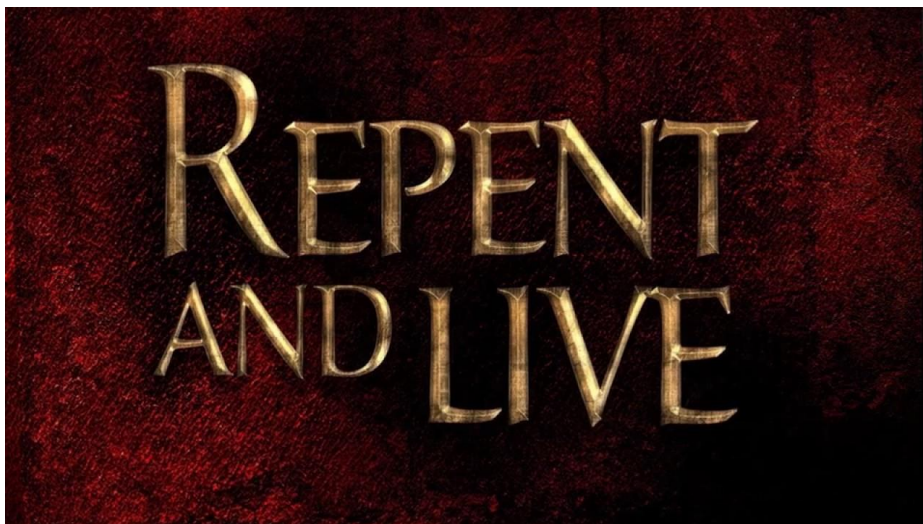




Risen Christ Lutheran Church
18th Sunday after Pentecost Worship
October 1, 2023 9:30am

**YOU ARE IN GOD'S SANCTUARY. AS YOU ENTER,
PLEASE SIT QUIETLY, READ THROUGH YOUR WORSHIP
FOLDER, AND PREPARE FOR WORSHIP.**



***Risen Christ Lutheran Church
46250 Ann Arbor Road Plymouth, MI 48170
734.453.5252 www.risenchrist.info***

ABOUT HOLY COMMUNION – (2nd & 4th Sundays) We believe: that Christ’s body and blood are truly present for forgiveness and spiritual strength, that God desires our sincere confession, continuous seeking and giving forgiveness and, that being genuine in taking Communion so that we not harm ourselves by taking it in an unworthy manner. If you believe the above, are a baptized believer who trusts in the death and resurrection of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins, and have examined yourself, you are welcome to commune with us. Please talk to Pastor if you have any questions. The bread is offered before the “individual” and “common” cups of wine. (Note: White Non-Alcoholic Wine is in the center of the tray.)

OFFERING – Through the offerings of His faithful people, our Lord provides for the ongoing work of His Church. If you are a visitor, we are glad that you came to be served by the Lord this day. If you choose to contribute to the ongoing work of the Gospel, we give thanks that God has moved you to contribute toward the work of sharing the Gospel here in Plymouth and around the world! You can also take advantage of Online Giving by visiting www.RisenChrist.info

A WORD TO OUR GUESTS – Welcome and thank you for coming. Please complete a Worship Card and place it in the offering plate. Pastor will send you a welcome card. Please indicate that you “desire” a call for any further contact.

Large Print Bulletins – Available from an usher.

Listening Assistance Devices – Available at the Sound Booth.

Parent Room – A row of seating and plenty of area for standing or walking is available in the Welcome Area/Lobby (“Narthex”)

For Children – Children’s Book Cart for Worship: Available in the Welcome Area.

Welcome and Announcements

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name

1. All hail the pow’r of Jesus’ name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem
And crown Him Lord of all.

2. Ye seed of Israel’s chosen race,
Ye ransomed from the fall,
Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him Lord of all.
Hail Him who saves you by His grace
And crown Him Lord of all.

3. Let ev’ry kindred, ev’ry tribe,
On this terrestrial ball
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all.
To Him all majesty ascribe
And crown Him Lord of all.

4. Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
We at His feet may fall!
We’ll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all.
We’ll join the everlasting song
And crown Him Lord of all.

Opening Sentences

Psalm 68:1, 3, 19–20, 34–35

- P** God shall arise, His enemies shall be scattered; and those who hate Him shall flee before Him!
- C** **But the righteous shall be glad; they shall exult before God; they shall be jubilant with joy!**
- P** Blessed be the Lord, who daily bears us up; God is our salvation.
- C** **Our God is a God of salvation, and to God, the Lord, belong deliverances from death.**
- P** Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel, and whose power is in the skies.
- C** **Awesome is God from His sanctuary; the God of Israel—He is the one who gives power and strength to His people. Blessed be God!**

How Majestic is Your Name

O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.
O Lord, our Lord, how majestic is Your name in all the earth.

O Lord, we praise Your name.
O Lord, we magnify Your name:
Prince of Peace, Mighty God,
O Lord God Almighty.

Text: Michael W. Smith, 1957

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Confession and Absolution

- P** Let us humble ourselves before God, confess our sins to Him, and ask His gracious forgiveness.
- C** **We now confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and before one another, that we are sinful human beings by nature and by deed. We have not always put God first and have too much followed the desires of our own hearts. We have used His holy name in ways that do not honor Him. We have been careless in our devotion and have not always honored those in authority over us. We have done violence to others in word and deed and have not always kept our thoughts, words, and deeds pure and honorable. We have taken what is not ours and have spoken that which is not helpful or true. We have wished for that which is not rightfully ours and have not put the best construction on all things and on all people. We pray God to have mercy on us, to forgive us all our sins, and to bring us to everlasting life. Amen.**
- P** Spare them, O God, who confess their faults. Restore those who are penitent, according to Your promises declared in Jesus Christ, our Lord. The almighty and merciful Lord grant us pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all our sins. As a called and ordained 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.
- C** **Amen.**

Introit

Psalm 147:1–5; antiphon: v. 6

- P** The LORD lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked to the ground.
- C** **Praise the LORD! For it is good to sing praises to our God; for it is pleasant, and a song of praise is fitting.**

P The LORD builds up Jerusalem; He gathers the outcasts of Israel.

C **He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.**

P He determines the number of the stars; He gives to all of them their names.

C **Great is our Lord, and abundant in power; His understanding is beyond measure.
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.**

P The LORD lifts up the humble; He casts the wicked to the ground.

Salutation and Prayer of the Day

P The Lord be with you. **C** **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Thy Word Is a Lamp

**REFRAIN: Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.**

**Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet
And a light unto my path.**

1. When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way,
Still You're there right beside me.
And nothing will I fear
as long as You are near.

Please be near me to the end. **Refrain**

2. I will not forget Your love for me, and yet
My heart forever is wandering.
Jesus, be my guide and hold me to Your side;
And I will love You to the end. **Refrain**

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Old Testament Reading (*Sermon text today*)

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.”

L This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

What Is God’s Good Pleasure? That You Live!

1. Every page of the Bible tells God’s delight in life.

2. People chasing their own pleasures is to blame for death.

3. God’s pleasure is still to turn us that we may live.

Psalm

Psalm 25:1–10

L To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

I *O my God, in You I trust; let me not be put to shame; let not my enemies exult over me.*

II *Indeed, none who wait for You shall be put to shame; they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.*

I *Make me to know Your ways, O LORD; teach me Your paths.*

II *Lead me in Your truth and teach me, for You are the God of my salvation; for You I wait all the day long.*

I *Remember Your mercy, O LORD, and Your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.*

II *Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to Your steadfast love remember me, for the sake of Your goodness, O LORD!*

I *Good and upright is the LORD; therefore He instructs sinners in the way.*

II *He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble His way.*

C **All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep His covenant and His testimonies.**

Epistle

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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Apostles' Creed

- C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Gradual and Verse

Psalm 34:9, 19 alt.; Matthew 28:18b

- P** Fear the LORD, you His saints, for those who fear Him lack nothing!
C Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him out of them all.
P Alleluia. All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. **C** Alleluia.

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Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:23–32

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.
C Glory to You, O Lord.

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** This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** Praise to You, O Christ.

Great is Thy Faithfulness

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not,
Thy compassions they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

CHORUS: Great is Thy faithfulness!
Great is Thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided,
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter,
and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

CHORUS

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

CHORUS

Sermon (See Old Testament Reading for Sermon Outline)

Offering – ONLINE GIVING available at www.RisenChrist.info – Whether you are a visitor or a member, please turn in a **Worship Card** so we may know whom the Lord has served with His Word.

Give Thanks with a Grateful Heart

Give thanks with a grateful heart,
Give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ His Son. (2x)

***And now let the weak say "I am strong,"
Let the poor say "I am rich,"
Because of what the Lord has done for us.***

Give thanks, give thanks.

Prayer of the Church

P Gathered as God's people in supplication, let us pray for the whole Church.

Gracious Father, we beseech You for Your Holy Church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is in error, reform it; where it is in need, supply it; where it is right, strengthen and confirm it; and where it is in conflict, heal its divisions. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Let us pray for the world in which we live.

ALL – Lord of all the worlds that are, Savior of mankind, we pray for the whole creation. Order the unruly powers, crush every tyranny, rebuke injustice, feed and satisfy the nations that we, laboring as Your people, may enjoy the good world that You have made and bring glory to Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Let us pray for the sick and the sorrowing.

O God of all comfort, we commend to You all who are afflicted in any way, [*especially . . .*]. Grant them the consolations they need and assure them that nothing can separate them from Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Let us pray for our students and all places of learning; let us also pray for friends and family.

ALL – O God our Father, bless all our students and teachers and the places where they learn. Inspire and encourage teachers and school administrators with a sense of purpose and responsibility that all may grow in grace. Bless those whom we love and enable us to love those whom You have blessed, that, drawing close to You, we may be drawn closer to one another. With gratefulness, we remember the saints who have gone before us and now are in Your eternal care. Teach us to follow in their ways of faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, since You have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications to You and have promised to hear us, fulfill our petitions as may be best for us according to Your grace and mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

C **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.**

King of Kings

1. In the darkness we were waiting
Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running
There was mercy in Your eyes
To fulfil the law and prophets
To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory... To a cradle in
the dirt

***CHORUS: Praise the Father
Praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory
Majesty
Praise forever to the King of kings***

2. To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the cross
For even in Your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died

3. And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

4. And the Church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel shall not faint
By His blood and in His Name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me ***CHORUS***

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Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4.
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