



**TRUCKEE LUTHERAN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost – October 1, 2023**

*We invite you to participate in worship, reading the parts in bold print. ♪ means All Sing!  
\* We invite you to stand, as you are able, for sections marked with an asterisk.*

**♪ PREPARING FOR WORSHIP – “Because He Lives”**

**WELCOME**

Pastor Pat Mecham

This is the day that the Lord has made.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

**\* OPENING PRAYER**

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. Amen.

**\* ♪ GATHERING SONG – “The Church’s One Foundation”**

Congregation

**\* PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

***Time for silence and reflection***

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. **Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

**\* SHARING OF THE LORD’S PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*All are invited to share the peace of Christ in a way that you feel most comfortable, saying “The peace of Christ be with you.”*

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song. Lord, open our hearts and minds that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we may hear with joy what you say to us today. **Amen.**

**PSALM****Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16**

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching;  
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.  
I will open my mouth in a parable;  
I will utter dark sayings from of old,  
things that we have heard and known,  
that our ancestors have told us.  
We will not hide them from their children;  
we will tell to the coming generation  
the glorious deeds of the Lord and his might  
and the wonders that he has done.  
In the sight of their ancestors he worked marvels  
in the land of Egypt, in the fields of Zoan.  
He divided the sea and let them pass through it  
and made the waters stand like a heap.  
In the daytime he led them with a cloud  
and all night long with a fiery light.  
He split rocks open in the wilderness  
and gave them drink abundantly as from the deep.  
He made streams come out of the rock  
and caused waters to flow down like rivers.

**EPISTLE READING****Philippians 2:1-13**

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,

who, though he was in the form of God,  
did not regard equality with God  
as something to be exploited,  
but emptied himself,  
taking the form of a slave,  
being born in human likeness.  
And being found in human form,  
he humbled himself  
and became obedient to the point of death—  
even death on a cross.  
Therefore God also highly exalted him  
and gave him the name  
that is above every name,  
so that at the name of Jesus  
every knee should bend,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue should confess  
that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed me, not only in my presence, but much more now in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, enabling you both to will and to work for his good pleasure.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God!**

**\* ♪ PREPARING TO HEAR THE GOOD NEWS – “Blessed Assurance”**

Congregation

**\* GOSPEL READING      Matthew 21:23-32**

When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” Jesus said to them, “I will also ask you one question; if you tell me the answer, then I will also tell you by what authority I do these things. Did the baptism of John come from heaven, or was it of human origin?” And they argued with one another, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ But if we say, ‘Of human origin,’ we are afraid of the crowd; for all regard John as a prophet.” So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

“What do you think? A man had two sons; he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ He answered, ‘I will not’; but later he changed his mind and went. The father went to the second and said the same; and he answered, ‘I go, sir’; but he did not go. Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you in the way of righteousness and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him; and even after you saw it, you did not change your minds and believe him.”

The Gospel, the Good News of God.

**Thanks be to God!**

**MEDITATION – “Unity Through Humility”**

Pastor Pat Mecham

**♪ SONG IN RESPONSE – “Jesus Is Holding Sway”**

Congregation

**DEDICATION OF OFFERINGS AND PRAYER OF GRATITUDE**

Merciful Father,

**we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**\* PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Pastor Pat Mecham

*Please conclude your prayer with “Lord, in your mercy,” and all will respond, “Hear our prayer.”*

**\* 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.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**\* THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

**\* GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

**\* INVITATION AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

## SHARING OF THE BREAD AND CUP

♪ COMMUNION SONG – “One Bread, One Body”

Congregation

### \* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\* ♪ SENDING SONG – “Morning Has Broken”

Congregation

## PREPARING FOR OUR MISSION IN THE WORLD – ANNOUNCEMENTS *Birthdays/Anniversaries*

*We are called to make Christ known by our words and actions - in our church, in our local community, and throughout the world.*

### \* BENEDECTION

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

### \* SENDING

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### \* POSTLUDE

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**We thank Pastor Pat Mecham for leading our worship service today!**

We invite all to join us by giving to the ministry of TLPC. **We thank everyone who generously supports this ministry.** Gifts may be made online through our website at [TLPC.org](http://TLPC.org) or mailed to: **Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church, PO Box 10620, Truckee, CA 96162**

**Our congregation has a heart for missions: locally, nationally, and in God's world.** With your support we give to Sierra Community House (Hunger Relief, Crisis Intervention & Prevention, Family Support & Community Engagement, Mediation & Legal Assistance); North Tahoe–Truckee Homeless Services; Healthy Babies; International Health Partners Tanzania; Hands of Hope Zimbabwe; youth service trips to Nicaragua and Alaska; adult disaster trips locally and around the world; and the responsible, vigorous mission work of the Presbyterian Church USA and Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) in our nation and world. Additionally, during the pandemic, our congregation has supported local essential workers.

Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Washoe people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this country their home.

Truckee Lutheran Presbyterian Church



Follow Jesus. Love All. Serve Others.