



18th Sunday after Pentecost

October 1, 2023

Opening Hymn #235 (v. 1, 2, 6)

O Holy Spirit, Enter In

1. O Holy Spirit, enter in
And in our hearts Thy work begin,
Thy temple deign to make us;
Sun of the soul, Thou Light Divine,
Around and in us brightly shine,
To joy and gladness wake us.
That we, In Thee
Truly living, To The giving
Prayer unceasing,
May in love be still increasing.

2. Give to thy Word impressive power
That in our hearts, from this good hour,
As fire it may be glowing;
That we confess the Father, Son,
And Thee, the Spirit, Three in One,
Thy glory ever showing.
Stay Thou, Sway now
Our souls ever That they never
May forsake Thee,
But by faith their Refuge make Thee.

6. O mighty Rock, O Source of Life,
Let Thy dear Word, mid doubt and strife,
Be strong within us burning
That we be faithful unto death,
In Thy pure love and holy faith,
From Thee true wisdom learning.
Thy grace And peace
On us shower; By Thy power
Christ confessing,
Let us win our Savior's blessing.

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 – sing

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

Gloria in Excelsis – sing

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:
Whom 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 – Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

¹The word of the LORD came to me: ²“What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? ³As I live, declares the Lord GOD, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. ⁴Behold, 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 just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ²⁶When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has

done he shall die. ²⁷Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. ²⁸Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. ²⁹Yet the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not just.' O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? ³⁰"Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord GOD. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. ³¹Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make 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, declares the Lord GOD; so turn, and live."

Psalm of the Day – Psalm 25:1-10

Antiphon - WS p. 31

Antiphon – Come, Holy Spirit, renew our hearts and kindle in us the fire of Your love.

1 To you, | O LORD,*

I lift | up my soul.

2 O my God, in you I trust; let me not be | put to shame;*

let not my enemies exult | over me.

3 Indeed, none who wait for you shall be | put to shame;*

they shall be ashamed who are wantonly | treacherous.

4 Make me to know your ways, | O LORD;*

teach me | your paths.

5 Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my sal- | vation;*

for you I wait all the | day long.

6 Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your | steadfast love,*

for they have been | from of old.

7 Remember not the sins of my youth or my trans- | gressions;*

according to your steadfast love remember me, for the sake

of your goodness, | O LORD!

8 Good and upright | is the LORD;*

therefore he instructs sinners | in the way.

9 He leads the humble in | what is right,*

and teaches the humble | his way.

10 All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and | faithfulness,*

for those who keep his covenant and his testi- | monies.

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 – Come, Holy Spirit, renew our hearts and kindle in us the fire of Your love.

The Second Lesson – Philippians 2:1–4, 14–18

¹If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. . . .

¹⁴Do all things without grumbling or questioning, ¹⁵that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, ¹⁶holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain. ¹⁷Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. ¹⁸Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice with me.

The Gospel – Matthew 21:23–32

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ ²⁶But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ ²⁹And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. ³⁰And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. ³¹Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before 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 when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.”

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 – Nicene Creed

**I believe in 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 shall 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 worshipped and glorified,
Who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe 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.**

Hymn of the Day #395 (v. 1-4, 6)
O God, Thou Faithful God

1. O God, Thou faithful God,
Thou Fountain ever flowing,
Who good and perfect gifts
In mercy art bestowing,
Give me a healthy frame,
And may I have within
A conscience free from blame,
A soul unhurt by sin!

2. Grant Thou me strength to do
With ready heart and willing
Whate'er Thou shalt command,
My calling here fulfilling;
To do it when I ought,
With all my might, and bless
The work I thus have wrought,
For Thou must give success.

3. Oh, let me never speak
What bounds of truth exceedeth;
Grant that no idle word
From out my mouth proceedeth;
And then, when in my place
I must and ought to speak,
My words grant power and grace
Lest I offend the weak.

4. If dangers gather round,
Still keep me calm and fearless;
Help me to bear the cross
When life is dark and cheerless;
And let me win my foe

With words and actions kind.
When counsel I would know,
Good counsel let me find.

6. If Thou a longer life
Hast here on earth decreed me;
If Thou through many ills
To age at length wilt lead me,
Thy patience on me shed.
Avert all sin and shame
And crown my hoary head
With honor free from blame.

Sermon Text – Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

Sermon

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

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 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: Merciful Lord, You founded Your Church upon the proclamation
of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. Purify the tongues of Your
servants, that the tongues of the wicked may be silenced. Turn
them from their evil ways, that their sins may be washed away.

**¹ Once in the blest baptismal waters
I put on Christ and made Him mine;**

P: Merciful Lord, encourage us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may not lose heart. Make us to be of one mind and will, that we may serve You with gladness, doing the works of Your kingdom here and throughout the world.

**Now numbered with God's sons and daughters,
I share His peace and love divine.**

P: Merciful Lord, the name of Jesus stands above all names. Before it we bow our knees and confess Him as Lord and God. Inspire in us true devotion and worship as we approach His altar to receive our humble Savior in these humble means of bread and wine for our salvation.

**² His body and His blood I've taken
In His blest Supper, feast divine;**

P: Merciful Lord, all the might of man is nothing before You, yet You have appointed earthly realms and rulers to punish evil and honor good. Give us faithful leaders who will serve honorably and well. Bless also those who serve in the armed forces to defend us and protect our liberty. Be that earthly authority good or evil, remind us that You still are, and always will be, the God of our salvation.

**Now I shall never be forsaken,
For I am His, and He is mine.**

P: Merciful Lord, grant the encouragement of Christ and the comfort of His love to those who suffer [*especially* _____]. In every affliction, prove Yourself a ready and worthy Savior.

**³ And thus I live in God contented
And die without a thought of fear;**

P: Merciful Lord, sustain all fathers, mothers and children; husbands and wives; friends and neighbors; laborers and employers; and teachers and students. Enable us all to serve our

neighbors in godly vocations, delighting in the Lord's lovingkindness.

**My soul has to God's plans consented,
For through His Son my faith is clear.**

P: Merciful Lord, in You there is no shadow due to change. Enkindle Your divine light in us, that we may stand united as Christ's own body, holding fast to the word of life and shining brightly in the midst of this world's darkness; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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 no into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen**

Sermon Hymn #331 (v. 1-4, 7, 8) *Yea, As I Live, Jehovah Saith*

1. Yea, as I live, Jehovah saith,
I would not have the sinner's death,
But that he turn from error's ways,
Repent, and live through endless days.

2. To us therefore Christ gave command:
"Go forth and preach in every land;
Bestow on all My pardoning grace
Who will repent and mend their ways.

3. "All those whose sins ye thus remit
I truly pardon and acquit,
And those whose sins ye do retain
Condemned and guilty shall remain.

4. "What ye shall bind, that bound shall be:
What ye shall loose, that shall be free;
Unto My Church the keys are given
To ope and close the gates of heaven."

7. All praise, eternal Son, to Thee
For absolution full and free,
In which Thou showest forth Thy grace;
From false indulgence guard our race.

8. Praise God the Father and the Son
And Holy Spirit, Three in One,
As 'twas, is now, and so shall be
World without end, eternally!

The Service of the Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P: It is right and beneficial that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God...

(the appropriate Preface is read)

Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we magnify Your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying:

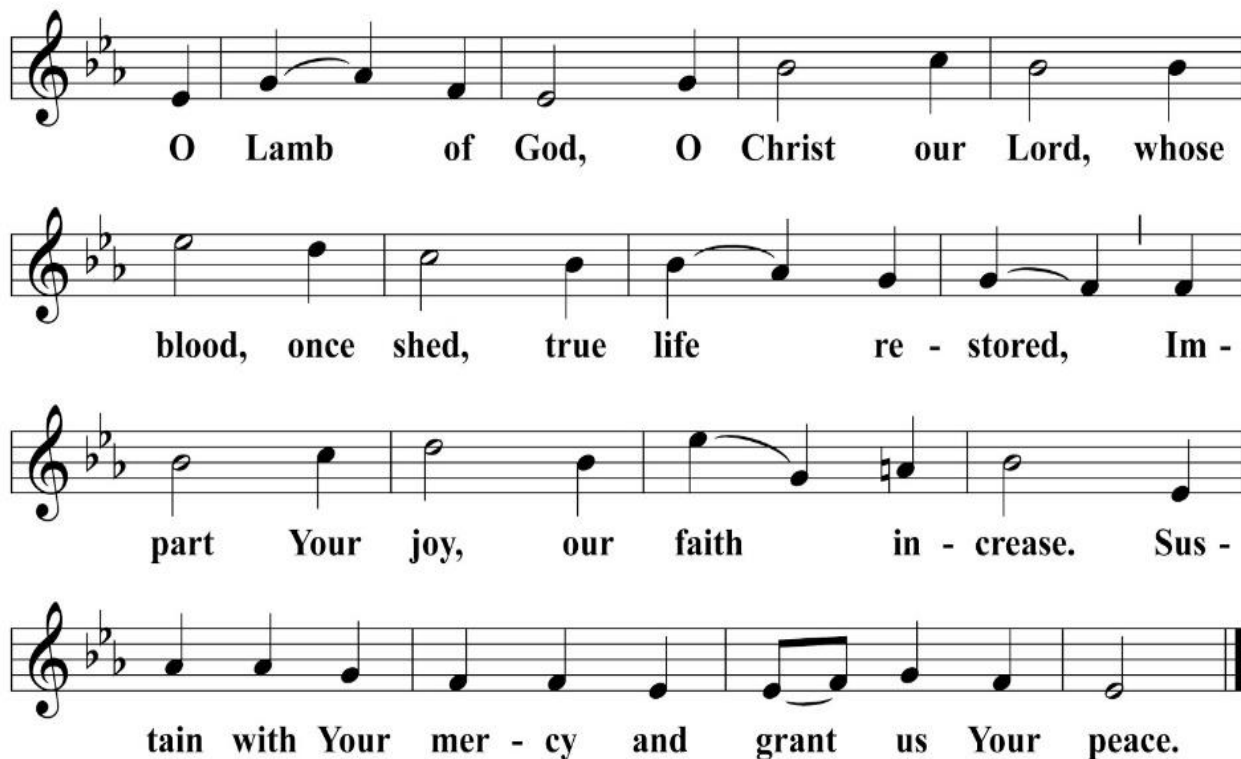
C: Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of Sa-ba-oth, a-dored; Heav'n and
earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name. Sing ho-
san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san-na to the Lord; Tru-ly
blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Words of Institution

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

In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always!



O Lamb of God, O Christ our Lord, whose
 blood, once shed, true life re - stored, Im -
 part Your joy, our faith in - crease. Sus -
 tain with Your mer - cy and grant us Your peace.

Distribution

Nunc Dimittis - sing

1. O Lord, now let Your servant depart in heav'nly peace,
 For I have seen the glory Of Your redeeming grace:
 A light to lead the Gentiles Unto Your holy hill,
 The glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.

2. All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,
 All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three-in-One;
 For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,
 God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord with gladness.

Thanksgiving



C: My heart has now be - come Your dwell - ing, O bless - ed,



ho - ly Trin - i - ty. With an - gels I, Your prais - es



tell - ing, Shall live in joy e - ter - nal - ly. Lord, may Your



bod - y and Your blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

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 #261

Lord Keep Us Steadfast in Thy Word

1. Lord, keep us steadfast in Thy Word;
Curb those who fain by craft and sword
Would wrest the Kingdom from Thy Son
And set at naught all He hath done.

2. Lord Jesus Christ, Thy power make known,
For Thou art Lord of lords alone;
Defend Thy Christendom that we
May evermore sing praise to Thee.

3. O Comforter of priceless worth.
Send peace and unity on earth.
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.

Silent Prayer

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

Psalm from LSB ©2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission. License #000014283

*Prayer of the Church: Text © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission.
Lutheran Service Book Hymn 598 License #100014283.*