



# GOD WANTS REAL REPENTANCE

*Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost*

*OCTOBER 11, 2020*

*Growing Together in Faith*

**OPENING HYMN**

*God Himself Is Present* | **CW 224**

**1 God himself is present—Let us now adore him  
And with awe appear before him.**

**God is in his temple—All within keep silence,  
Humbly kneel in deepest rev'ence.**

**He alone On his throne**

**Is our God and Savior; Praise his name forever!**

**2 God himself is present—Hear the harps resounding;  
See the hosts the throne surrounding.**

**“Holy, holy, holy” —Hear the hymn ascending,  
Songs of saints and angels blending.**

**Bow your ear To us here:**

**Hear, O Christ, the praises That your Church now raises.**

**INVOCATION**

**P:** The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**CONFESSION OF SINS**

**P:** We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

**C:** Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

**P:** God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

**C:** Amen.

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

**P:** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord. (Sung to tune CW 239)

**Glory be to God the Father, Glory be to God the Son,  
Glory be to God the Spirit, Great Jehovah, Three in One!  
Glory, glory While eternal ages run!**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P:** 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 Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

## *The Word*

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### FIRST READING

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

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 fathers 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 every living soul belongs to me, the father as well as the son—both alike belong to me. The soul who sins is the one who will die.

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

<sup>30</sup> “Therefore, O house of Israel, I will judge you, each one according to his 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, O house of Israel? <sup>32</sup> For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign LORD. Repent and live!

## RESPONSIVE SONG

*God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage* | CW 293

**God’s Word is our great heritage  
And shall be ours forever;  
To spread its light from age to age  
Shall be our chief endeavor.  
Through life it guides our way;  
In death it is our stay.  
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,  
We keep its teachings pure  
Throughout all generations.**

## SECOND READING

*2 Corinthians 13:5-8*

<sup>5</sup> Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? <sup>6</sup> And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test. <sup>7</sup> Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong. Not that people will see that we have stood the test but that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed. <sup>8</sup> For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

P: Alleluia. At the name of Jesus every knee should bow, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Alleluia.

## GOSPEL READING

*Matthew 21:28-32*

<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, “I tell you the truth, 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.

## CHILDREN’S SERMON

**1 All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! Let angels prostrate fall;  
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown him Lord of all.  
Bring forth the royal diadem And crown him Lord of all.**

**5 Oh, that with yonder sacred throng We at his feet may fall!  
We'll join the everlasting song And crown him Lord of all.  
We'll join the everlasting song And crown him Lord of all.**

**SERMON**

**THE 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.**

## OFFERING

*The members of Shepherd of the Bay Lutheran Church have joined together to do the Lord's work in this community and around the world. Visitors need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our ministry.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Lord of heaven and earth, you made all things beautiful. You have provided green forests and refreshing streams. You have arranged the orderly procession of day and night for our work and rest.

**C: Thank you for the mountains and the prairies, the roaring sea, and the gentle breeze.**

P: Thank you for roofs that shelter us, for clothing that protects us, and for food and drink. Thank you for our work, for projects that are done well, and for the approval of supervisors and teachers. Thank you for all who serve at night to make our days more pleasant.

**C: Thank you for associates at work, for their encouragement and praise, and for the joys of human friendships.**

P: Thank you for our cities and our countrysides, for farms and factories, for streets and highways, and for all of life that flows so swiftly before us.

**C: Thank you for children at play, their boundless energy, and their shouts of joy and laughter.**

P: Thank you for the morning greetings we receive, and for all the smiles that come from faces loved by you.

**C: Thank you for Christian parents, for their affection and their care.**

P: Hear us, Lord, as we give thanks for personal blessings.

*Silent prayer.*

P: Thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, for his coming to us in Word and sacraments, for his giving and forgiving, and for listening to our prayers. Receive our gifts and offerings as our sacrifice of praise.

**C: Lead us in thankful living today and always. Amen.**

P: Lord, we join in the prayer you taught us:

**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.**

## **BLESSING**

P: Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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: Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN**

*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* | **CW 771:1,3**

**1 I want to walk as a child of the light; I want to follow Jesus.**

**God set the stars to give light to the world; The star of my life is Jesus.**

**In him there is no darkness at all; The night and the day are both alike.**

**The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**

**3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ; I want to be with Jesus.**

**When we have run with patience the race, We shall know the joy of Jesus.**

**In him there is no darkness at all; The night and the day are both alike.**

**The Lamb is the light of the city of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.**