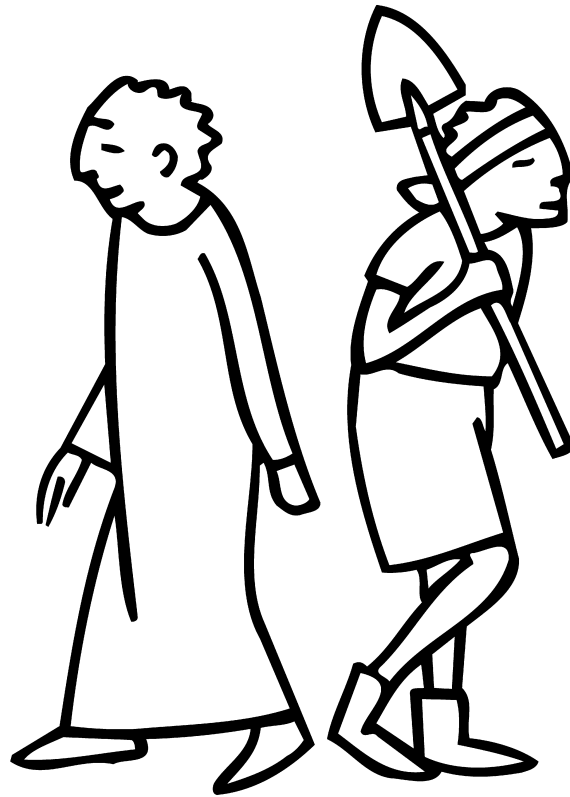


*18th Sunday of Pentecost*

*October 1, 2023*

*Mark 2:4 Adaptive Worship Service*



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Pastor: Rev. Jefferson Cox

Welcome! Jesus' parable about two sons who don't do what they say reveals surprises in the reign of God. In the reading from Ezekiel the people claim the ways of the Lord are unfair, while God offers repentance and new life. Paul urges us to look to Christ as a model of humility, putting the interests of others above our own. Nourished by the broken bread and shared cup, we offer our lives for the sake of our needy world.

## GATHERING SONG

## *All Are Welcome*

Verses 1 & 2

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly  
live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how  
hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and  
vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of  
*Refrain*  
Christ shall end di - vi - sions: All are wel - come,  
all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,  
and words are strong and true,  
where all God's children dare to seek  
to dream God's reign anew.  
Here the cross shall stand as witness  
and as symbol of God's grace;  
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus :  
All are welcome, all are welcome,  
all are welcome in this place.

## GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Congregation: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. God of love, 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. **Congregation: Amen.**

## FIRST READING

**Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

Introduction to the Lesson: *Ezekiel challenges those who think they cannot change because of what their parents were and did, or who think they cannot reverse their own previous behavior. God insistently invites people to turn and live?*

Reader: The Lord spoke to me 2 and said, “What is this proverb people keep repeating in the land of Israel?

‘The parents ate the sour grapes,

But the children got the sour taste.’

3 “As surely as I am the living God,” says the Sovereign Lord, “you will not repeat this proverb in Israel any more. 4 The life of every person belongs to me, the life of the parent as well as that of the child. The person who sins is the one who will die.

25 “But you say, ‘What the Lord does isn't right.’ Listen to me, you Israelites. Do you think my way of doing things isn't right? It is your way that isn't right. 26 When a righteous person stops doing good and starts doing evil and then

dies, he dies because of the evil he has done. 27 When someone evil stops sinning and does what is right and good, he saves his life. 28 He realizes what he is doing and stops sinning, so he will certainly not die, but go on living. 29 And you Israelites say, 'What the Lord does isn't right.' You think my way isn't right, do you? It is your way that isn't right.

30 "Now I, the Sovereign Lord, am telling you Israelites that I will judge each of you by what you have done. Turn away from all the evil you are doing, and don't let your sin destroy you. 31 Give up all the evil you have been doing, and get yourselves new minds and hearts. Why do you Israelites want to die? 32 I do not want anyone to die," says the Sovereign Lord. "Turn away from your sins and live."

*After the reading...*

Reader: The word of the Lord.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL LESSON**

## **Matthew 21:23-32**

Introduction to the Gospel: *After driving the moneychangers out of the temple (21:12), Jesus begins teaching there. His authority is questioned by the religious leaders, who are supposed to be in charge of the temple.*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew in the 21st chapter.

**Congregation: Glory to you, O Lord.**

23 Jesus came back to the Temple; and as he taught, the chief priests and the elders came to him and asked, "What right do you have to do these things? Who gave you such right?"

24 Jesus answered them, "I will ask you just one question, and if you give me an answer, I will tell you what right I have to do these things. 25 Where did John's right to baptize come from: was it from God or from human beings?" They started to argue among themselves, "What shall we say? If we answer, 'From God,' he will say to us, 'Why, then, did you not believe John?' 26 But if we say, 'From human beings,' we are afraid of what the people might do, because they are all convinced that John was a prophet." 27 So they answered Jesus, "We don't know." And he said to them, "Neither will I tell you, then, by what right I do these things. 28 "Now, what do you think? There was once a man who had two sons. He went to the older one and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.' 29 'I don't want to,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. 30 Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. 'Yes, sir,' he answered, but he did not go. 31 Which one of the two did what his father wanted?" "The older one," they answered. So Jesus said to them, "I tell you: the tax collectors and the prostitutes

are going into the Kingdom of God ahead of you. 32 For John the Baptist came to you showing you the right path to take, and you would not believe him; but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him. Even when you saw this, you did not later change your minds and believe him.

*After the reading...*

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord. **Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## SERMON

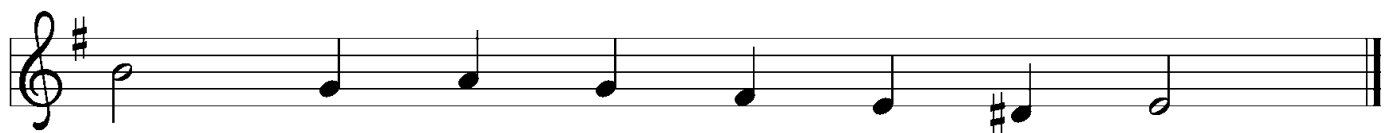
### HYMN OF THE DAY *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word* verses 1 and 2



1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your word; curb those who  
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are  
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and



by de - ceit or sword would wrest the king - dom from your Son  
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your ho - ly church, that we  
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal strife



and bring to naught all he has done.  
may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.  
and lead us out of death to life.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.  
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Worship Leader: Remembering the caring and generous works of God, we pray for the church, creation, and the needs of our neighbors.

*A brief silence.*

Prayer Leader: We put our trust in you as we pray for the church. Give bishops, pastors, deacons, and teachers the gifts of wisdom and discernment. Be with them in bold truth and faithful witness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: Teach us your paths as we pray for this congregation. Be at work in us and unite us in your love as we labor together for the sake of the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

**Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Prayer Leader: Trusting your goodness, we pray for all caregivers and people who are sick or suffering in any way. We pray especially for those on our prayer list, those suffering from war and terror such as the people of Ukraine and victims of mass shootings, those suffering from natural and manmade disasters including hurricanes, blizzards, floods, and chemical spills, & and these people and circumstances we name now..... and those we name now with our lips or in our hearts ..... Give them encouragement and consolation in your presence. Lord, in your mercy, **Congregation: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Remember us according to your steadfast love as we offer these and the prayers of our heart, trusting in your compassion made known through Jesus Christ. **Congregation: Amen.**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Pastor: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## **HOLY COMMUNION**

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

**Congregation: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name.

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.



Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.



Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Congregation: Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Pastor:** Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray in the language closest to our hearts.

**Congregation:** 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.

## TABLE BLESSING (*AFTER COMMUNION IS SERVED*)

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Congregation: Amen.**

## PRAYERS AFTER COMMUNION

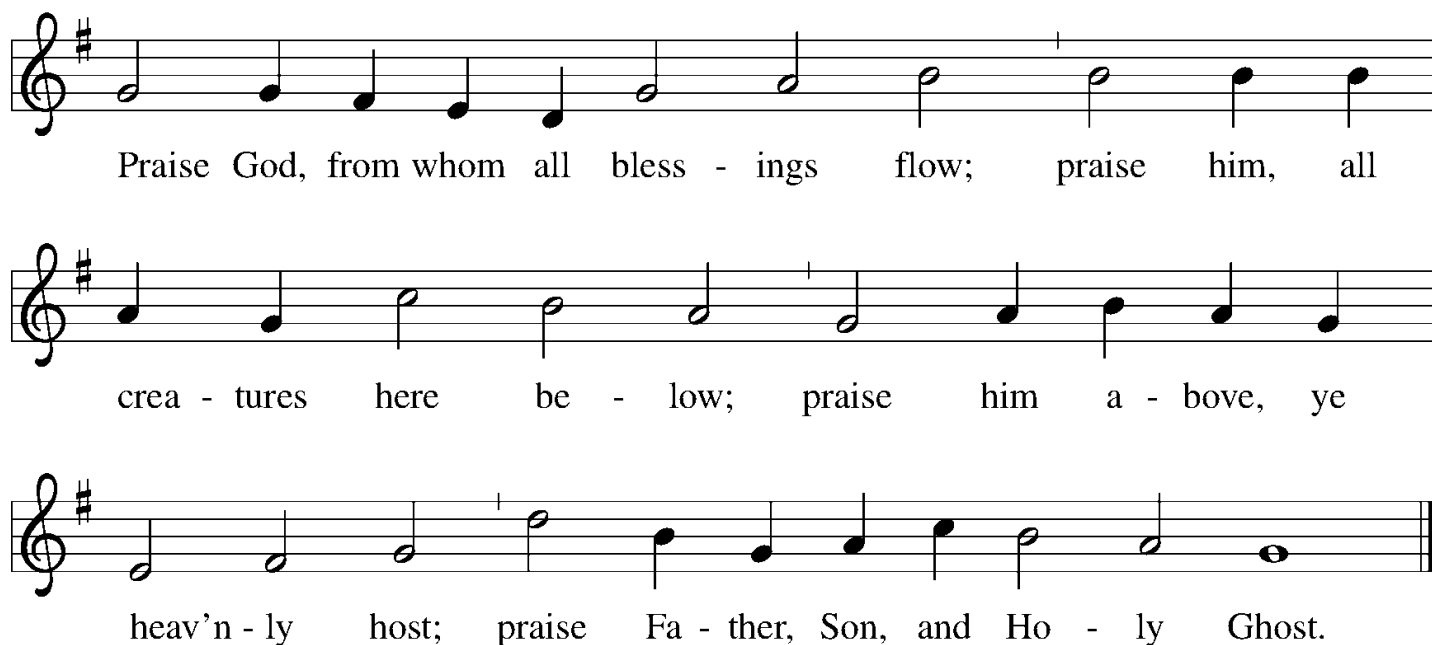
Pastor: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another. Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, help those who go to share your word and sacrament with those who are sick, homebound, or imprisoned. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your everlasting presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Congregation: Amen.**

## BLESSING

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

### *The Doxology*



The musical notation for 'The Doxology' is presented in three staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics 'Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all'. The second staff contains 'creatures here below; praise him above, ye'. The third staff contains 'heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.' and ends with a double bar line.

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all  
creatures here below; praise him above, ye  
heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

## **DISMISSAL**

Pastor: Together we have heard God's Word and shared in the Lord's Supper, we have given and have been forgiven. Now as this service of worship is ending, this week's service to the world is beginning! Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

## **POSTLUDE**

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