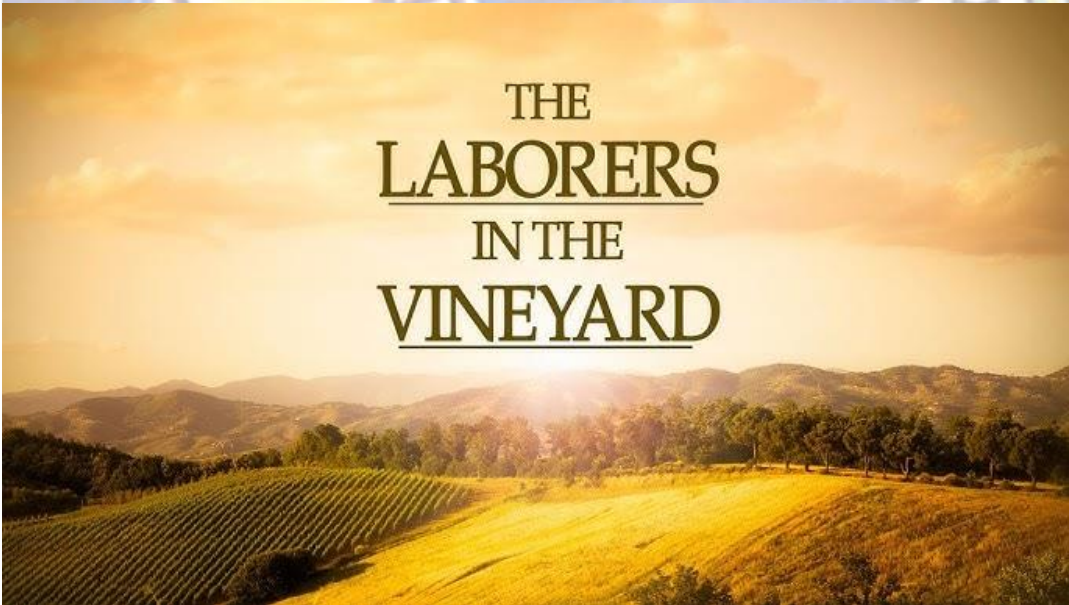




# THE POWER OF PARABLES



## THE LABORERS IN THE VINEYARD

# **SPIRITUAL INSINCERITY**

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost: October 1, 2023



# GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

## ***God's Word for this week***

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 parable 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.

## ***Before Worship***

Take time for prayer and to review the lessons and the service notes.

## ***General Information***

The restrooms are located in the fellowship hall.  
Visitors – welcome, and please take a moment and sign the guestbook in the fellowship hall.

## ***Serving in Worship***

Music: Rachel Halldorson  
Ushers: Josiah Kroll, Art Kutschied  
Pastor: Wayne Halldorson  
Pastor's Cell: 903-717-1922  
Pastor's Email: grace.tx.pastor@gmail.com

## ***Church Information***

Address: 6788 FM 115 - Scroggins, TX 75480  
Phone: 903-860-3749  
Website: [www.graceneearthelake.com](http://www.graceneearthelake.com)  
Email: [graceneearthelake@gmail.com](mailto:graceneearthelake@gmail.com)  
Facebook: [facebook.com/graceneearthelake1](https://facebook.com/graceneearthelake1)  
Prayer Requests: [prayers.grace.wels@gmail.com](mailto:prayers.grace.wels@gmail.com)  
text to 520-236-9673

### ***T-Loop Hearing Assistance***

*If you have a hearing aid with a T-coil, you can connect it to the T-Loop device installed throughout the church building. Headsets are available for anyone needing hearing assistance. Personal ear-buds can also be used with a head set. See Kris Martinson if you need assistance.*



# SERVICE OF MORNING PRAISE

779 *I Sing as I Arise Today*

CW 779



1 I sing as I a - rise to - day, I call on  
2 The word of God to be my speech, the hand of  
3 The work of God to be my joy, the house of  
4 I sing as I a - rise to - day; I cry out



my Cre - a - tor's might: the will of God to  
God to be my stay, the shield of God to  
God to be my rest, the grace of God to  
my Re - deem - er's name: Lord Je - sus Christ, my



be my guide, the eye of God to be my sight;  
be my strength, the path of God to be my way;  
be my song, the praise of God to be my best.  
hope, my all, to - day and ev - er - more the same.

## *Opening Blessing*

The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Amen.**

O Lord, open my lips,  
**and my mouth shall declare your praise.**

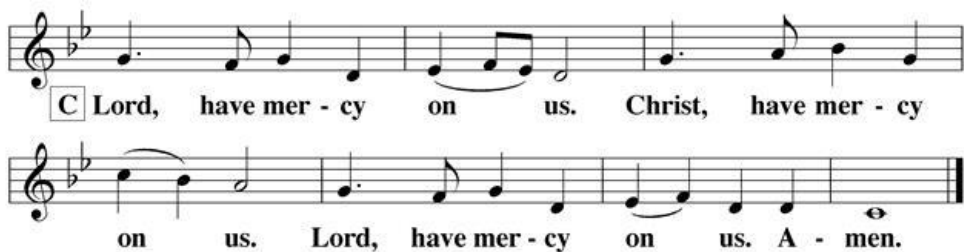
Hasten to save me, O God;  
**O Lord, come quickly to help me.**

## ***Confession & Absolution***

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:

**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 neglected the pure gifts of your grace, and have chased after selfish and worldly pursuits.**

**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.**

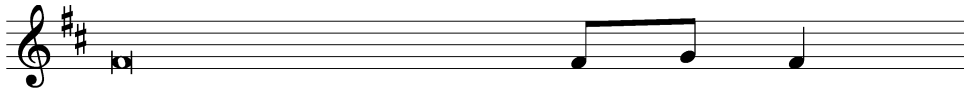


God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for all of our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the Name of the Father, and the Son †, and the Holy Spirit.

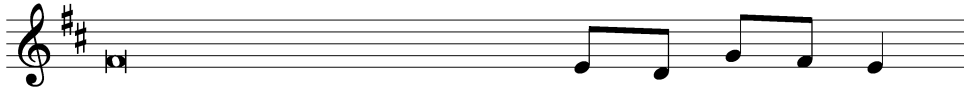
**Amen. We are ready to get to work in the vineyard of the Lord.**

# O Come, Let Us Sing to the Lord

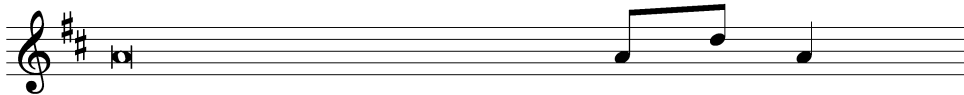
CW 208



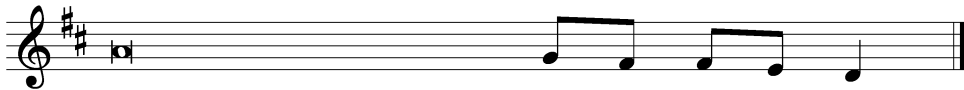
- 1 O come, let us sing to the Lord,  
2 For the Lord is a great God



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our sal - va - tion.  
2 and a great king a - bove all gods.



- 1 Let us come into his presence with thanks - giv - ing,  
2 The deep places of the earth are in his hand;



- 1 let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise.  
2 the heights of the hills are al - so his.

## 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.**

# THE WORD

## *First Reading*

Ezekiel 18:1–4,25–32

<sup>1</sup>The word of the LORD came to me: <sup>2</sup>“What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel:

‘The parents eat sour grapes,  
and the children’s teeth are set on edge’?

<sup>3</sup>As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. <sup>4</sup>For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die.

<sup>25</sup>Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear, you Israelites: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? <sup>26</sup>If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they have committed they will die. <sup>27</sup>But if a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they will save their life. <sup>28</sup>Because they consider all the offenses they have committed and turn away from them, that person will surely live; they will not die. <sup>29</sup>Yet the Israelites say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Are my ways unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust?

<sup>30</sup>Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. <sup>31</sup>Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? <sup>32</sup>For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!”

## ***Psalm of the Day***

### ***25A To You, O LORD, I Lift My Soul***

Psalm 25A

In you, LORD my God, I put my trust.

**I trust in you; do not let me be put to shame.**

Show me your ways, LORD, teach me your paths.

**Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my Savior.**

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

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

LORD, forgive my iniquity, though it is great.

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

Look on my affliction and my distress  
**and take away all my sins.**

### ***Second Reading***

Philippians 2:1–11

<sup>1</sup>Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, <sup>2</sup>then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. <sup>3</sup>Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, <sup>4</sup>not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

<sup>5</sup>In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

<sup>6</sup>Who, being in very nature God,  
did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

<sup>7</sup>rather, he made himself nothing  
by taking the very nature of a servant,  
being made in human likeness.

<sup>8</sup>And being found in appearance as a man,  
he humbled himself  
by becoming obedient to death—  
even death on a cross!

<sup>9</sup>Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,

<sup>10</sup>that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,

<sup>11</sup>and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

### ***Verse of the Day***

Psalm 51:17

**Alleluia. My sacrifice, O God, is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart you will not despise. Alleluia.**



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!



<sup>23</sup>Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

<sup>24</sup>Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. <sup>25</sup>John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ <sup>26</sup>But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”

<sup>27</sup>So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.”

Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

<sup>28</sup>“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

<sup>29</sup>“ ‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

<sup>30</sup>“Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

<sup>31</sup>“Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly 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 to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.



1 There is a Re - deem - er, Je - sus, God's own Son,  
 2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, name a - bove all names,  
 3 When I stand in glo - ry, I will see his face;



pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, Ho - ly One.  
 pre-cious Lamb of God, Mes-si - ah, hope\_ for sin - ners slain.  
 there I'll serve my King for-ev - er in \_\_\_ that ho - ly place.

*Refrain*



Thank you, O my Fa - ther, for giv-ing us your Son



and leav - ing your Spir - it till the work on earth is done.

Text: Melody Green, b. 1946

Tune: Melody Green, b. 1946, alt.

Text and tune: © 1982 Birdwing Music/Ears To Hear Music/Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publ., admin.  
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## *Sermon*

Matthew 21:28-32 *“Repentance Inspection”*

## 778 Father, We Praise You

CW 778 sts. 2-3



2 Mon - arch of all things, fit us for your man - sions; ban - ish our  
3 All - ho - ly Fa - ther, Son, and e - qual Spir - it, Trin - i - ty



weak - ness, health and whole - ness send - ing; bring us to heav - en,  
bless - ed, send us your sal - va - tion; yours is the glo - ry,



where your saints u - nit - ed joy with - out end - ing.  
gleam - ing and re - sound - ing through all cre - a - tion.

Text: tr. Percy Dearmer, 1867-1936; attr. Gregory I, c. 540-604

Tune: Antiphoner, Paris, 1681

Text and tune: Public domain

## *Offering*

### *Apostle's 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***

Father in heaven, you sent your Son, our Lord Jesus, to bring peace and hope to our fallen world. Already in eternity you planned to overturn the tyranny of Satan and the ravages of sin and you kept your promises to restore the perfection of paradise.

**Lead us to cherish your great mercy and hold to it as our priceless treasure.**

Lord Jesus, Lamb of God, we praise and adore you for offering your perfect life and innocent death to redeem the world from death and hell. You proclaimed the good news that sins are forgiven and life with God is restored and you called your followers to share the gospel with all people.

**Make us bold and confident to be witnesses to family and friends we know and love.**

Holy Spirit, Lord, and giver of life, through Word and sacrament you create and strengthen faith that trusts the promise of the Father and the work of his Son. You break down the barriers of resistance and rejection and bring the lost into the family of God.

**Empower and encourage us to speak about Jesus to neighbors and acquaintances.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

## ***Silent prayer***

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, move us by your great love to enter the mission fields near our homes and neighborhoods. Help us always to be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks us to give the reason for the hope that we have.

**Guide us, strengthen us, and bless us as we share the love of Jesus.  
Amen.**

Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies, that we may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### ***Lord's Prayer & Closing Blessing***

**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.**

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.  
**Amen.**



1 You're the Word of God the Fa-ther from be-fore the  
 2 Yet you left the gaze of an-gels, came to seek and  
 3 With a shout you rose vic-to-rious, wrest-ling vic-t'ry



world be-gan. Ev-'ry star and ev-'ry plan-et has been  
 save the lost, and ex-changed the joy of heav-en for the  
 from the grave, and as-cend-ed in-to heav-en, lead-ing



fash-ioned by your hand. All cre-a-tion holds to-  
 an-guish of a cross. With a prayer you fed the  
 cap-tives in your way. Now you stand be-fore the



geth-er by the pow-er of your voice. Let the skies de-  
 hun-gry, with a word you calmed the sea, yet how si-lent-  
 Fa-ther, in-ter-ced-ing for your own; from each tribe and



clare your glo-ry, let the land and seas re-joice!  
 ly you suf-fered that the guilt-y may go free!  
 tongue and na-tion you are lead-ing sin-ners home!

*Refrain*



You're the au-thor of cre-a-tion, you're the Lord of ev-'ry



man, and your cry of love rings out a-cross the lands.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ***Potluck / Ladies of Grace / Council***

Join us for lunch together after worship today! Thanks to all who bring food and help clean up. After the meal we'll have a joint devotion and then Council will gather in the sanctuary while the Ladies of Grace meet in the fellowship hall.

## ***Grace Treasurer & Church Cleaners***

The nominating committee is asking for your help to find a new treasurer (or a couple) to fill this vital role at Grace for 2024. Contact Pastor or Scott if you're interested or have questions.

Grace is also looking for more volunteers to get on the church cleaning rotation. If you're interested please speak to Vicki Crawford.

## ***Bible Classes***

Our Genesis class on Wednesday at 3 pm is going again – even if you haven't been attending this class regularly, now is a great time to jump in!

On Sunday mornings we've started a new series entitled: *Cruisin' through Corinthians*. We hope everyone can attend as we work through these amazing books of the Bible.

On the last Friday of each month we study Parables at 10:30 am (either at Grace or Shiloh) before the monthly lunches out.

## ***Oktoberfest***

You are all invited to an Oktoberfest fellowship event at the Kroll home on Saturday, Oct. 17 starting at 4 PM. Beer and brats will be provided. Please bring a side, beverage, or dessert to share. Please RSVP to Becca by Oct. 13th.

## ***Pastor's Schedule***

Due to Pastor's travelling this month communion will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays. It's also offered after every service on Sunday.

## ***Upcoming Schedule***

Today	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship
Today	11:00 am	Potluck / LoG / Council
Oct. 4	3:00 pm	Genesis Bible Class
Oct. 8	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship + Communion
Oct. 8-11	all day	Pastor in Milwaukee for meetings
Oct. 14	4:00 pm	Oktoberfest at Camp Shiloh
Oct. 15	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship
Oct. 18-26	all week	Pastor in Calgary AB
Oct. 22	10:00 am	Lay Led Worship (no communion)
Oct. 29	9 / 10 am	Bible Class / Worship + <b>Communion</b>

## ***Financial Update***

### Stewardship (as of **17Sep2023**):

General Fund Offerings:	\$97,484.91
Cumulative Budget Requirements:	\$107,532.83
Budgeted Balance	-\$10,047.92

### Actual Funds (as of **31Aug2023**) :

Alliance Bal:	\$6294.62
General Fund:	\$6,237.31

*Other funds exist, but have not been evaluated yet and may drive General Fund down.*

Pilgrim Bal:	\$36757.16
Stained Glass Fund:	\$0.00 (\$34,641.10 donated, \$26,536.00 expensed, remainder moved to GF in May2023)
School Fund:	\$34,458.61 (\$38,760.00 donated, \$4301.39 expensed)
Investment:	\$TBD

### ***Acknowledgments***

Morning Prayer from Christian Worship

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