. 2:9). He has given us this name in our Baptism into Christ, in whom we now "shine as lights in the world" (Phil. 2:15). He uses the authority that He has received from His Father (Matt. 21:23–27) to preach a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, by which even "the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God" (Matt. 21:31–32).

9/24/2023					
Sunday Worship		31		ineteenth Sunday after	
Plate:		\$ 135.00	Pentecost Readings:		
Envelopes:		\$ 2,469.00			
Baseball field rental		\$ 200.00	Isaiah 5:1-7		
On-line			Psalm 80:7-19		
			Philippians 3:4b-14		
Total:		\$ 2,804.00	Matthew 21:33-46		
Bible Class:	15	\$ 14.00			
Bi-Weekly Church Activity Schedule					
	October Sunday Servants:				
Elder:	Dan Wehling				
Altar Guild:	Suzanne Wehling/Rose Ann Cisneros				
Music:	Doris Pickering				
This Week	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost				
Usher:	Earl Neuhaus				
Sunday:	p Service 9:00 a	am			
•	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 am				
Next Week	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost				
Usher:	Ken Eilers				
Sunday:	Worship Service 9:00 am				
24	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30 am				
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