This Morning
“What do you think?” Jesus asks as he tells the unrepentant religious leaders parable. He is asking us the same question: who is obedient, the one who claims obedience, or the one who does what is asked?

About Communion
All members of LCMS, LCC, and AALC congregations may receive the body and blood of Christ at the altar. If you are not yet a member and would like to take communion with us in the future, the pastor will be happy to meet with you and instruct you. Guests of other faith traditions are always welcome to come forward to the altar with arms crossed and receive a blessing.

About Our Service
Hymns are found in the back of the book by number. The rest of the worship service is printed here in the bulletin. May the Lord bless you as we receive his gift of forgiveness in Christ Jesus’ blood together.

Rev. Charles St-Onge, Pastor
Anna Benter, Deaconess Intern
Kayla Gundermann, Lyman & Ruth Stone, Mission Workers
Confession of Sins

P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C who made heaven and earth.

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.

P Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

704 Renew Me, O Eternal Light

Kyrie

C Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

Gloria in Excelsis

1 To God on high be glory
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus’ birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav’nly King.

2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father’s Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow’r are seated
At God’s right hand on high—
3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father’s glory.
“ Amen!” our glad reply.
Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

P Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority. Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Sit

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 18:1–4, 25–32

1 The word of the LORD came to me: 2 “What do you mean by repeating this proverb concerning the land of Israel, ‘The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children’s teeth are set on edge’? 3 As I live, declares the Lord God, this proverb shall no more be used by you in Israel. 4 Behold, all souls are mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is mine: the soul who sins shall die. . . .

25 “Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear now, O house of Israel: Is my way not just? Is it not your ways that are not just? 26 When a righteous person turns away from his righteousness and does injustice, he shall die for it; for the injustice that he has done he shall die. 27 Again, when a wicked person turns away from the wickedness he has committed and does what is just and right, he shall save his life. 28 Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions that he had committed, he shall surely live; he shall not die. 29 Yet the house of Israel says, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ O house of Israel, are my ways not just? Is it not your ways that are not just?

30 “Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, every one according to his ways, declares the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. 31 Cast away from you all the transgressions that you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? 32 For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Lord God; so turn, and live.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 25:1–7
P  4Make me to know your ways, | O LORD;*
teach me | your paths.

1To you, | O LORD,*
I lift | up my soul.

2O my God, in you I trust;
let me not be | put to shame;*
let not my enemies exult | over me.

3Indeed, none who wait for you shall be | put to shame;*
they shall be ashamed who are wantonly | treacherous.

P  4Make me to know your ways, | O LORD;*
teach me | your paths.

5Lead me in your truth and teach me,
for you are the God of my sal- | vation;*
for you I wait all the | day long.

6Remember your mercy, O LORD, and your | steadfast love,*
for they have been | from of old.

7Remember not the sins of my youth or my trans- | gressions;*
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for the sake of your goodness, | O LORD!

P  4Make me to know your ways, | O LORD;*
teach me | your paths.

Epistle

Philippians 2:1–4, 14–18

1If there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in
the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, 2complete my joy by being of the same mind,
having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. 3Do nothing from rivalry or
conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. 4Let each of you
look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. . . .

14Do all things without grumbling or questioning, 15that you may be blameless and
innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted
generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, 16holding fast to the word of
life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.
17Even if I am to be poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your
faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all. 18Likewise you also should be glad and rejoice
with me.

A  This is the Word of the Lord.
C  Thanks be to God.

Stand

Alleluia and Verse

C  Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that
Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 21:23–32

P  The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.
C  Glory to You, O Lord.
23When [Jesus] entered the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came up to him as he was teaching, and said, “By what authority are you doing these things, and who gave you this authority?” 24Jesus answered them, “I also will ask you one question, and if you tell me the answer, then I also will tell you by what authority I do these things. 25The baptism of John, from where did it come? From heaven or from man?” And they discussed it among themselves, saying, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will say to us, ‘Why then did you not believe him?’ 26But if we say, ‘From man,’ we are afraid of the crowd, for they all hold that John was a prophet.” 27So they answered Jesus, “We do not know.” And he said to them, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I do these things.

28“What do you think? A man had two sons. And he went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work in the vineyard today.’ 29And he answered, ‘I will not,’ but afterward he changed his mind and went. 30And he went to the other son and said the same. And he answered, ‘I go, sir,’ but did not go. 31Which of the two did the will of his father?” They said, “The first.” Jesus said to them, “Truly, I say to you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes go into the kingdom of God before you. 32For 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 when you saw it, you did not afterward change your minds and believe him.”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,  
begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Catechism Lesson

P What is the 5th Commandment?
C You shall not murder.

P What does this mean?
C We should fear and love God so that we do not hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, but help and support him in every physical need.

655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church

P ...Lord, in Your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude with:

P ...who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C Amen.

Sit

Offering

956 Create in Me

1 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence;
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Text: Psalm 51:10–12

Stand
Preface

P  The Lord be with you.
C  And also with you.

P  Lift up your hearts.
C  We lift them to the Lord.

P  Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C  It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P  It is truly good, right, and salutary... evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus

C  Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;
   Heav’n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
   Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
   Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!
   Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P  Blessed are You... Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

Lord’s Prayer

C  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 Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

P  The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C  Amen.

Agnus Dei

1  O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
   You take the sin of the world away;
   O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
   Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
   Text: Stephen P. Starke

2  O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
   You take the sin of the world away;
   Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
   And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.
Sit

Distribution

628 Your Table I Approach

900 Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love

Stand. After all have communed, the following is said:

The Dismissal

P  The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart •I• in peace.

C  Amen.

Nunc Dimittis  

C 1 O Lord, now let Your servant
    Depart in heav’nly peace,
    For I have seen the glory
    Of Your redeeming grace:
    A light to lead the Gentiles
    Unto Your holy hill,
    The glory of Your people,
    Your chosen Israel.

2 All glory to the Father,
   All glory to the Son,
   All glory to the Spirit,
   Forever Three in One;
   For as in the beginning,
   Is now, shall ever be,
   God’s triune name resounding
   Through all eternity.

Post-Communion Collect

A  Let us pray… reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C  Amen.

Benedicamus  

A  Let us bless the Lord.

C  Thanks be to God.

Benediction

P  The Lord bless you and keep you.
   The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
   The Lord look upon you with favor and •I• give you peace.

C  Amen.

824 May God Bestow on Us His Grace

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

Created by Lutheran Service Builder © 2023 Concordia Publishing House.