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**Sunday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023**  
**The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost**

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Service Theme  
***A STORY OF SPIRITUAL INSINCERITY***

You have maybe heard the accusation or perhaps even made it yourself: “He’s so fake!” That charge claims someone’s friendliness or kindness is a sham. Such insincerity bothers us. We would generally rather someone be honest about how they feel about us than be fake. Through a story Jesus teaches us that God feels the same. God doesn’t want us to simply go through religious motions like some sort of show. He sees right through that. God’s desire is that our repentance would demonstrate sincere sorrow over sin. God wants us to see the grace and forgiveness he has shown us in Christ, and in response, to love him back deeply and sincerely.

## I Sing as I Arise Today



1 I sing as I a - rise to - day, I  
 2 The word of God to be my speech, The  
 3 The work of God to be my joy, The  
 4 I sing as I a - rise to - day; I



call on my Cre - a - tor's might: The  
 hand of God to be my stay, The  
 house of God to be my rest, The  
 cry out my Re - deem - er's name: Lord



will of God to be my guide, The  
 shield of God to be my strength, The  
 grace of God to be my song, The  
 Je - sus Christ, my hope, my all, To -



eye of God to be my sight,  
 path of God to be my way,  
 praise of God to be my best.  
 day and ev - er - more the same.

**Order of Service**  
 Common Service (p.15)

Invocation

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** *(sing)* Amen.

Confession and Absolution

**M:** Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C:** Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

**C:** *(sing)* Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us. Lord, have mercy on us.

**M:** God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called 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:** *(sing)* Amen.

**M:** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**C:** *(sing)* glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.  
We praise you, we bless you, we worship you,  
we glorify you, we give thanks to you, your great glory,  
O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father almighty.  
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,  
you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
You take away the sin of the world; receive our prayer.  
You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.  
For you only are holy; you only are the Lord.  
You only, O Christ, with the Holy Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

#### Prayer of the Day

**M:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** *(sing)* And also with you.

**M:** Let us pray.

Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** *(sing)* Amen.

First Reading  
Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32 (EHV)

*The prophet Ezekiel gives a strong warning to Christians who have grown dismissive of their sin. God wants sincere repentance that leads to true obedience.*

The word of the LORD came to me.

<sup>2</sup>What do you mean, you who keep repeating this proverb concerning the soil of Israel, “Fathers eat sour grapes, and their sons’ teeth are set on edge”? <sup>3</sup>As surely as I live, declares the LORD God, you will never again use this proverb in Israel. <sup>4</sup>Indeed, all souls are mine. The soul of the father is mine just like the soul of the son. The soul who sins is the one who will die.

<sup>25</sup>But you say, “The LORD’s way is not fair.” Listen now, house of Israel. Is it my way that is not fair? Is it not your ways that are not fair? <sup>26</sup>If a righteous man turns away from his righteousness and practices unrighteousness, he will die because of it. Because of the unrighteousness that he has practiced, he will die.

<sup>27</sup>But if a wicked man turns from his wickedness that he has done and practices justice and righteousness, he will preserve his life. <sup>28</sup>Because he has seen and turned away from all the rebellious acts that he had committed, he will surely live, and he will not die. <sup>29</sup>But the house of Israel says, “The LORD’s way is not fair.” Is it really my ways that are not fair, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are not fair?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore, I will judge each one of you according to his ways, O house of Israel, declares the LORD God. Repent and turn away from all your rebellious acts, so that you will not set out a stumbling block that makes you guilty. <sup>31</sup>Throw off from yourselves all your rebellious actions by which you have rebelled, and obtain a new heart and a new spirit for yourselves. Why should you die, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies, declares the LORD God. So repent and live!

Psalm  
25 (p. 74)



To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul;\*  
in you I trust, O my God.

Remember, O LORD, your great mercy  
and love,\*  
for they are from of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth and  
my rebellious ways;\*  
according to your love remember me,  
for you are good, O LORD.

***Refrain***

Turn to me and be gracious to me,\*  
for I am lonely and afflicted.

Look upon my affliction and my distress\*  
and take away all my sins.

Guard my life and rescue me,\*  
for I take refuge in 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.**

***Refrain***

Second Lesson  
Philippians 2:1-11 (EHV)

*Moved by Christ's love and empowered by the Spirit, we sincerely attempt to imitate the  
selflessness and humility of Jesus.*

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any affection and compassion, <sup>2</sup>then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being united in spirit, and having one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or empty conceit, but in humility consider one another better than yourselves. <sup>4</sup>Let each of you look carefully not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, let this attitude be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. <sup>6</sup>Though he was by nature God, he did not consider equality with God as a prize to be displayed, <sup>7</sup>but he emptied himself by taking the nature of a servant. When he was born in human likeness, and his appearance was like that of any other man, <sup>8</sup>he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross. <sup>9</sup>Therefore God also highly exalted him and gave him the name that is above every name, <sup>10</sup>so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, <sup>11</sup>and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

#### Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Alleluia. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you will not despise. Alleluia. (Psalm 51:17)

**C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

#### Gospel Lesson

Matthew 21:28-32 (EHV)

**C: Glory be to you, O Lord!**

*Through a story Jesus teaches that sincere love for God involves not just saying what God wants to hear but doing what God wants done.*

<sup>28</sup>“What do you think? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go work today in my vineyard.’ <sup>29</sup>He answered, ‘I will not,’ but later he changed his mind and went. <sup>30</sup>He came to the second and said the same thing. The second son answered, ‘I will go, sir,’ but he did not go. <sup>31</sup>Which of the two did the will of his father?”

They said to him, “The first.”

Jesus said to them, “Amen I tell you: The tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. <sup>32</sup>For John came to you in the way of righteousness, but you did not believe him. However, the tax collectors and prostitutes did believe him. Even when you saw this, you did not change your mind and believe him.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

#### Apostles Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.**



1 At the name of Je - sus Ev - 'ry knee shall  
 2 At his voice cre - a - tion Sprang at once to  
 3 Hum - bled for a sea - son To re - ceive a  
 4 Bore it up tri - um - phant With its hu - man  
 5 In your hearts en - throne him; There let him sub -



bow, Ev - 'ry tongue con - fess - him King of  
 sight, All the an - gel fa - ces, All the  
 name From the lips of sin - ners Un - to  
 light, Through all ranks of crea - tures To the  
 due All that is not ho - ly, All that



glo - ry now; 'Tis the Fa - ther's plea -  
 hosts of light, Cher - u - bim in heav -  
 whom he came, Faith - ful - ly he bore  
 cen - tral height, To the throne of God -  
 is not true. Crown him as your cap -



sure We should call him Lord, Who from  
 en, Stars up - on their way, All the  
 it Spot - less to the last, Brought it  
 head, To the Fa - ther's breast, Filled it  
 tain In temp - ta - tion's hour; Let his



the be - gin - ning Was the might - y Word.  
 heav'n - ly or - ders In their great ar - ray.  
 back vic - to - rious When from death he passed;  
 with the glo - ry Of that per - fect rest,  
 will en - fold you In its light and pow'r.

6 Christians, this Lord Jesus  
 Shall return again  
 In his Father's glory,  
 With his angel train;  
 For all wreaths of empire  
 Meet upon his brow,  
 And our hearts confess him  
 King of glory now.

## Sermon Text & Theme

Matthew 21:28–32 ... **Lord, help me be the child you want me to be.**

- 1) A child who is willing to repent.
- 2) A child who does your will.

Response: "Create In Me"

**C: (sing) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit. Amen.**

## Offertory Prayer

### Prayers of Thanks for the Angels

Heavenly Father, how great is your love to us in Christ Jesus. For the sake of his sacrifice on the cross, you have forgiven all our sins and assured us that we are your dearly loved children now and forever. Because we are heirs of salvation, you have sent your holy angels to serve us. When we feel weak and helpless, comfort us with the knowledge that your powerful angels surround us. When we are concerned about the welfare of our children and our fellow believers, remind us of your promise that guardian angels are also there to watch over them.

On various occasions you sent your archangel Michael to accomplish your purposes. As Michael once fought against the devil and his angels in heaven, assure us that your angels are still overcoming the powers of evil around us in the world. As you sent Michael to carry out your will for the nations of the ancient world, comfort us with the knowledge that your holy angels are still guarding and protecting your institutions of government and family. As you once sent Michael to protect the body of your servant Moses, help us realize that whether we live or die, your angels continue to watch over us and at last will carry our souls to heaven to be with you.

May more and more people experience the comforting presence of the angels in their lives. Cause those who are sick or in pain to understand that you and your angels are there to watch over them. Soothe those who are troubled with the knowledge that you and your holy angels are present in their lives. Calm those who are afraid with the assurance that you and your angels are there to protect them.

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

As the angels praise your name continuously, so move us to offer you our constant thanks and praise for all you have done and continue to do for us. Hear us for the sake of Jesus our Savior. Amen.



## Lord's Prayer

**C:** Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

## THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

**C:** *(sing)* **And also with you.**

M: Lift up your hearts.

**C:** *(sing)* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**C:** *(sing)* **It is good and right so to do.**

M: It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord *who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory.* Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

**C:** *(sing)* **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of heavenly hosts: heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he, blessed is he, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

## Word of Institution

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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

**C:** *(sing)* **Amen.**

**O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us your peace.  
Amen.**

### Distribution

### Thanksgiving

**C: *(sing)* Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace according to your word.  
For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared before the  
face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people  
Israel.**

**M: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.**

**C: *(sing)* And his mercy endures forever.**

### Final Prayer

**M: O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your  
Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us  
pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but  
will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day  
after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the  
Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**C: *(sing)* Amen.**

### Blessing

**M: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (+) give you peace.**

**C: *(sing)* Amen. Amen. Amen.**

# Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love



1 Je - sus! Name of won - drous love, Name all  
 2 Je - sus! Name de - creed of old, To the  
 3 Je - sus! Name of price - less worth To the  
 4 Je - sus! On - ly name that's giv'n Un - der  
 5 Je - sus! Name of won - drous love, Hu - man



oth - er names a - bove, Un - to which must  
 maid - en moth - er told— Kneel - ing in her  
 fall - en here on earth For the prom - ise  
 all the might - y heav'n Where - by all, to  
 name of God a - bove; Plead - ing on - ly



ev - 'ry knee Bow in deep hu - mil - i - ty.  
 low - ly cell— By the an - gel Ga - bri - el.  
 that it gave, "Je - sus shall his peo - ple save."  
 sin en - slaved, Burst their fet - ters and are saved.  
 this, we, too, Flee, O God, in faith to you.

## Announcements

### ***Church Cleaners:***

October 8 – Timothy // October 15 – Mark

### ***Flowers for Thanksgiving***

Congregational members are encouraged to purchase plant/plants of their choice (traditionally mums) and drop them off at the church by noon on Saturday, October 7th. As we did for Easter, members are then encouraged to take them home after worship on Sunday, October 15th, to reduce the amount of maintenance and watering. Thank you.

## DIVINE WORD'S TWO WEEK CALENDAR

<b>Su (1)</b>	<b>9:00 am</b> <b>10:30 am</b> 11:30 am <b>3:00 pm</b>	<b>Sunday School and Bible Class</b> <b>Worship &amp; Communion</b> First Fellowship <b>Worship and Communion in Poltimore</b>
We (4)	6:30 pm	“Test the Spirit’s” Bible Information Class.
Th (5)	10:30 am 6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Devotion at Longfield Manor Illuminé (at St. Paul’s) Youth Confirmation (W)
Fr (6)	3:00 pm 4:30 pm	Women’s Bible Study Youth Confirmation (D)
<b>Su (8)</b>	<b>9:00 am</b> <b>10:30 am</b> 11:30 am	<b>Sunday School and Bible Class</b> <b>Thanksgiving Worship</b> Coffee Hour
We (11)	6:30 pm	“Test the Spirit’s” Bible Information Class.
Th (12)	6:00 pm 6:30 pm	Illuminé (at St. Paul’s) Youth Confirmation (W)
Fr (13)	3:00 pm 4:30 pm 6:00 pm	Women’s Bible Study Youth Confirmation (D) Friday Fellowship
<b>Su (1)</b>	<b>9:00 am</b> <b>10:30 am</b> 11:30 am <b>3:00 pm</b>	<b>Sunday School and Bible Class</b> <b>Worship &amp; Communion</b> Coffee Hour <b>Worship and Communion in Poltimore</b>



## **Divine Word**

### **Evangelical Lutheran Church**

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1081 Greenbank Rd.,  
 Ottawa, ON., K2B 5A8  
 613-825-1629

[www.divinewordottawa.ca](http://www.divinewordottawa.ca)