

LORDSTOWN LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, October 1, 2023

10:00AM

18th Sunday after Pentecost



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Worship Bulletin
Sunday, October 1, 2023
Lordstown Lutheran Church

Rev. Bernie Dougherty—Pastor
Mrs. Margaret Thomas — Organist
Mrs. Lois Dorazio—Choir Director
Mrs. Dolly Lutz- Lector

We welcome you to worship with us this morning and we're glad you are here. May God bless our time together and may you feel renewed and refreshed as we celebrate God's unconditional love for the world. Thank you for joining us today and we hope you will return again soon.

Children's Sunday School meets on the 2nd & 4th Sundays during worship, and Children's Service project on the 5th Sunday during the School year. As a courtesy the congregation does not stand during worship unless instructed to do so.

Today's Worship Theme

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.

Entering Into God's Presence

WELCOME

PRELUDE - A Quiet Time for Reflection

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

P: Amen

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

L: Steadfast and faithful God,

P: 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.

L: 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.

P: Amen

GATHERING HYMN ALL VERSES

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God Is Here!

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of

praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;

what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's

world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
of the i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

L: Let us pray together.

ALL 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

Special Music

God's Word for Us Today

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 LECTOR

Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live.

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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Psalm: Psalm 25:1-9

LECTOR

Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love. (Ps. 25:6)

1 To you, O Lord,
I lift up my soul.

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

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

**4 Show me your ways, O Lord,
and teach me your paths.**

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

**6 Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are from everlasting.**

7 Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your
goodness, O Lord.

**8 You are gracious and upright, O Lord;
therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

9 You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-13 **LECTOR**

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.

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.

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

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 Holy Gospel According to St. Mathew

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

Rev. Dougherty

HYMN OF THE DAY ALL VERSES

772 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your word and make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep;
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands, 'tis a de - light - ful road;



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Together We Say What We Believe

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 to the dead
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**



We Offer Our Prayers and Thanksgiving

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

At the end of each intercessory prayer the Pastor says:

” Merciful God, “ and the people respond

“receive our prayer.”

OFFERING SONG

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God, above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

OFFERING PRAYER

**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.**

AMEN



*Offering Plates are Located by the doors to the Sanctuary or
You may mail your financial gifts to the church.*

Attn: Pat Hogan

5615 Palmyra Rd SW, Lordstown 44481

The Great Thanksgiving

This Table of Christ welcomes all without exception. Join us and experience the love of Christ as we come together to share in this sacred meal.

CHILDREN MAY ALSO RECEIVE A PASTORAL BLESSING. PLEASE TAKE A SMALL CUP FROM THE TRAY WHEN IT IS OFFERED. WINE WILL BE POURED FOR EACH PERSON BY AN ASSISTANT AND GRAPE JUICE WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE CENTER OF THE CUP TRAY IF PREFERRED. BREAD WILL BE BROKEN INTO SMALL PIECES AT THE COMMUNION RAIL AND GIVEN TO EACH PERSON.

DIALOGUE

L: The Lord be with you.

P: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

P: We lift them to the Lord.

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.



PREFACE OF THE DAY

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (tune: *Holy, holy, holy*)

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God almighty!
Heav'n and earth embrace your glory
Praise we cry to you.
Blessed is the One who comes in your name.
Hosanna, hosanna, praise forevermore.

PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad. We bless you for creating the whole world; for your promises to your people Israel, and for Jesus Christ in whom your fullness dwells.

Born of Mary, he shares our life. Eating with sinners, he welcomes us. Guiding his children, he leads us. Visiting the sick, he heals us. Dying on the cross, he saves us. Risen from the dead, he gives new life. Living with you, he prays for us.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the mystery of faith.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us, that this meal may be a communion in the body and blood of our Lord. Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, and inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful disciples until we feast at your table in glory.

We praise you, eternal God, through Christ your Word made flesh, in the holy and life-giving Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

ALL: 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

L: Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Through the great Comforter, Advocate, and our faithful Guide, we have become a part of God's holy love. And so we pray to the eternal one

ALL: 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. AMEN

Going Forth to Serve

BLESSING

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

AMEN

SENDING HYMN

ALL VERSES

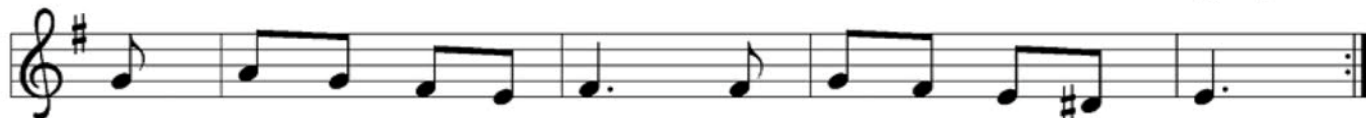
The Lord Now Sends Us Forth

Enviado soy de Dios

538



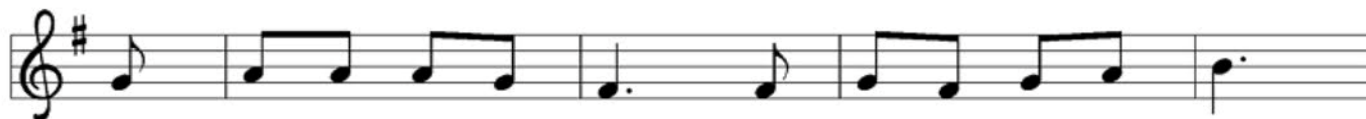
En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta_es - tá
The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,



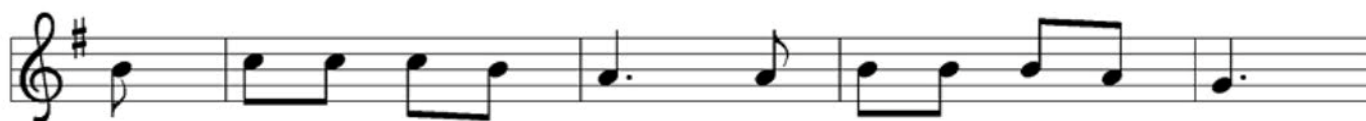
pa - ra cons - truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.



Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain



un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;



me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.



A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



Altar Flowers

Donated by an Anonymous Donor

To provide altar flowers for worship, please sign up on the poster in the church lobby. \$25 for one vase \$50 for two.



PRAYER LIST & PASTORAL CONCERNS

Please keep our loved ones in your prayers this week

Immediate & Ongoing Health Concerns: Lucas Paxson, Ron Hill, Phyllis Housel, Jean Housel, Ted Paxson, Leo Divencenzo, Tiffany Fellows, Destiny Givens, Anna Strickland, JoAnn Leepard, Joe Harrison, Molly and Family, Mary Sabol, Mark Molnar, Laura Paxson, Rachael Ann

Compassion Child: Marc Yvans.

Active Duty Military: Julian Krusely, Jason Layfield, Kiana Gates

Scout Troop 20 and its leaders

Our Monthly Mission Outreach and The Children of Lordstown Elementary School

World Peace: Especially for those living in the region of Ukraine and Russia.

Thank you for your prayers

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE AT 330 399-7227 OR

EMAIL US AT LTOWNLUTHERAN@YAHOO.COM TO NOTIFY US OF FRIENDS OR RELATIVES WHO NEED TO BE ADDED OR REMOVED FROM THE PRAYER LIST.

**NEXT SUNDAY, Sunday, October 15, 2023
15th Sunday after Pentecost**

First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9

Psalm: Psalm 23

Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14