

And he sat down and called
the twelve. And he said to them,

**IF ANYONE
WOULD BE FIRST,**

he must be last of all and servant of all.

MARK 9:35

Sunday, September 22, 2024

The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Service Theme

**FOLLOWERS OF CHRIST
ARE HUMBLE SERVANTS**

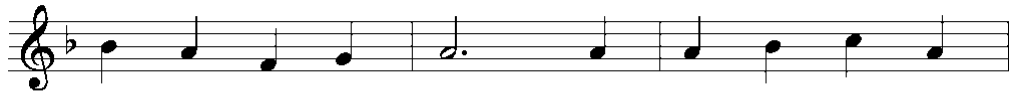
Humility and pride are polar opposites. Pride exalts self at the expense of God and others. Humility exalts God and others at the expense of self. Pride is the essential vice, for it increases one's hunger for all other sins. Humility increases one's hunger for the forgiveness and healing found in Christ. The one who is proud demands to be served. The one who is humble is not content unless serving others. St. Augustine described it this way: "It was pride that changed angels into devils; it is humility that makes men as angels." As we see all Christ did to serve us, our hearts melt. Within us grows a Christ-like obsession to serve others, without counting the cost, without any desire to be repaid. Those who are in positions of Christian leadership understand that their leadership can only be achieved through service. For followers of Christ are humble servants.

737 Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way

CW 737



1 Lord, help us walk your ser - vant way wher -
2 You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord, but
3 No gold - en scep - ter but a towel you
4 You bid us bend our hu - man pride nor
5 Lord, help us walk your ser - vant way wher -



ev - er love may lead and, bend - ing low, for -
pow'r you laid a - side. You lived your years in
place with - in the hands of those who seek to
count our - selves a - bove the low - est place, the
ev - er love may lead and, bend - ing low, for -



get - ting self, each serve the oth - er's need.
ser - vant - hood, in low - li - ness you died.
fol - low you and live by your com - mands.
mean - est task that waits the gift of love.
get - ting self, each serve the oth - er's need.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923-2007
Tune: The Whole Book of Psalms, London, 1562
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The Service *Setting Three (p. 188)*

In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Confession

CW 188

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,
I am sinful by nature
and have sinned against you in my thoughts,
words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;
I have not loved others as I should.**

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a
sinner.**

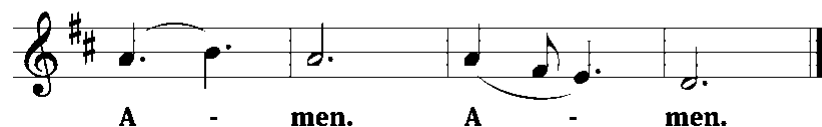
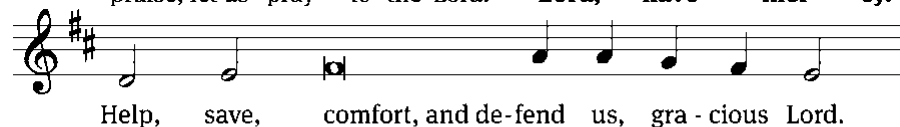
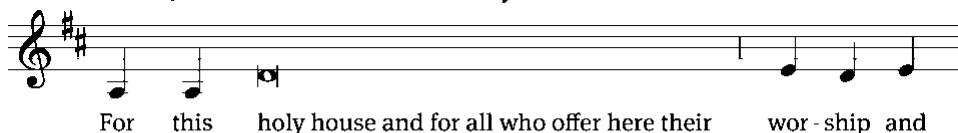
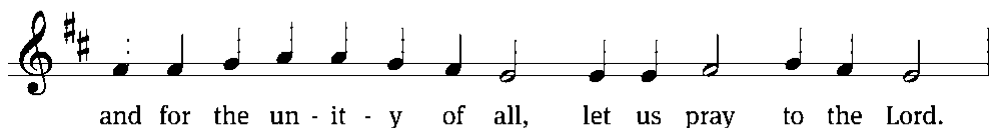
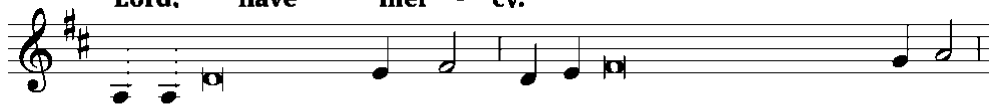
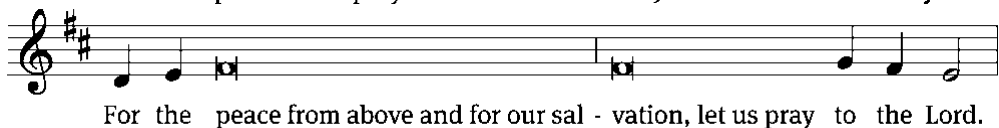
Silence for meditation and reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 190



Glory to God in the Highest

CW 191



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to



God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,



and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly



Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on
 us. You are seat - ed at the right hand of the
 Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer. For
 you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the
 Lord, you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus
 Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.
 Glo - ry to God in the high - est, glo - ry to
 God, and peace to his peo - ple on earth,
 and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

Tune: David Kauffman; William Gokelman

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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

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.

Amen.

First Reading

Numbers 12:1–15

The pride of Aaron, the high priest, and Miriam, a prophetess, led them to badmouth humble Moses and belittle Moses' wife, simply for being of another race.

¹Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman he had married (for he had married a Cushite woman). ²They said, “Has the LORD really spoken only through Moses? Hasn't he also spoken through us?” The LORD heard this.

³(Now the man Moses was very humble, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)

⁴Right then the LORD spoke suddenly to Moses, Aaron, and Miriam, “You three come out to the Tent of Meeting!”

The three of them came out. ⁵The LORD came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance to the tent. He called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward. ⁶He said, “Now listen to my words: If there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, will make myself known to him in a vision. In a dream I will speak with him.

⁷Not so, however, with my servant Moses. He is faithful in my whole household. ⁸With him I speak face-to-face, clearly, and not in riddles. He sees the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant, against Moses?" ⁹The LORD's anger burned against them, and he left.

¹⁰The cloud went up from above the tent, and immediately Miriam was leprous, as white as snow. Aaron turned to Miriam and saw that she was leprous.

¹¹Aaron said to Moses, "My lord, please do not hold this sin against us. We have acted foolishly. We have sinned. ¹²Please do not let her be like a stillborn infant that comes out of its mother's womb with its flesh half-eaten away."

¹³Moses cried out to the LORD, "God, please heal her, please!"

¹⁴The LORD said to Moses, "If her father had merely spit in her face, would she not be disgraced for seven days? Have her confined outside of the camp for seven days, and after that she can be brought back in."

¹⁵Miriam was confined outside of the camp for seven days, and the people did not set out until Miriam was brought back in.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

115A Not to Us, O LORD

Psalm 115A

Refrain

Not to us, O LORD, but
to your name be the glo - ry.

Tone

Why do the nations say, “Where / is their God?”

Our God is in heaven; he does whatever / pleases him.

The LORD remembers us and will / bless us:

He will bless his people / Israel,
he will bless those who / fear the LORD—
small and / great alike. *Refrain*

All you Israelites, trust / in the LORD—
he is their / help and shield.

House of Aaron, trust / in the LORD—
he is their / help and shield.

You who fear him, trust / in the LORD—
he is their / help and shield.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son
and to the Holy / Spirit,**

as it was in the be- / ginning,

is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain*

Tune: Michael D. Schultz

Setting: Michael D. Schultz

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Second Reading

James 3:13–18 NKJV

St. James teaches that ambitiously pursuing greatness is not just prideful but also demonic. True greatness in Jesus' kingdom is acting toward others in ways that are humble.

¹³ Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. ¹⁴ But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. ¹⁵ This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. ¹⁶ For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there. ¹⁷ But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, willing to yield, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality and without hypocrisy. ¹⁸ Now the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 9:35

Alleluia, alleluia. Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all. Alleluia!

Gospel

Mark 9:30–37

The greatest in Jesus' kingdom is the one humble enough to gladly serve a little child who could not possibly repay that favour.

³⁰They went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know this, ³¹because he was teaching his disciples. He told them, “The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill him. But three days after he is killed, he will rise.”

³²But they did not understand the statement and were afraid to ask him about it.

³³They came to Capernaum. When he was in the house, he asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?”

³⁴But they remained silent, because on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest.

³⁵Jesus sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, “If anyone wants to be first, he will be the last of all and the servant of all.” ³⁶Then he took a little child and placed him in their midst. Taking the child in his arms, he said to them, ³⁷“Whoever welcomes one of these little children in my name welcomes me. And whoever welcomes me, welcomes not just me but also him who sent me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

767 Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

CW 767



1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your
2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly,
3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en to our
4 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your



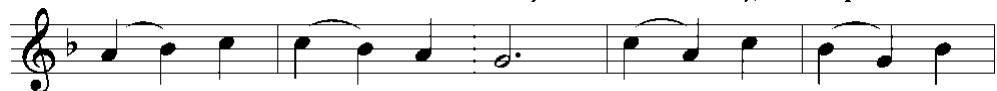
life - blood as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the
free - ly, of your own. With the sun - shine of your
hum - blest char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious
life - blood as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the



lost ones that tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;
good - ness melt our thank - less hearts of stone
sen - tence, “You have done it all for me.”
lost ones that tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.



and with that have free - ly giv - en bless - ings
till our cold and self - ish na - tures, warmed by
Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, that you
Give us faith to trust you bold - ly, hope, to



count - less as the sand to th' un - thank - ful
you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py
need what we can do, say - ing by your
stay our souls on you; but, oh, best of



and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand.
and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive.
poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?
all your grac - es, with your love our love re - new.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–1889, alt.
Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon - Mark 9:30–37

Jesus teaches us about greatness.

- 1) His own
- 2) Our own.

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.**

Prayer of the Church

Brief intercessory prayers may be added in a fitting place.

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

**Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day
by your grace.**

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [Especially bless . . . *here name the person and the cause of the petition.*] Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

Offering

(Go to page 171)

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Blessing

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 T give you peace.

Amen.

735 Before You I Kneel

CW 735



1 Be - fore you I kneel, my Mas - ter and Mak - er, to of - fer the
2 Be - fore you I kneel and ask for your good - ness to cov - er the
3 Be - fore you we kneel, our Mas - ter and Mak - er; es - tab - lish the



work of my hands. For this is the day you've giv - en your
work of my hands, for pa - tience and peace to shape all my
work of our hands, and or - der our steps to seek first your



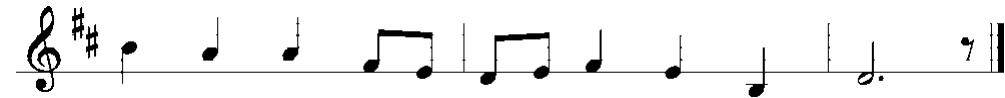
ser - vant; I will re - joice and be glad
la - bor; your grace for thorns in my path.
king - dom in ev - 'ry small and great task.



for the strength I have to live and breathe, for each
Flow with - in me like a liv - ing stream; wear a -
May we live the gos - pel of your grace, serve your



skill your grace has giv - en me, for the needs and op - por -
way the stones of pride and greed, till your ways are dwell - ing
pur - pose in our fleet - ing days, then our lives will bring e -



tu - ni - ties that will glo - ri - fy your great name.
deep in me and a har - vest of life is grown.
ter - nal praise and all glo - ry to your great name.

Text: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Jeff Taylor, b. 1957; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974

Tune: Stuart Townend, b. 1963; Jeff Taylor, b. 1957; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Keith Getty, b. 1974

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Announcements

Church Cleaners

September 29 – Barnabas // October 6 – Luke

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

- Su (22) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hour
12:00 pm Voter's Meeting
- We (25) 4:00 pm Communicating Christ (BIC)
5:30 pm "Test the Spirits" (BIC)
- Th (26) 6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)
6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
- Fr (27) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study: Romans
4:30 pm Confirmation (D)
6:30 pm Friday Fellowship
- Su (29) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship
11:30 am Coffee Hour
4:00 pm **Abiding Word Anniversary**
- We (2) 4:00 pm Communicating Christ (BIC)
5:30 pm "Test the Spirits" (BIC)
- Th (3) 10:30 am Devotion at Longfield Nursing Home
6:00 pm Illumine (at St. Paul's)
6:30 pm Youth Confirmation (W)
- Fr (4) 3:00 pm Online Women's Bible Study: Romans
4:30 pm Confirmation (D)
- Su (6) 9:00 am Sunday School / Bible Class**
10:30 am Worship (with Communion)
11:30 am First Fellowship
3:00 pm **Worship in Poltimore**

Acknowledgments

Setting Three from Christian Worship

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