

**18<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST ..... OCTOBER 1, 2023**

GREETING

Gathered in Christ. **We serve with grace.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin. *Silence is kept for reflection.* Steadfast and faithful God, **you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you. We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering. We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others. For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us. For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us. For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us. Lead us back to you and set us on the right path; in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches beyond all understanding. God's compassion is beyond compare. In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us. In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG "*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*" .....#858

PRAYER OF THE DAY

**O God of love, through the ages you have called women and men to the ministry of Word and Service and Word and Sacrament in the church. Let your blessing rest now on all who answer that call. Grant them understanding of the gospel, sincerity of purpose, diligence in ministry, and the beauty of life in Christ, that many people will be served and nurtured in Christ, and your name be glorified, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

FIRST READING: MICAH 6:6-8

"With what shall I come before the LORD, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?" He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 67

May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us, Selah

**that your way may be known upon earth,  
your saving power among all nations.**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

**Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the peoples with  
equity and guide the nations upon earth. Selah**

Let the peoples praise you, O God; let all the peoples praise you.

**The earth has yielded its increase; God, our God, has blessed us.**

May God continue to bless us; let all the ends of the earth revere him.

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 3:12-17

Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus. Let those of us then who are mature be of the same mind; and if you think differently about anything, this too God will reveal to you. Only let us hold fast to what we have attained.

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST JOHN, THE 13<sup>TH</sup> CHAPTER (12-17)

**Glory to you, O Lord.** After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, “Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON ..... Bishop Jim Gonia, ELCA-Rocky Mountain Synod

HYMN OF THE DAY *“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”* .....#551

INSTALLATION OF DEACON RO FESSER

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Pastor Deb Abbott, North Colorado Conference Co-Dean*

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creation. *A brief silence* For the mission of the church, that in faithful witness it may proclaim the gospel and in humble love, serve all in need: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For Deacon Ro, newly installed, that, sustained by your Holy Spirit, she may carry out this ministry with joy and a spirit of bold trust, serve your people, build up your church, and glorify your name: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For all ministers of word and sacrament; for all ministers of word and service; for our partners in outdoor ministry, campus ministry, and senior care ministry; for Bishop Jim; that they may lead your people and support one another in serving Christ; for interns and student ministers, as they are just beginning fall studies and internships, Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the nations of the world and their leaders, that they may work for justice and promote the dignity and freedom of every person: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, the lonely, the forgotten, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all who are in danger; that they may be relieved and protected: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the glorious company of all the saints, those who have died in faith and those who live in certain hope, we praise you. That their witness may give us courage until the day of Jesus Christ: Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

#### PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

HYMN: “*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love*”.....#708

GREAT THANKSGIVING .....page 107

WORDS OF INSTITUTION.....page 108

#### LORD’S PRAYER

“*Lamb of God*”.....page #112

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

#### BLESSING

The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God.**

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!  
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won-drous-ly reign - ing  
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;  
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.  
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.  
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,  
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been  
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do  
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
if with his love he be - friend you.  
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: LOBE DEN HERREN, *Ernewerten Gesangbuch*, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

## The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve



1 The Spir - it sends us forth to serve; we go in  
 2 We go to com - fort those who mourn and set the  
 3 We go to be the hands of Christ, to scat - ter  
 4 Then let us go to serve in peace, the gos - pel



Je - sus' name to bring glad tid - ings  
 bur - dened free; where hope is dim, to  
 joy like seed and, all our days, to  
 to pro - claim. God's Spir - it has em -



to the poor, God's fa - vor to pro - claim.  
 share a dream and help the blind to see.  
 cher - ish life, to do the lov - ing deed.  
 pow - ered us; we go in Je - sus' name.

## Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

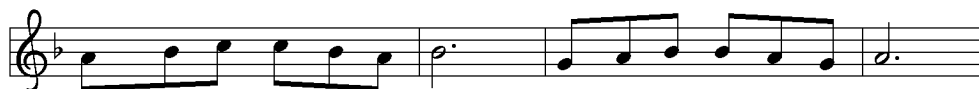
*Refrain*



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent-ly wash - es their feet,  
 2 Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,  
 3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;  
 4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent-ly wash-ing their feet:

*Refrain*



mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.  
 neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.  
 all these are neigh - bors to us and you.  
 this is the way we will live with you.

## Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



- 1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
- 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
- 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light
- 4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:  
still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,  
to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;  
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,  
hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.  
by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.  
stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.  
that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

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