



Risen Christ Lutheran Church  
16<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost Worship  
September 17, 2023 9:30am

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



**Joseph Forgives His Brothers**

*"As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them. Genesis 50:20-21*

**Today we welcome our Guest Pastor Rev. Dan Ramthun  
from Guardian Lutheran Church, Dearborn, Michigan!  
Also, we welcome our music leaders today, Mr. and Mrs. Alan and Eileen Young.**

**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](http://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.

## **Preservice Music**

**As We Gather** – God’s creation is filled with amazing creatures, some of which dedicate their lives to making peoples’ lives fuller and better. Since 1942, the Guide Dogs for the Blind association has graduated more than 16,000 person and dog teams from its training programs. The canine guides assist their human teammates each day of their lives together. The guidance they give is expert and dependable. Good guidance in every stage of life is essential! Throughout Scripture, our Lord promises His presence and His divine guidance to sustain and direct His people. Paul summed up that blessed relationship very simply: “So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s” (Romans 14:8). Seeking the Lord’s guidance and responding to His promptings brings blessing to our lives!

## **Welcome, Announcements, and Greeting Each Other**

### **Invocation**

**P** In the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✝}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**G** Amen.

## Opening Sentences

Psalm 66:1-3a, 4-5, 8

- P** Shout for joy to God, all the earth;  
**C** **sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**
- P** Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds! . . .  
**C** **All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name."**
- P** Come and see what God has done:  
**C** **He is awesome in His deeds toward the children of man.**
- P** Bless our God, O peoples;  
**C** **let the sound of His praise be heard.**

## Praise to the Lord, the Almighty



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre -  
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly  
3 Praise to the Lord, who has fear - ful - ly, won - drous - ly,  
4 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de -  
5 Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me a -



a - tion! O my soul, praise Him, for He is your  
reign - ing And, as on wings of an ea - gle, up -  
made you, Health has be - stowed and, when heed - less - ly  
fend you; Sure - ly His good - ness and mer - cy shall  
dore Him! All that has life and breath, come now with



health and sal - va - tion! Let all who hear Now to His  
lift - ing, sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen All that is  
fall - ing, has stayed you. What need or grief Ev - er has  
dai - ly at - tend you. Pon - der a - new What the Al -  
prais - es be - fore Him! Let the A - men Sound from His



tem - ple draw near, Join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
need - ful has been Sent by His gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
failed of re - lief? Wings of His mer - cy did shade you.  
might - y can do As with His love He be - friends you.  
peo - ple a - gain; Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore Him!

## Confession and Absolution

**P** Let us now confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

**C** **O most gracious God, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We know well that we are by nature sinful and unclean. Daily we have done things we ought not to have done and have not done that which we are to have been doing as Your faithful servants. We have been unforgiving and loveless and careless in the stewardship of Your creation. We deserve Your punishment in this life and for eternity. Trusting in Your mercy, we come to You for forgiveness. Our trust is not in ourselves but in the merits of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. Have mercy on us, O God. Grant us remission of all our sins and guide us into renewed lives that reflect Your goodness and love.**

**P** God is indeed gracious and merciful and hears our supplications. By the command of my Lord Jesus Christ and as His called and ordained servant, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## Introit

*Psalms 143:1–2; antiphon: v. 9*

**P** Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

**C** **I have fled to You for refuge!**

**P** Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

**C** **In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your righteousness!**

**P** Enter not into judgment with Your servant,

**C** **for no one living is righteous before 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.**

**P** Deliver me from my enemies, O LORD!

**C** **I have fled to You for refuge!**

## Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

## Prayer of the Day

**P** Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, the author of all godliness, hear the devout prayers of Your Church, especially in times of persecution, and grant that what we ask in faith we may obtain; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## Old Testament Reading *(Sermon text for today.)*

Genesis 50:15–21

<sup>15</sup>When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." <sup>16</sup>So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died, <sup>17</sup>'Say to Joseph, Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you.' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. <sup>18</sup>His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." <sup>19</sup>But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? <sup>20</sup>As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. <sup>21</sup>So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 103:1–12

<sup>1</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and all that is within me,  
bless his holy name!

**<sup>2</sup>Bless the LORD, O my soul,  
and forget not all his benefits,**

<sup>3</sup>who forgives all your iniquity,  
who heals all your diseases,

**<sup>4</sup>who redeems your life from the pit,  
who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,**

<sup>5</sup>who satisfies you with good  
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

**<sup>6</sup>The LORD works righteousness  
and justice for all who are oppressed.**

<sup>7</sup>He made known his ways to Moses,  
his acts to the people of Israel.

**<sup>8</sup>The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

<sup>9</sup>He will not always chide,  
nor will he keep his anger forever.

**<sup>10</sup>He does not deal with us according to our sins,  
nor repay us according to our iniquities.**

<sup>11</sup>For as high as the heavens are above the earth,  
so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him;

**<sup>12</sup>as far as the east is from the west,  
so far does he remove our transgressions from us.**

## Epistle

*Romans 14:1–12*

<sup>1</sup>As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. <sup>2</sup>One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls. And he will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make him stand.

<sup>5</sup>One person esteems one day as better than another, while another esteems all days alike. Each one should be fully convinced in his own mind. <sup>6</sup>The one who observes the day, observes it in honor of the Lord. The one who eats, eats in honor of the Lord, since he gives thanks to God, while the one who abstains, abstains in honor of the Lord and gives thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>For none of us lives to himself, and none of us dies to himself. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord. So then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, that he might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.

<sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; <sup>11</sup>for it is written,

“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me,  
and every tongue shall confess to God.”

<sup>12</sup>So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual and Verse

*Psalms 34:9, 19 alt.; Matthew 6:14*

**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. If you forgive others their trespasses,

**C** **your heavenly Father will also forgive you. Alleluia.**

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 18:21–35*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the eighteenth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>21</sup>Peter came up and said to [Jesus], “Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?” <sup>22</sup>Jesus said to him, “I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven.

<sup>23</sup>“Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. <sup>24</sup>When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. <sup>25</sup>And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. <sup>26</sup>So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, ‘Have patience with me, and I

will pay you everything.’<sup>27</sup> And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt.<sup>28</sup> But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, ‘Pay what you owe.’<sup>29</sup> So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, ‘Have patience with me, and I will pay you.’<sup>30</sup> He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt.<sup>31</sup> When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place.<sup>32</sup> Then his master summoned him and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me.’<sup>33</sup> And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?’<sup>34</sup> And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt.<sup>35</sup> So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart.”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

### When Peace, like a River



1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way; When  
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, Let  
 3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; My  
 4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The



sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast  
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, That Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
 sin, not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I  
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.  
 help - less es - tate And hath shed His own blood for my soul.  
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
 Lord shall de - scend; E - ven so it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*



It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

**Sermon – “I Forgive You”** based on Genesis 50:15–21 by Pr. Dan Ramthun, Guest Preacher and a Pastor at Guardian Lutheran Church and School in Dearborn, Michigan (Seminary Classmate of Pr. Rennie)

## **Apostles' Creed**

**☩ 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.**

**Offering – ONLINE GIVING** available at [www.RisenChrist.info](http://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.

### **Create in Me a Clean Heart**

Create in me a clean heart, O God  
and renew a right spirit within me  
Create in me a clean heart, O God  
and renew a right spirit within me

Cast me not away from Thy presence, O Lord  
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me  
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation  
and renew a right spirit within me

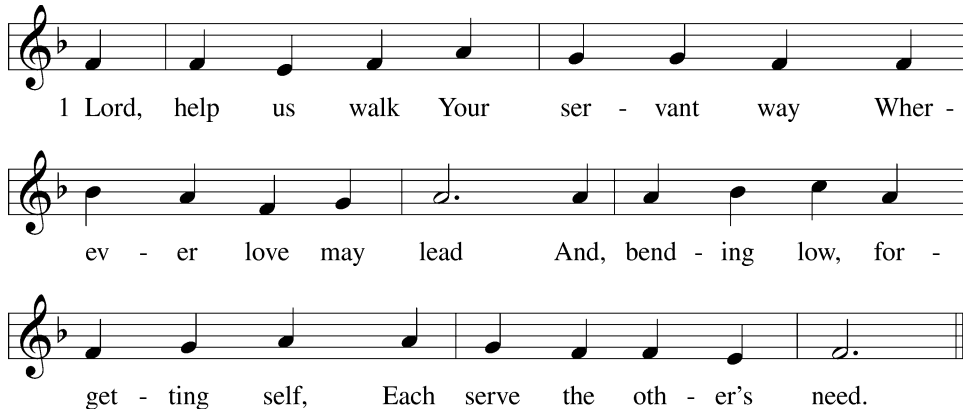
## **Prayer of the Church**

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

We pray for the Church, that God's people live confidently and joyfully share the message of salvation in word and deed. Grant that humility and mutual service be the hallmarks of our lives together.



## Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way



1 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -  
ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -  
get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923-2007

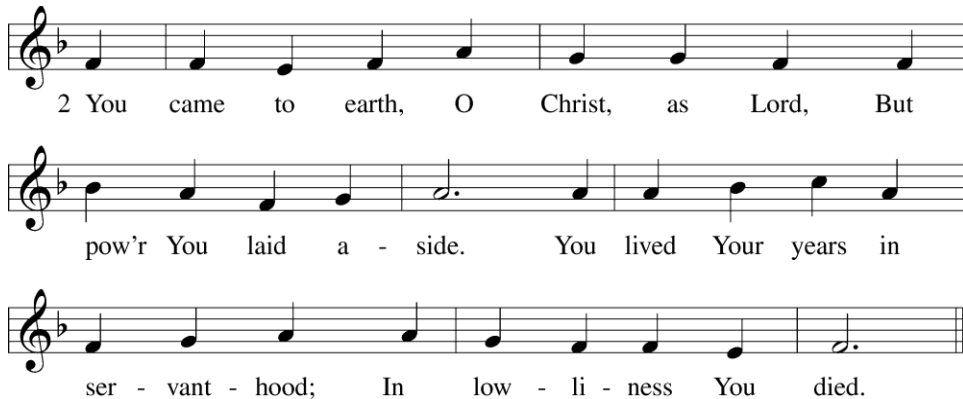
Tune: The Whole Booke of Psalmes, 1562, London

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Tune: Public domain

**P** We pray for the nations of the world, that the presence of Christ be experienced everywhere around the globe and that the Gospel may have free course in every land. We bless You for the dedicated service of missionaries and deployed church workers in so many places around the globe. Grant that their service may meet with success and be filled with joy.

## Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way



2 You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord, But  
pow'r You laid a - side. You lived Your years in  
ser - vant - hood; In low - li - ness You died.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923-2007

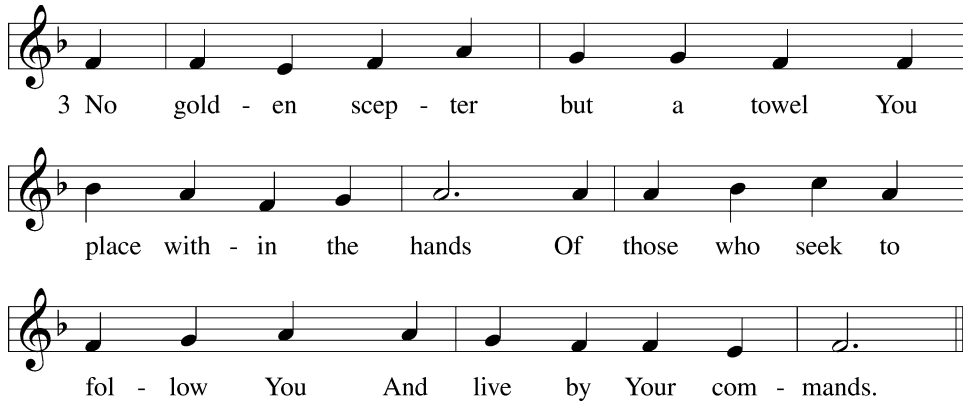
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**P** We pray for our families and for those who share in our Christian fellowship and join with us in worship. Grant that we be always ready to listen to others and to grant our forgiveness when it is needed. As we live in community together, grant that we never take others for granted but rather that we encourage the labors in which we work together to the glory of God.

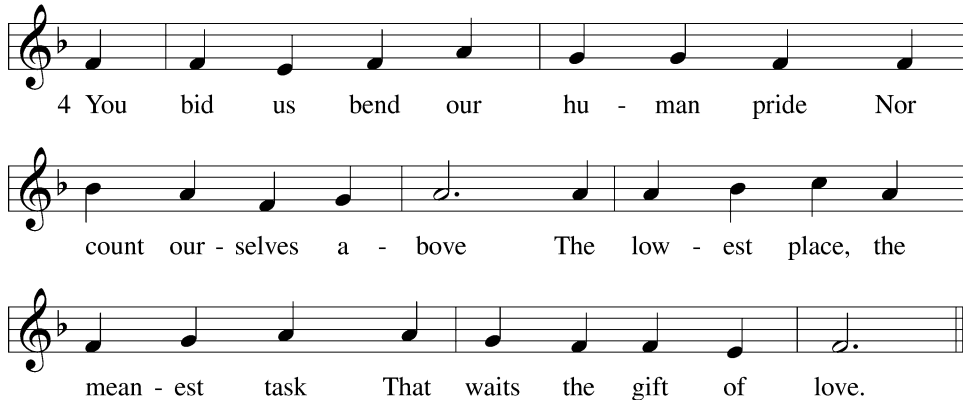
## Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way



3 No gold - en scep - ter but a towel You  
place with - in the hands Of those who seek to  
fol - low You And live by Your com - mands.

- ☐ We pray for those with special concerns and needs this day: those who are hospitalized or shut in, those who are grieving at this time, the unemployed and underemployed, the chronically ill, and all those whose needs are known and not known to us, [*especially...*]. Grant that we bring Your blessing to situations of need in all places, even when that service requires devotion and sacrifice on our part.

## Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way



4 You bid us bend our hu - man pride Nor  
count our - selves a - bove The low - est place, the  
mean - est task That waits the gift of love.

- ☐ Merciful God, we thank You for all those faithful people whose words and actions have guided us in the past, especially remembering those no longer with us on earth, who now share in Your eternal presence. We thank You for the times when forgiveness, offered by others, has blessed and sustained us. By the working of Your Holy Spirit, direct us to walk Your servant's way throughout our lives until that day when we stand in Your glorious presence in heaven.

☐ **Amen.**

## Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way

5 Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -  
ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -  
get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.

## 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.**

## There is a Redeemer

There is a Redeemer,  
Jesus, God's own Son,  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Holy One.

***Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son;  
And leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.***

Jesus, my Redeemer,  
Name above all names,  
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah,  
Hope for sinners slain.

***Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son;  
And leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.***

When I stand in glory  
I will see His face,  
And there I'll serve my King forever,  
In that holy place.

***Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son;  
And leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.***

## **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  $\text{✠}$  give you peace.
- C** **Amen.**

## **Postlude**

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