



**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**September 10, 2023**

**Opening Hymn #3**

***Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now***

1. Lord Jesus Christ, be present now,  
Our hearts in true devotion bow,  
Thy Spirit send with grace divine,  
And let Thy truth within us shine.
2. Unseal our lips to sing Thy praise,  
Our souls to Thee in worship raise,  
Make strong our faith, increase our light  
That we may know Thy name aright;
3. Until we join the hosts that cry,  
"Holy art Thou, O Lord, most high!"  
And in the light of that blest place  
Fore'er behold Thee face to face.
4. Glory to God the Father, Son,  
And Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To Thee, O blessed Trinity,  
Be praise throughout eternity!

**Invocation**

**P:** In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen

## **Confession and Absolution**

**P:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve Him as His dear children. But we have disobeyed Him and deserve only His wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to Him and plead for His mercy.

**C:** **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against You and do not deserve to be called Your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to Your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

**P:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, He has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to His will.

**C: Amen**

## **Kyrie & Gloria in Excelsis – sing**

Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord have mercy on us.

1. Glory to God, we give you thanks and praise;  
Of heav'nly joy and peace on earth we sing.  
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,  
Lord God, almighty Father, heav'nly King.

2. Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,  
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.  
O Lamb of God, Your glorious vict'ry won,  
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within

3. Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,  
At God's right hand in majesty most high:  
Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,  
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.

## Prayer of the Day

**P:** Let us pray...

... through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

### **The First Lesson – Ezekial 33:7-9**

<sup>7</sup>“So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. <sup>8</sup>If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>9</sup>But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul.”

### **Psalm of the Day- Psalm 32;1-7**

#### ***Antiphon – (WS p. 28)***

*Antiphon: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

Blessèd is the one whose transgression is for- | given,\*  
**whose sin is | covered.**

Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no in- | iquity,\*  
**and in whose spirit there is | no deceit.**

For when I kept silent, my bones wast- | ed away\*  
**through my groaning | all day long.**

For day and night your hand was heavy up- | on me;\*  
**my strength was dried up as by the heat of | summer.**

I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my in- | iquity;\*  
**I said, “I will confess my transgressions to | the LORD,”**

**and you forgave the iniquity | of my sin.**

Therefore let everyone who is godly offer prayer to you at a time when you | may be found;\*

**surely in the rush of great waters, they shall not | reach him.**

**You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from | trouble;\*  
you surround me with shouts of de- | liverance.**

**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
and to the Holy | Spirit;  
as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

*Antiphon - Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.*

### **The Second Lesson – Romans 13:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>Let every person be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. <sup>2</sup>Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment. <sup>3</sup>For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to bad. Would you have no fear of the one who is in authority? Then do what is good, and you will receive his approval, <sup>4</sup>for he is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for he does not bear the sword in vain. For he is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup>Therefore one must be in subjection, not only to avoid God's wrath but also for the sake of conscience. <sup>6</sup>For the same reason you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. <sup>7</sup>Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed. <sup>8</sup>Owe no one anything, except to love each other, for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law. <sup>9</sup>The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery, You shall not murder, You shall not steal, You shall not covet," and any other commandment, are summed up in this word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." <sup>10</sup>Love does no wrong to a neighbor; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

## **The Gospel – Matthew 18:1-20**

<sup>1</sup>At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?” <sup>2</sup>And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them <sup>3</sup>and said, “Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. <sup>4</sup>Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. <sup>5</sup>“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, <sup>6</sup>but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea. <sup>7</sup>“Woe to the world for temptations to sin! For it is necessary that temptations come, but woe to the one by whom the temptation comes! <sup>8</sup>And if your hand or your foot causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life crippled or lame than with two hands or two feet to be thrown into the eternal fire. <sup>9</sup>And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to enter life with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into the hell of fire. <sup>10</sup>“See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that in heaven their angels always see the face of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>11</sup>For the Son of Man came to save the lost. <sup>12</sup>What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? <sup>13</sup>And if he finds it, truly, I say to you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. <sup>14</sup>So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish. <sup>15</sup>“If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. <sup>16</sup>But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup>If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup>Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be

bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. <sup>19</sup>Again I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. <sup>20</sup>For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them.”

**P:** Blessed are they that hear the Word of God and keep it.

### **The Alleluia – sing**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

**These words are written that we may believe**

**That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

### **Confession of Faith – Apostles’ Creed**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,  
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
Born of the virgin Mary,  
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
Was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**The holy Christian Church,**

**The communion of saints,**

**The forgiveness of sins,**

**The resurrection of the body,**

**And the life everlasting. Amen.**

**Hymn of the Day #34**  
***My Soul, Now Bless Thy Maker***

1. My soul, now bless thy Maker!  
Let all within me bless His name  
Who maketh thee partaker  
Of mercies more than thou dar'st claim.  
Forget Him not whose meekness  
Still bears with all thy sin,  
Who healeth all thy weakness,  
Renews thy life within;  
Whose grace and care are endless  
And saved thee through the past;  
Who leaves no sufferer friendless,  
But rights the wronged at last.

2. He shows to man His treasure  
Of judgment, truth, and righteousness,  
His love beyond all measure,  
His yearning pity o'er distress,  
Nor treats us as we merit,  
But lays His anger by,  
The humble, contrite spirit  
Finds His compassion nigh;  
And high as heaven above us,  
As break from close of day,  
So far, since He doth love us,  
He puts our sins away.

3. For as a tender father  
Hath pity on his children here,  
He in His arms will gather  
All who are His in childlike fear.  
He knows how frail our powers  
Who but from dust are made;

We flourish like the fowers,  
And even so we fade;  
The wind but o'er them passes,  
And all their bloom is o'er,-  
We wither like the grasses,  
Our place knows us no more.

4. God's grace alone endureth,  
And children's children yet shall prove  
How He with strength assureth  
The hearts of all that seek His love.  
In heaven is fixed His dwelling,  
His rule is over all;  
Angels, in might excelling,  
Bright hosts, before Him fall.  
Praise Him, who ever reigneth,  
All ye who hear His Word,  
Nor our poor hymns disdaineth-  
My soul, oh, bless the Lord!

### **Sermon Text – Romans 13:1-10**

#### **Sermon**

#### ***Living as Humble Little Children of the Father***

#### **Offertory – sing**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from Your presence. Take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation. Uphold with Your Spirit free.

#### **Offering of Thankful Hearts**

#### **Prayer of the Church**

P: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.



P: Blessed Lord, You have promised that where two or three are gathered in Your name, You are in the midst of them. Hear the prayers of Your people, and grant our supplications.

**<sup>1</sup> Come, Thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,  
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace;  
Streams of mercy, never ceasing,  
Call for songs of loudest praise.**

P: Lord God, heavenly Father, You have sent us pastors as watchmen. Let them be ever faithful in calling sinners to repentance and joyfully announcing Your forgiveness to those who heed their warning.

**While the hope of endless glory  
Fills my heart with joy and love,  
Teach me ever to adore Thee;  
May I still Thy goodness prove.**

P: Righteous God, You give leaders to every nation and people. Grant us good and wise public servants to bear the sword righteously, defending the innocent and punishing wrongdoers. Guard those who protect us, especially our armed forces, police and firefighters.

**<sup>2</sup> Here I raise my Ebenezer,  
Hither by Thy help I've come;  
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure,  
Safely to arrive at home.**

P: Merciful Lord, look with compassion upon those who are struggling with illness, grief, loneliness or any malady [*especially* \_\_\_\_\_]. Reassure them of Your love, which is like that of the shepherd who seeks and saves the one lost sheep.

**Jesus sought me when a stranger,  
Wand'ring from the fold of God;  
He, to rescue me from danger,  
Interposed His precious blood.**

P: Gracious Father, because You have made us our brother's keeper, fill us with care for the members of our earthly families and for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Forgive our sins and strengthen us to live so that we owe no one anything except to love each other.

**<sup>3</sup> Oh, to grace how great a debtor  
Daily I'm constrained to be;  
Let that grace now, like a fetter  
Bind my wand'ring heart to Thee:**

P: Almighty God, because You desire that none of Your little ones should perish and because sin is constantly crouching at our door, we beg You to call us back to Yourself when we are tempted to stray. Deliver us from temptation, and keep us in the faith. Make us humble like little children, seeing how Your Son humbled Himself for us and for our salvation.

**Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;  
Prone to leave the God I love.  
Here's my heart, O take and seal it,  
Seal it for Thy courts above.**

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

### **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.**

**Sermon Hymn #464**  
***Blest Be the Tie That Binds***

1. Blest be the tie that binds  
Our hearts in Christian love;  
The fellowship of kindred minds  
Is like to that above.
2. Before our Father's throne  
We pour our ardent prayers;  
Our fears, our hopes, our alms, are one,  
Our comforts and our cares.
3. We share our mutual woes,  
Our mutual burdens bear,  
And often for each other flows  
The sympathizing tear.
4. When here our pathways part,  
We suffer bitter pain;  
Yet, one in Christ and one in heart,  
We hope to meet again.
5. This glorious hope revives  
Our courage by the way,  
While each in expectation lives  
And longs to see the day.
6. From sorrow, toil, and pain,  
And sin we shall be free  
And perfect love and friendship reign  
Through all eternity.

## Prayer

**P:** Let us pray...

... through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

## The Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

**C: Amen**

## Closing Hymn #412

### *May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfil*

1. May we Thy precepts, Lord, fulfil  
And do on earth our Father's will  
As angels do above;  
Still walk in Christ, the living Way,  
With all Thy children and obey  
The law of Christian love.

2. So may we join Thy name to bless,  
Thy grace adore, Thy power confess,  
From sin and strife to flee.  
One is our calling, one our name,  
The end of all our hopes the same,  
A crown of life with Thee.

3. Spirit of Life, of Love, and Peace,  
Unite our hearts, our joy increase,  
Thy gracious help supply.  
To each of us the blessing give  
In Christian fellowship to live,  
In joyful hope to die.

### **Silent Prayer**

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