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✠ Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost ✠  
ORDER OF WORSHIP • OCTOBER 1, 2023 • 9:00 AM

✠ *Indicates the congregation should stand as able.*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETING

✠ OPENING HYMN      LORD, WHOSE LOVE IN HUMBLE SERVICE  
LBW #423

✠ INVOCATION

WL:      In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All:      **Amen.**

✠ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

WL:      Let us confess our sins to God, who loves us with an unending love, whose presence calms our fears, and whose word brings life.

*a time of silence for reflection*

WL:      Steadfast and faithful God,

All:      **in Christ Jesus you graciously give us all things,**

**yet we fear 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, even our own siblings.**

**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 path of your love;**

**in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.**

**Amen.**

WL:      Beloved in Christ, have no fear! The Almighty God, in mercy, has chosen to suffer and die for us. God's love and justice stretch beyond all understanding. God's mercy and compassion are beyond compare. In Jesus, God loves us unconditionally. In ✠ Christ, your sins are forgiven. Go now and serve our risen Savior with joy, singing songs of gladness!

All:      **Amen!**

✠ HYMN OF PRAISE      CANTAD AL SEÑOR / O SING TO THE LORD

*On this Hispanic Heritage Sunday, we will alternate singing verses in Spanish and English. If you are uncertain how to pronounce the Spanish text, listen to each first line, then sing what you have heard.*

Cantad al Señor un cántico nuevo.  
Cantad al Señor un cántico nuevo.  
Cantad al Señor un cántico nuevo.  
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God!  
¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!

For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.  
For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.  
For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.  
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God!  
¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!

Es él que nos da el Espíritu Santo.  
Es él que nos da el Espíritu Santo.  
Es él que nos da el Espíritu Santo.  
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God!  
¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!

So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.  
So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.  
So dance for our God and blow all the trumpets.  
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God!  
¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!

¡Jesús es Señor! ¡Amén, aleluya!  
¡Jesús es Señor! ¡Amén, aleluya!  
¡Jesús es Señor! ¡Amén, aleluya!  
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God!  
¡Cantad al Señor, cantad al Señor!

✠ PRAYER OF THE DAY

WL:      The Lord be with you.

All:      **And also with you.**

WL:      Let us pray: Almighty and eternal God, we thank you for the victory that is ours in Jesus Christ. Teach us to live daily the victory of the cross and resurrection, loving each other as you love us, and serving each other with joy and gladness; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All:      **Amen.**

## FIRST LESSON

JOSHUA 1:1-9

R: Our First Lesson for this Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost is from the first chapter of Joshua.

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

WL: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 8:14-32

R: Our Second Lesson is from Paul's letter to the Romans, the eighth chapter.

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory.

I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?

WL: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

✠ VERSE

DON'T BE AFRAID

**Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,  
My love is stronger than your fear.  
Don't be afraid. My love is stronger,  
And I have promised, promised to be always near.**

## ✠ HOLY GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 7:7-12

WL: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the seventh chapter.

All: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

“Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you, for this sums up the Law and the Prophets.

WL: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to You O Christ!**

## TODAY'S MESSAGE

### ✠ MESSAGE HYMN WHEN WE ARE LIVING / PUES SI VIVIMOS

*On this Hispanic Heritage Sunday, the cantor will sing the first stanza in Spanish. Please sing along if you desire.*

*The congregation will then sing all three stanzas in English.*

*Pues si vivimos, para él vivimos,  
y si morimos para él morimos.  
Sea que vivamos o que muramos,  
somos del Señor, somos del Señor.*

**When we are living, it is in Christ Jesus,  
and when we're dying, it is in the Lord.  
Both in our living and in our dying,  
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

**'Mid times of sorrow and in times of pain,  
when sensing beauty or in love's embrace,  
whether we suffer, or sing rejoicing,  
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

**Across this wide world, we shall always find  
those who are crying with no peace of mind;  
and when we help them, or when we feed them,  
we belong to God, we belong to God.**

## ✠ PROFESSION OF FAITH

*Apostles' Creed*

WL: With the church throughout the ages, let us boldly confess our faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

All: **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.**

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

## GATHERING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

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# SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

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## ✠ PREFACE

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

WL: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

WL: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

## ✠ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

## ✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

WL: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

All: **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.**

## ✠ PAX DOMINI

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

All: **Amen.**

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

## ✝ THE DISMISSAL

WL: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

All: **Amen.**

## ✝ CLOSING PRAYER

WL: Let us pray. God of power, God of plenty, you have fed us with the bread of life. 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.

All: **Amen.**

## ✝ BLESSING

WL: 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.

All: **Amen.**

## ✝ SENDING HYMN

CALLED BY WORSHIP TO YOUR SERVICE

TUNE: BEACH SPRING

**Called by worship to your service,  
forth in your dear name we go,  
to the child, the youth, the aged,  
love in living deeds to show;  
hope and health, goodwill and comfort,  
counsel, aid, and peace we give,  
that your servants, Lord, in freedom  
may your mercy know and live.**

## ✝ SENDING

WL: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

All: **Thanks be to God.**

**TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY**

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WHEN WE ARE LIVING / PUES SI VIVIMOS Text: st. 1, based on Romans 14:8; tr. Elise S. Eslinger, b. 1942;  
st. 2-3, Roberto Escamilla, b. 1931; tr. George Lockwood, b. 1946

Music: SOMOS DEL SEÑOR, Spanish traditional

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CALLED BY WORSHIP TO YOUR SERVICE (verse 4 of "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service) by Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984

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