

READY TO
serve

••••• LUKE 1:38 •••••



2024 Worship Service
October 6, 2024

Prelude

Opening Hymn:

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” — LSB # 790

The Confession and Absolution:

“The Contrite Heart” — William Cowper (1731-1800)

The Lord will happiness divine
On contrite hearts bestow;
Then tell me, gracious God, is mine
A contrite heart, or no?

I hear, but seem to hear in vain,
Insensible as steel;
If aught is felt, 'tis only pain,
To find I cannot feel.

I sometimes think myself inclined
To love Thee if I could;
But often feel another mind,
Averse to all that's good.

My best desires are faint and few,
I fain would strive for more;
But when I cry, "My strength renew!"
Seem weaker than before.

Thy saints are comforted, I know,
And love Thy house of prayer;
I therefore go where others go,
But find no comfort there.

Oh, make this heart rejoice or ache;
 Decide this doubt for me;
 And if it be not broken, break —
 And heal it, if it be.

(We pause to bring our private sins to God)

All: (Psalm 51:1-13)

¹ Be gracious to me, God, according to Your faithfulness;
 According to the greatness of Your compassion, wipe out
 my wrongdoings. ² Wash me thoroughly from my guilt
 And cleanse me from my sin. ³ For I know my
 wrongdoings, And my sin is constantly before me. ⁴ Against
 You, You only, I have sinned And done what is evil in Your
 sight, So that You are justified when You speak And
 blameless when You judge. ⁵ Behold, I was brought forth in
 guilt, And in sin my mother conceived me. ⁶ Behold, You
 desire truth in the innermost being, And in secret You will
 make wisdom known to me. ⁷ Purify me with hyssop, and I
 will be clean; Cleanse me, and I will be whiter than snow.
⁸ Let me hear joy and gladness, Let the bones You have
 broken rejoice. ⁹ Hide Your face from my sins And wipe out
 all my guilty deeds. ¹⁰ Create in me a clean heart, God, And
 renew a steadfast spirit within me. ¹¹ Do not cast me away
 from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from
 me. ¹² Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, And sustain
 me with a willing spirit. ¹³ Then I will teach wrongdoers
 Your ways, And sinners will be converted to You.

Pastor: Your sins are forgiven you, in the name of the
 Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The LWML Litany:

Leader: Celebrate and rejoice in the Lord, who did not abandon us and leave us to our doom, but in His amazing mercy, sent His only Son to rescue us from our sins.

Response: Oh, celebrate a love so magnificent, a love so unbelievable, a love so freely given. Celebrate our risen Lord Jesus!

Leader: Ah, do you hear it! It is the glad outpouring of praise resounding through the universe. From the first tiny chirp of the morning dove to the last trickle of the setting sun, the earth vibrates with the message — celebrate! Celebrate His love!

Response: From sunrise to sunset and all through the watches of the night, the Great Creator calls us to celebrate!

Leader: From our getting up to our lying down, our hearts beat to a glad refrain of praise.

Response: As we break bread at every mealtime, and as we partake of bread so divinely blessed at the communion feast, He stretches out His nail-scarred hands to us in love and reconciliation ... how awesome! How we celebrate!

Leader: But in the nitty-gritty of everyday life on this earth, it isn't always easy. In politics and commerce, in banking and bilking, in all the blasphemies and all the betrayals, in all the degradation and immorality of modern life, let us rejoice that God in His tremendous power still reigns!

Response: Yes, He understands our woes and He is with us always. The battle is His! The victory is His! O, celebrate our Sovereign Lord!

Leader: Oh, let us gather before His throne, revel in His presence, join hearts and spirits and voices in resounding praise!

Response: Yes, Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice (**Philippians 4:4**, KJV)!

Leader: To rejoice is to celebrate, to be jubilant, to come before our Lord in festivity, with trumpets blaring, flags flying, and in great ovations of praise!

Response: Let us celebrate the Lord whole-heartedly, with every ounce of our being, with every in-take of breath, celebrate Him endlessly, in glad adoration!

Leader: Let us celebrate how He delivers us from the stormy seas of life. We come out of the waters, dripping and panting, and fall on our knees before our Strong Deliverer.

Response: Ah, how can we do less, how can we ever cease to bring praise to the God of our Salvation! Celebrate Him!

Leader: How beautiful His sacred feet, His thorn-pressed brow! How beautiful the walk He took for us to a cross on a faraway hill.

Response: And He did it for you and for me. He suffered the agony of the cross. Celebrate His sacrifice and His unfathomable love!

Leader: Celebrate in Joy! See a little sliver of a moon in the evening sky! And celebrate its Creator. See a field of white lilies, and rise up on a carpet of fragrance, remembering His Easter promise.

Response: Ah, dear Jesus, we love You, we celebrate You! We praise You and adore You!

All: Forever and ever, we will rejoice in You, our Savior and our Lord. We celebrate You, world without end! Amen.

Hymn:

“Beautiful Savior” – LSB # 537

The Readings and Responses:

The First Reading: Genesis 3:1-7, 20-21

¹ Now the serpent was more cunning than any animal of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God really said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’” ² The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; ³ but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’” ⁴ The serpent said to the woman, “You certainly will not die! ⁵ For God knows that on the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will become

like God, knowing good and evil.”⁶ When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took some of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband with her, and he ate.⁷ Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves waist coverings.

²⁰ Now the man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all the living.²¹ And the Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

The Second Reading: Luke 1:26-38

²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee named Nazareth,²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin's name was Mary.²⁸ And coming in, he said to her, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.”²⁹ But she was very perplexed at this statement, and was pondering what kind of greeting this was.³⁰ And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God.³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and give birth to a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;³³ and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”³⁴ But Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”³⁵ The angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High

will overshadow you; for that reason also the holy Child will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ And behold, even your relative Elizabeth herself has conceived a son in her old age, and she who was called infertile is now in her sixth month. ³⁷ For nothing will be impossible with God.” ³⁸ And Mary said, “Behold, the Lord’s bond-servant; may it be done to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

The Third Reading: Acts 16:11-18

¹¹ So after setting sail from Troas, we ran a straight course to Samothrace, and on the following day to Neapolis; ¹² and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a Roman colony; and we were spending some days in this city. ¹³ And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were thinking that there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled. ¹⁴ A woman named Lydia was listening; she was a seller of purple fabrics from the city of Thyatira, and a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul. ¹⁵ Now when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us. ¹⁶ It happened that as we were going to the place of prayer, a slave woman who had a spirit of divination met us, who was bringing great profit to her masters by fortune-telling. ¹⁷ She followed Paul and us and cried out repeatedly, saying, “These men are bond-servants of the Most High God, who are proclaiming to you a way of salvation.” ¹⁸ Now she continued doing this for many days.

But Paul was greatly annoyed, and he turned and said to the spirit, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her!” And it came out at that very moment.

Lector: These are the words of the Lord.

Congregation: Thanks be to God.

Message Hymn:

“Take My Life and Let It Be” – LSB # 783

The Message:

“From One Woman of Sin to One Woman of Grace”

LWML Pledge Song: “Praise, Love, Serve”

(Sung to tune of “O Little Town of Bethlehem”, LSB #361)

1. Our God and Father made the earth,
And when we went astray,
Our God, the Son, descended here
To take our sins away.
With His own blood He bought us.
He broke the bonds of sin.
Then God the Spirit came into
Our hearts to dwell within.
2. In gratitude we pledge ourselves,
To Him with all we have.
Our hands will work; our voices sing;
Our lips proclaim His love.
His errands we'll do gladly;
His Gospel we'll defend;
Our silver and our gold we'll use —

His Kingdom to extend.

3. Wherever He has need of us,
We will His call obey.
Whenever He calls out to us,
We'll answer right away.
His will is ours that lost souls
Will turn away from sin
And come to have eternal life
Through fellowship with Him.

Congregational Prayers

(**Pastor:** Lord, in your mercy,)

(**Congregation:** Hear our prayer.)

The Lord's Prayer

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 Benediction:

May the Lord show His mercy upon you
May the light of His presence be your guide
May He guard you and uphold you
May His spirit be ever by your side.

When you sleep, may His angels watch over you
When you wake, may He fill you with His grace
May you love Him and serve Him all your days
Then in heaven may you see His face.

Closing Hymn: “Serve the Lord with Gladness”
(Sung to tune of “Onward Christian Soldiers”, LSB #662)

1. "Serve the Lord with gladness!"
It is He alone
Who redeemed us sinners,
Guides us as His own
To enjoy the blessings
Of His love and grace,
Will at last in glory
Meet us face to face.

Refrain:

Onward, then, for Jesus!
Let this be our aim:
“Serve the Lord with gladness!”
Glorify His name.

2. "Serve the Lord with gladness!"
He gave us command
To proclaim His Gospel
Now in every land
So that fellow sinners
May, like us, be blest.
Leading them to Jesus,
We can serve Him best.

Refrain

3. "Serve the Lord with gladness!"
There's no greater joy
Than to serve the Master,
Work in His employ.
As we build His kingdom
Angels, too, rejoice
Over every sinner
Brought to hear His voice.

Refrain

Announcements:

Postlude

Please take the bulletin home or discard in the trash before you leave.

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