



Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

October 1, 2023

9:30 am

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP

GREETING

L The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

A And also with you.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

A Amen.

L Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

L Steadfast and faithful God,

A 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 and Lord. Amen.

L 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.

A Amen.

SLC TOP 12 HYMN COUNTDOWN

#12

KYRIE

"In All Our Grief"

ELW 615, v. 1

HYMN OF PRAISE

"You Are Holy"

ELW 525

(sung twice, second time in Canon)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L The Lord be with you.

A And also with you.

L Let us pray, God of love,

A giver of life, you know our frailties and failings. Give us your grace to overcome them, keep us from those things that harm us, and guide us in the way of salvation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: EZEKIEL 18:1-4, 25-32

Pew Bible Pg. #685

L The Word of the Lord.

A Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 2:1-13

¹If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, ²make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. ⁵Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, ⁷but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, 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 should bend, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹and every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. ¹²Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

L The Word of the Lord.

A Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 174

L The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.

A Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 21:23-32

²³When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” ²⁴Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. ²⁵Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?”

And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’”²⁶ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.”²⁷ So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.”²⁸ “What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’”²⁹ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went.³⁰ The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go.³¹ Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you.”³² For 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 after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

L The Gospel of the Lord.

A Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

“Testing Authority”

Pastor Aaron Holmgren

TOP 12 HYMN COUNTDOWN

#11

APOSTLES’ CREED

L God has made us God’s people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

A I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L Merciful God,

A receive our prayer.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L The peace of the Lord be with you always.

A And also with you.

OFFERING

“Lord Keep Me Steadfast”

Chancel Choir

(Offering baskets are located in back of the sanctuary)

SLC PLEDGE DRIVE BREAK

OFFERING PRAYER

L Generous God,

A you have given us life, this community, and these gifts of the earth that become the means of your grace. Move in our hearts, that we might use your gifts to bring hope and blessing wherever we go, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION**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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L Come to the table. Feast on God’s abundant life for you.

A Amen.

DISTRIBUTION**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

“Lamb of God”

ELW 336

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L We thank you, O God,

A that you have fed us at your banqueting table with bread and wine beyond compare, the very life of Christ for us. Send your Spirit with us now, that we may set the captive free, use your gifts to build one another up, and in everything reflect your glory revealed in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

BLESSING**TOP 12 HYMN COUNTDOWN**

#10

DISMISSAL

L Go in Peace. Christ is with you.

A Thanks be to God!

Welcome Guests & Visitors!

We hope you found the worship service meaningful. If you or someone you know would like information about Salem; program offerings, perhaps looking for a church home or some other need: Please contact the church office (651-457-6661) or Diane Hueller (651-451-0307)