

**“Is it my way that
is not fair?”**



**“Is it not
your ways that
are not fair?”**

The Order of Worship

Pre-Service Music & Greeting

Opening Hymn “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”
Christian Worship 240

The Invocation

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

The Confession of Sins

P: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: 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.

P: 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 the 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.

C: Amen!

Lord have Mercy

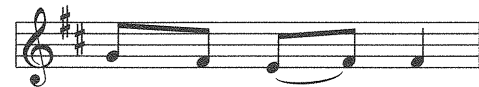
P: Jesus lived for us. Jesus died for us. Jesus rose victorious from the grave. Through his precious work and gracious intercession, we know God the Father will hear and answer us for our good. With this confidence, we pray:

P: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer — cy.

P: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



C: Christ, have mer — cy.

P: For the well-being of your holy church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise; hear our prayer, O Lord.



C: Lord, have mer — cy.

P: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care.




C: A — — men!

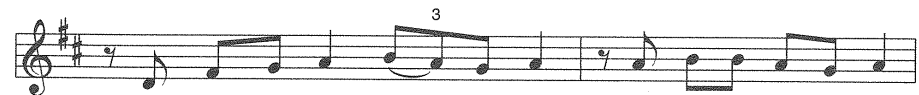
P: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise;




C: O Lord, our Lord, how glor- ious is your name in




all the earth. Al—might—y God, mer- ci- ful Fa—ther,




you crown our life with your love. You take a- way our sin;




you com — fort our spir—it; you make us pure and




Ho—ly in your sight. You did not spare your on— ly Son,




but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,



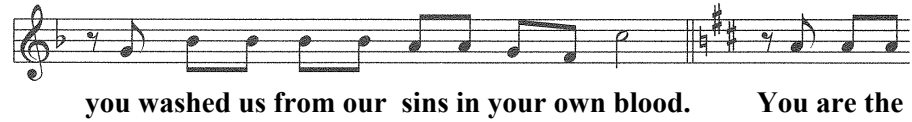
how glor—ious is your name in all the earth.



O Son of God, e—ter—nal Word of the Fa—ther,



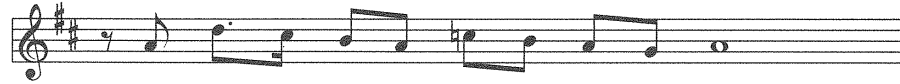
you came to live with us; you made your Fa—ther known;



you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the



King of glo—ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,



how glor—ious is your name in all the earth.

Prayer of the Day

P: Blessed Lord, God and Judge of all, it is easy to accuse you of being unfair and requiring too much. Because you are holy, you have every right to demand the same from us. This is why we must confess we will never be able to attain what you desire. It is also why you sent your Son into the world. He rejected fairness. He turned away from equality. He did not demand justice. Since he was faithful, he secured our rescue. Increase our faith to hold on to the work of Jesus. Keep us from looking for fairness or equality. Then, turn us to the justice and mercy you have declared through Jesus' death on the cross. For all you have done, receive our thanks and praise as we live for you now, and as we anticipate life with you in heaven. There we will praise you—Father, Son, and Spirit—throughout endless ages.



C: A — — men!

The Lessons from God's Word

"You Justice and Mercy are More Than Fair!"

Old Testament

Ezekiel 18:1-4; 25-32

¹The word of the LORD came to me.

²What 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”? ³As surely as I live, declares the LORD God, you will never again use this proverb in Israel. ⁴Indeed, 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.

²⁵But 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? ²⁶If 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.

²⁷But if a wicked man turns from his wickedness that he has done and practices justice and righteousness, he will preserve his life. ²⁸Because he has seen and turned away from all the rebellious acts that he had committed, he will surely live, and he will not die. ²⁹But 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?

³⁰Therefore, 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. ³¹Throw 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? ³²For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies, declares the LORD God. So repent and live!

Psalm for the Day

Psalm 25

Refrain

To you, O Lord, I lift my soul; in you I trust, my God.



To you, O LORD, I lift | up my soul; *
in you I trust, | O my God.

Remember, O LORD, your great mer- | cy and love, *
for they are | from of old.

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

Refrain

Turn to me and be gra- | cious to me, *
for I am lonely and af- | flicted.

Look upon my affliction and | my distress, *
and take away | all my sins.

Guard my life and | rescue me; *
for I take re- | fuge in you.

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 forever. | Amen.



Epistle *Philippians 2:1-11*

¹So if there is any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, ²then make my joy complete by being like—

minded, having the same love, being united in spirit, and having one mind. ³Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility consider one another better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look carefully not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

⁵Indeed, let this attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. ⁶Though he was by nature God, he did not consider equality with God as a prize to be displayed, ⁷but 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, 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 will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Verse of the Day

P: The law of the LORD is perfect. It revives the soul. The testimony of the LORD is trustworthy. It gives wisdom to the inexperienced. The precepts of the LORD are right. They give joy to the heart. The commandment of the LORD is bright. It gives light to the eyes. The fear of the LORD is pure. It stands forever. The just decrees of the LORD are truth. They are altogether righteous.

Alleluia!



C: Al— le— lu— ia! Al— le— lu— ia! Al— le— lu— ia!



These words are writ — ten that we may be—lieve that



Je—sus is the Christ, the Son — of God.



Al— le— lu— ia! Al— le— lu— ia! Al— le— lu— ia!

The Gospel

Matthew 21:23-32

²³When Jesus went into the temple courts, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him while he was teaching and said, “By what authority are you doing these things?” and “Who gave you this authority?”

²⁴Jesus answered them, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer it, I will tell you by what authority I do these things.

²⁵The baptism of John, where was it from? From heaven or from men?”

They discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Then why did you not believe him?’

²⁶But if we say, ‘From men,’ we are afraid of the crowd, since they all regard John as a prophet.” ²⁷So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.”

He said to them, “Then I will not tell you by what authority I do these things.”

²⁸“What do you think? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go work today in my vineyard.’ ²⁹He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went.

³⁰He came to the second and said the same thing. The second son answered, ‘I will go, sir,’ but he did not go. ³¹Which 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. ³²For John came to you in the way of righteousness, but you did not believe him. However, the tax collectors and prostitutes did be-

lieve him. Even when you saw this, you did not change your mind and believe him.”

Children’s Message

“It Doesn’t Seem Fair!”

P: This is the Word of our God!



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

“If Your Beloved Son, O God”
Christian Worship 393

Sermon

Ezekiel 18:25-29

“The Lord’s Way Isn’t Fair!”

He holds people responsible

He calls people to repentance

The Confession of Faith

(We join in the words of the Nicene Creed)

**C: 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!**

Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks!

Prayers for the Day

Special Prayers and Requests

Prayer for those receiving the Lord's Supper

The Lord's Prayer

(spoken with the pastor)

**C: Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours now and forever. Amen!**

Hymn of Preparation

“I Come, O Savior, to Your Table”
Christian Worship 310 st. 1-2

I come, O Savior, to your table,
For weak and weary is my soul;
O Jesus, you alone are able
To satisfy and make me whole.
Lord, may your body and your blood
Be for my soul the highest good!

Oh, grant that I in manner worthy
May now trust solely in your Word,
And, conscious of the sins before me,
Look only unto you, O Lord.
Lord, may your body and your blood
Be for my soul the highest good!

Personal Prayer

Before Communion

Lord, I am not worthy to be a guest at your holy table. But you are the friend of sinners, and you will not cast me out. This bread is your body, which bore my sins upon the cross. This wine is your shed blood, which purified me from all guilt. At your invitation, I humbly come. Receive me, my Savior, forgive my sins, and restore the joy of your salvation. Amen.

The Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.



C: **And al—so with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.



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

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

P: Give praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He comforts us with his ever faithful promises and reassures with his never-failing presence. Through him have come salvation, power, the kingdom of our God, and the authority to rule over all things. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks, honor and glory for ever and ever.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus



C: **Ho—ly, ho—ly, ho—ly, is the Lord of hosts;**



The whole earth is full of your glo—ry.



You are my God, and I will ex—alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be—come my sal-



va—tion. Ho—ly, ho—ly, ho—ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo — ry.

The Words of Institution

P: 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 Blessing of Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



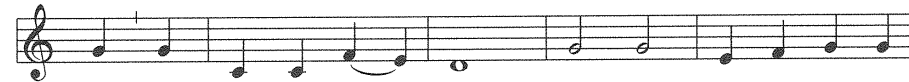
C: A ——— men.

O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a—way the sin of the



world; have mer—cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a—way the sin of the world; have mer—cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a—way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A ——— men.

The Congregation may be seated for the Distribution

The Lord's Supper is a Sacrament through which Jesus Christ our Savior strengthens our faith and forgives our sins. In it we receive His actual body and blood, as we receive the bread and the wine. If you have not communed with us before or if you are not familiar with our procedure, please do not come to the Lord's Table today. We also encourage you to speak with our pastor following the service. He will be happy to share with you the necessary preparations to receive our Savior's body and blood in a future service.

Our request comes out of love for you and concern for your spiritual well-being, so that you can receive the blessing our Lord wants you to receive.

Thanksgiving

Song of Thanksgiving

(Congregation rises and sings)



Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le-lu — ia!

Closing Prayer:

P: O dearest Jesus, how good are you are and how blessed you have made us. We have come burdened with our guilt, stained with sin, and humbled by our rebellion, and you have forgiven us. Through your gracious Word, together with your body and blood, you have declared all completely washed away. Make this good news the foundation for our life. As we daily struggle with temptation and sin, lead us to acknowledge our weakness and humbly confess our rebellion. Then, assure us we are forgiven and declared righteous for your sake. Make every blessing you secured by your death and resurrection our highest good, and the confidence of your never-failing presence. As we live in anticipation of life in heaven, be our comfort, our refuge, and our guide. Bless us, now and always, as we live in your love—our true, Triune and gracious God.



C: A ——— men.

The Benediction:

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.



C: A — men. A ——— men. A ——— men.

Closing Hymn

“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing”

Christian Worship 329

Silent Prayer

Announcements . . .

Today—*Welcome in Name of our gracious Savior, Jesus Christ!*

What a blessing we have received to be nourished with the Gospel in Word and Sacrament. It is this gracious gift which reassures us God is more than fair—he is just and merciful. He never deals with us the way our sins deserve or demand.

- If you are visiting today, please sign the guest book or a guest card, and worship again, soon!
- Following the worship service there will be time for fellowship over a cup of coffee and some snacks.
- Bible Class will begin at 11:00 and review the Epistle lesson from Philippians 2.
- Following Bible Class, Pastor will drive to Arizona. If you need to contact him, please call the parsonage, or call his cell phone. You may also contact the elders.

More announcements on the next page

Monday—Handbell practice at 7:00 pm.

Tuesday—Council meeting at 7:00 pm. Committees will meet if necessary at 8:00 pm.

Wednesday—There will be no Bible Class this evening. Because of other commitments, and travel to Pastor's Conference, the class will resume on the 25th with a short study on Martin Luther, and a newly release video.

Friday—Office Hours from 10:30 am—2:30 pm.

Saturday—Church Cleaning—Favuzzi

- Lawn beginning October 1st—Todd

Sunday, October 8th—In Person Worship and Live Streaming at 9:30 am. We rejoice to know God has redeemed us and make us his faithful people. Because of this act of mercy, our lives are no longer are our own. We belong to the Lord. As the prophet Isaiah also reminds us, God has great expectations for us.

- Christian Education will follow the service and will draw on Paul's message of encouragement. We know this life is difficult, and it continues to weigh on us. What we need to remember is what Paul says with all confidence—Jesus will transform our humble bodies to be like his glorious body.



Thank You

To Al Todd, our Hymnsoft operator; to Josh Schueler and Jim Everson for controlling the audio and video of the live stream; to Sue Proeber for providing flowers for the altar—to the glory and praise of God, and for the blessings he freely gives.



OUR REDEEMER
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