Create in Me A New Heart, O God!

October 8, 2023



Nineteenth Week after Pentecost

WELCOME, GUESTS!!! We are so glad you came! If you have any questions or would like more information about our church, any member of Grace would be happy to speak with you. Please take the time to fill out a guest register at the church's entrance. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Congregational responses are indicated by indent and boldened letters.

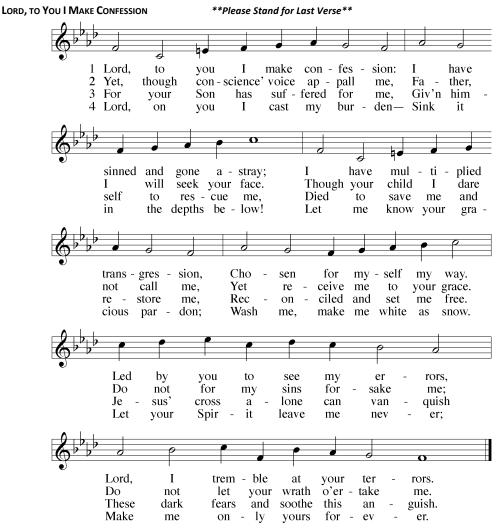
THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS – Our God wants real repentance that leads to true obedience. The Verse of the Day reminds us that one day, everyone will bow before Jesus of Nazareth and confess him as Lord. Some will do so in grief and others in joy. God wants real repentance from every sinner that they might bend the knee to Christ in true obedience and confess with gladness that Jesus is Lord. The Church prays that God would rule our hearts through Word and Sacrament that our repentance might be real and our obedience truly pleasing.

MORNING PRAYER: Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: COMMON WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION—CW, p.15



OPENING HYMN: #302



Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt. Tune: Herr, ICH Habe MISSGEHANDELT (87 87 88) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.

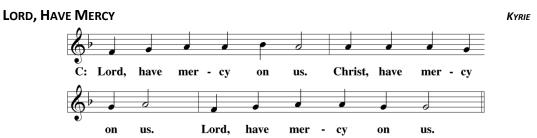


In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

CONFESSION OF SINS

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.



God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.





PRAYER OF THE DAY



The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



Please Be Seated

FIRST LESSON:

EZEKIEL 18: 1-4, 25-32

On this Sunday when the Church is called to continual repentance, Ezekiel brings a strong warning for Christians who grow lax in their faith or dismissive of their sin. God wants real repentance that leads to true obedience. Israel had not given either. God promises not to judge us by our past, but by our present, and so he calls us to live anew. Repent and receive a new heart and new spirit that leads to true obedience. Why will you die, O Israel? God wants exactly the opposite—repent and live!

The word of the Lord came to me. What do you mean, you who keep repeating this proverb concerning the soil of Israel, "Fathers eat sour grapes, and their sons' teeth are set on edge"? As surely as I live, declares the Lord God, you will never again use this proverb in Israel. Indeed, all souls are mine. The soul of the father is mine just like the soul of the son. The soul who sins is the one who will die.

But you say, "The Lord's way is not fair." Listen now, house of Israel. Is it my way that is not fair? Is it not your ways that are not fair? If a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and practices unrighteousness, he will die because of it. Because of the unrighteousness that he has practiced, he will die.

But if a wicked man turns from his wickedness that he has done and practices justice and righteousness, he will preserve his life. Because he has seen and turned away from all the rebellious acts that he had committed, he will surely live, and he will not die. But the house of Israel says, "The Lord's way is not fair." Is it really my ways that are not fair, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are not fair?

Therefore, I will judge each one of you according to his ways, O house of Israel, declares the Lord God. Repent and turn away from all your rebellious acts, so that you will not set out a stumbling block that makes you guilty. Throw off from yourselves all your rebellious actions by which you have rebelled, and obtain a new heart and a new spirit for yourselves. Why should you die, O house of Israel? For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies, declares the Lord God. So repent and live!

PSALM OF THE DAY: PSALM 25





To you, O LORD, I lift <u>up</u> my soul;*
in you I trust, <u>O</u> my God.
Remember, O LORD, your great mer<u>cy</u> and love,*
for they are <u>from</u> of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;* according to your love remember me, for you are good, O LORD.

Refrain

Turn to me and be gra<u>cious</u> to me,*
for I am lonely and af<u>flict</u>ed.
Look upon my affliction and <u>my</u> distress*
and take away <u>all</u> my sins.
Guard my life and <u>res</u>cue me,*
for I take ref<u>uge</u> in you.

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.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON PHILIPPIANS 2: 1 – 11

Real repentance leads us to the true obedience of imitating Christ. Jesus is the true son of his Father who both said the words, "Not my will, but yours," and did the work, "obedient to death—even death on a cross." When his work in the vineyard was complete, God exalted his Son to the highest place and now calls every man to real repentance and the true obedience of bending the knee and confessing with joy that Jesus Christ is Lord.

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, then make my joy complete by being likeminded, having the same love, being united in spirit, and having one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility consider one another better than yourselves. Let each of you look carefully not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Indeed, let this attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. Though he was by nature God, he did not consider equality with God as a prize to be displayed, but he emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant. When he was born in human likeness, and his appearance was like that of any other man, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. At the name of Jesus every knee will bow, and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Alleluia. (Philippians 2:10,11)



GOSPEL MATTHEW 21: 28 – 32

They seemed so righteous as they stood in the temple courts. The great men of Israel had gathered against Jesus. These men knew all the words to say and ways to act, but the only "righteousness" they had was a self-righteousness that offended God. They claimed to be doing God's work and fulfilling his will, but there was no repentance and no true obedience.



"What do you think? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go work today in my vineyard.' He answered, 'I will not,' but later he changed his mind and went. He came to the second and said the same thing. The second son answered, 'I will go, sir,' but

he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?" They said to him, "The first."

Jesus said to them, "Amen I tell you: The tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness, but you did not believe him. However, the tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him. Even when you saw this, you did not change your mind and believe him.



Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

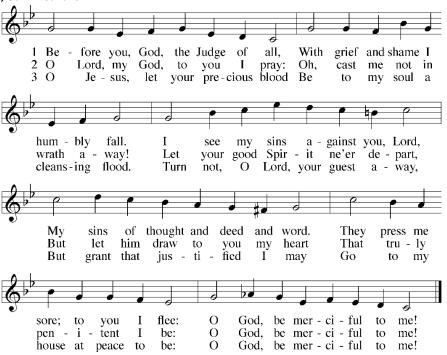
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please Be Seated

HYMN OF THE DAY #306

BEFORE YOU, GOD THE JUDGE OF ALL



Text: Magnus B. Landstad, 1802–80; tr. Carl Döving, 1867–1937, alt.
Tune: VATER UNSER IM HIMMELREICH, DER DU (88 88 88) attr. Martin Luther, 1483–1546.

SERMON TEXT

MATTHEW 21: 28 - 32

SERMON:





OFFERING — Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9: 7: "Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver." This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.

PRAYER FOR THE CHURCH'S MISSION

Eternal God and Father, we give you thanks for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, and for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge.

Help us to rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and to use them faithfully.

Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, O Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

Awaken us to the opportunities you give to proclaim your message of love.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament, bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have.

Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ in our own neighborhoods and the areas around Deschutes County.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, an acquaintance, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits.

Move us to support missionaries at home and overseas with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

Silent prayer

Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. Amen.

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.

#368

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

O SAVIOR, PRECIOUS SAVIOR



Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-79, alt.

Tune: Angel's Story (76 76 D) Arthur H. Mann, 1850–1929.

Please Stand

THE SACRAMENT



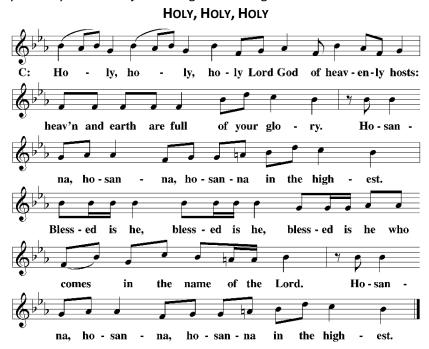
The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and host in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out 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.



DISTRIBUTION – Please come forward at the direction of our usher. We do practice close communion according to Paul's guidance in 1 Corinthians 11:27: "For if anyone eats and drinks in an unworthy manner because he does not recognize the Lord's body, he eats and drinks judgment upon himself." Therefore, if you are not a member of the ELS or WELS, please talk to Pastor Emmons before communing. Thank you for respecting our practices.

Please Stand



O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

CLOSING PRAYER

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord, make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

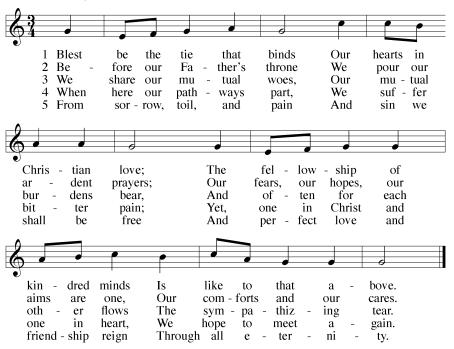
The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.



Please Be Seated

CLOSING HYMN: #494

BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS



Text: John Fawcett, 1740-1817, abr., alt.

Tune: BOYLSTON (SM) Lowell Mason, 1792–1872.

What We believe:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the only source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God and is the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, adding a human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life, and innocent death, are all sins for all people forgiven and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return to take all believers to heaven, condemn all unbelievers to eternal torment and destroy this present world.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Calendars – Printed October calendars are available by the bulletins. They have also been emailed out.

Trifolds – We have our trifolds back from the printers. These were printed for those of you who are uncomfortable with going door to door; they are available for you to take as many as you would like to pass out to your friends, neighbors, families, and co-workers. You can even leave them in a grocery cart or at your favorite restaurant.

Sunday Morning Bible Study – for October we are studying Luther's Small Catechism, with an emphasis on the commandments; we left off in August with the Third Commandment. Please feel free to bring questions, and to come and go as you like; all reading is voluntary.

Midweek Bible Study – Tuesday night Bible Study has been put on pause during October and will resume in November.

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 328 6057 Password: GraceOT

LMSG Retreat – October 25 – 30 Pastor Emmons will be preaching for the LMSG retreat at Camp Shiloh, Texas. There will be no communion on the October 29. If you have any pastoral needs in his absence, you may contact him by his cell phone. For more pressing concerns needing immediate care contact Elder Gene Baldwin at 541-610-9978.

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