



16th Sunday after Pentecost

September 17, 2023

Opening Hymn #39

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!

O my soul, praise Him, for He is Thy Health and Salvation!

Join the full throng:

Wake, harp and psalter and song;

Sound forth in glad adoration!

2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth,

Who, as on wings of an eagle, uplifteth, sustaineth.

Hast thou not seen

How thy desires all have been

Granted in what He ordaineth?

3. Praise to the Lord, who hath fearfully, wondrously, made thee;

Health hath vouchsafed and, when heedlessly falling, hath stayed thee.

What need or grief

Ever hath failed of relief?

Wings of His mercy did shade thee.

4. Praise to the Lord, who doth prosper thy work and defend thee,

Who from the heavens the streams of His mercy doth send thee.

Ponder anew

What the Almighty can do,

Who with His love doth befriend thee.

5. Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore Him!

All that hath life and breath, come now with praises before Him!

Let the Amen

Sound from His people again;

Gladly for aye we adore Him.

Invocation

P We worship today in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C ♪ **Amen.**

Confession & Absolution

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C ♪ **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord

C ♪ **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sins.**

P Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

P & C **O most merciful God, who has given Thine only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgiveth us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He giveth power to become the sons of God and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

C ♪ **Amen.**

Introit

P: Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

C: I have fled to you for refuge!

P: Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

C: In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

P: Enter not into judgment with your servant,

C: for no one living is righteous before you.

P: Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

C: I have fled to you for refuge!

Gloria Patri

C ♪Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Kyrie

C ♪Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis – (Hymn #238 v.1)

All glory be to God alone,
Forevermore the Highest One,
Who doth our sinful race befriend,
And grace and peace to us extend.
Among mankind may His good will
All hearts with deep thanksgiving fill.

P The Lord be with you

C ♪And with thy spirit.

The Collect for the Day

P Let us pray..... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C ♪Amen.

The First Lesson – Genesis 50:15-21

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 103:1-12

Antiphon – WS p. 32

Antiphon – In ev'ry age, O Lord, You have been our refuge.

- 1 Bless the LORD, | O my soul,*
and all that is within me, bless his | holy name!
- 2 Bless the LORD, | O my soul,*
and forget not all his | benefits,
- 3 who forgives all your in- | iquity,*
who heals all your dis- | eases,
- 4 who redeems your life | from the pit,*
who crowns you with steadfast love and | mercy,
- 5 who satisfies | you with good*
so that your youth is renewed like the | eagle's.
- 6 The LORD works | righteousness*
and justice for all who | are oppressed.
- 7 He made known his ways to | Moses,*

his acts to the people of | Israel.

8 The LORD is merciful and | gracious,*

slow to anger and abounding in | steadfast love.

9 He will not | always chide,*

nor will he keep his anger for- | ever.

10 He does not deal with us according | to our sins,*

nor repay us according to our in- | iquities.

11 For as high as the heavens are a- | bove the earth,*

so great is his steadfast love toward those who | fear him;

12 as far as the east is | from the west,*

so far does he remove our transgres- | sions from us.

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 – In ev’ry age, O Lord, You have been our refuge.

The Second Lesson – Romans 14:1-12

¹As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. ²One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. ³Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. ⁴Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand. ⁵One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. ⁶The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. ⁷For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. ⁸If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we

live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. ⁹For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living. ¹⁰Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; ¹¹for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹²So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

The Gradual

P: Fear the LORD, you his saints,

C: for those who fear him lack nothing!

P: Many are the afflictions of the righteous,

C: but the LORD delivers him out of them all. Hallelujah!

Triple Hallelujah

The Gospel – Matthew 18:21-35

²¹Peter came up and said to [Jesus], "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven. ²³"Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow servants saw what had taken

place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place.³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?'³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

Confession of Faith ***Apostle's Creed***

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

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, Was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; The third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; 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 #342 ***Chief of Sinners Though I Be***

1. Chief of sinners though I be,
Jesus shed His blood for me;
Died that I might live on high,
Lived that I might never die,
As the branch is to the vine,
I am His, and He is mine.

2. Oh, the height of Jesus' love!
Higher than the heavens above,
Deeper than the depths of sea,
Lasting as eternity.
Love that found me--wondrous thought!--
Found me when I sought Him not.

3. Jesus only can impart
Balm to heal the smitten heart;
Peace that flows from sin forgiven,
Joy that lifts the soul to heaven;
Faith and hope to walk with God
In the way that Enoch trod.

4. Chief of sinner though I be,
Christ is All in all to me;
All my wants to Him are known,
All my sorrows are His own.
Safe with Him from earthly strife,
He sustains the hidden life.

5. O my Savior, help afford
By Thy Spirit and Thy Word!
When my wayward heart would stray,
Keep me in the narrow way;
Grace in time of need supply
While I live and when I die.

Sermon Text – Romans 14:1-12

Sermon

Forgiving as the Lord Forgives Us

Offertory

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: Almighty God, as You kept Joseph from evil and brought good from his suffering in Egypt, deliver us by Your grace so that we may learn patience in trials. Teach us to be slow to judge, quick to forgive, and steadfast in love for You and one another.

**² Jesus has come! Now see bonds rent asunder!
Fetters of death now dissolve, disappear.**

P: Heavenly Father, in Your mercy You have forgiven our insurmountable debt of sin, ransoming us with the death of Your Son. Free us from our grudges and unforgiving nature, lest through our lack of mercy we exclude ourselves from Your forgiveness.

**See Him burst through with a voice as of thunder!
He sets us free from our guilt and our fear,**

P: Heavenly Father, according to Your will grant healing to the sick and infirm [*especially* _____]. Grant them patience to endure their time of suffering, and crown their days with Your mercy.

**Lifts us from shame to the place of His honor.
Jesus has come! Hear the roll of God's thunder!**

P: God of power and might, sustain the nations of the earth and lead them in the way of justice and truth. Defend life and liberty, and give us honest and faithful rulers, that our nation may strive toward what is honorable, true and just.

**⁴ Jesus has come as the King of all glory!
Heaven and earth, O declare His great pow'r.**

P: We praise You, O Lord, for retaining among us Your Holy Word and Sacraments. Continue to raise up faithful stewards of Your mysteries, that repentance and the forgiveness of sins in Christ's name would be proclaimed in our midst and throughout the world. Prepare Your baptized children to be faithful confessors of the hope that is in them.

**Capturing hearts with the heavenly story;
Welcome Him now in this fast-fleeting hour!**

P: Caring Father, visit the homes of Your people. Keep them from all harm and danger, and grant that we would dwell together in peace under the protection of Your holy angels.

**Ponder His love! Take the crown He has for you!
Jesus has come! He, the King of all glory!**

P: Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

The 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 #234
Holy Ghost, with Light Divine

1. Holy Ghost, with light divine
Shine upon this heart of mine;
Chase the shades of night away,
Turn the darkness into day.

2. Let me see my Savior's face,
Let me all His beauties trace;
Show those glorious truths to me
Which are only known to Thee.

3. Holy Ghost, with power divine
Cleanse this guilty heart of mine;
In Thy mercy pity me,
From sin's bondage set me free.

4. Holy Ghost, with joy divine
Cheer this saddened heart of mine;
Yield a sacred, settled peace,
Let it grow and still increase.

5. Holy Spirit, all divine,
Dwell within this heart of mine;
Cast down every idol-throne,
Reign supreme, and reign alone.

6. See, to Thee I yield my heart,
Shed Thy life through every part;
A pure temple I would be,
Wholly dedicate to Thee.

Prayer & The Benediction

Closing Hymn #521
What God Ordains Is Always Good

1. What God ordains is always good;
His will abideth holy.
As He directs my life for me,
I follow meek and lowly.
God indeed in every need
Doth well know how to shield me;
To Him, then, I will yield me.

2. What God ordains is always good.
He never will deceive me;
He leads me in His own right way,
And never will He leave me.
I take content What He hath sent;
His hand that sends me sadness
Will turn my tears to gladness.

3. What God ordains is always good.
His loving thought attends me;
No poison can be in the cup
That my Physician sends me.
My God is true; Each morn anew
I'll trust His grace unending,
My life to Him commending.

4. What God ordains is always good.
He is my Friend and Father;
He suffers naught to do me harm,
Though many storms may gather.
Now I may know Both joy and woe,
Some day I shall see clearly
That He hath loved me dearly.

5. What God ordains is always good.
Though I the cup am drinking
Which savors now of bitterness,
I take it without shrinking.
For after grief God grants relief,
My heart with comfort filling
And all my sorrow stilling.

6. What God ordains is always good.
This truth remains unshaken.
Though sorrow, need, or death be mine,
I shall not be forsaken.
I fear no harm, For with His arm
He shall embrace and shield me;
So to my God I yield me.

Silent Prayer

All scripture quotations, unless otherwise indicated, are taken from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®(ESV), copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Portions of the Liturgy from the Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

Prayer of the Church - Text Public Domain Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014283. #533 (2, 4) Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure Eternal