

**18th Sunday after Pentecost  
October 4, 2020**

**Gathering  
God invites us to enter His presence**

**Prelude**

*Enter His Courts With Praise!  
They'll Know We Are Christians*

*Mason  
Scholtes*

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Preparation for Worship** (*Time for Silent Preparation*)

**✠ Call to Worship**

*Dennis Leshner*

Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth.

**Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs.**

Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us and we are his;

**we are his people, the sheep of his pasture.**

Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name.

**For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness  
continues through all generations.**

Let us worship the Triune God.

**✠ Invocation**

*Dennis Leshner*

With you, gracious God,  
we move into this time of worship,  
grateful that you are never farther  
than the reach of our need and our prayer.  
You who tower over the universe  
are yet intimately present,  
always renewing the face of the earth,  
always renewing the faith of your children.  
Now, in your mercy, make your way past  
all that worries and distracts us  
to lodge in us anew and to center  
our small worship on your great glory. **Amen.**

**Hymn of Praise 92**

*Love Divine, All Loves Excelling*

*Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n, to earth come down:  
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling, All Thy faithful mercies crown.  
Jesus, Thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love Thou art;  
Visit us with Thy salvation, Enter ev'ry trembling heart.*

*Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit into ev'ry troubled breast!  
Let us all in Thee inherit, Let us find that promised rest.  
Take away our bent to sinning, Alpha and Omega be;  
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.*

*Come, almighty to deliver, Let us all Thy life receive;  
Suddenly return, and never, Nevermore Thy temples leave.  
Thee we would be always blessing, Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,  
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing, Glory in Thy perfect love.*

*Finish then Thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;  
Let us see Thy great salvation perfectly restored in Thee:  
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav'n we take our place,  
Till we cast our crowns before Thee, Lost in wonder, love and praise!  
A-men.*

**Confessing**  
**God invites us to be honest with Him**

**Prayer of Confession**  
*(Responsively)*

*Dennis Leshner*

Lord, you showed us true humility by becoming one of us,  
**yet too often we practice pride.**  
You cried alongside your friends and for the city of Jerusalem,  
**yet too often we rush past the pain of others and are careless about our cities.**  
You loved those who were weak, despised, or cast out,  
**yet too often we love those who are strong, respected, or popular.**  
You freely forgave and healed,  
**yet too often we hold grudges and cause pain.**  
You lived a perfectly holy life,  
**yet too often we do not yearn for righteousness.**  
You prayed that we who believe in you should be united with each other and you,  
**yet too often we focus on the differences that separate us from other believers.**  
You were mocked, whipped, and even killed for us,  
**yet too often we deny you.**  
You call us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world,  
**yet too often we blend into or hide from our culture. Forgive us, Lord, so that we will shine with your glory. Amen.**

**Time for Silent Confession**

**Assurance of Pardon**

*Dennis Leshner*

The LORD is merciful and gracious,  
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.  
As a father has compassion for his children,  
so the LORD has compassion for those who fear him.  
For he knows how we were made;  
he remembers that we are dust.  
But the steadfast love of the LORD is from  
everlasting to everlasting  
on those who fear him,  
and his righteousness to children's children,  
to those who keep his covenant  
and remember to do his commandments.  
**Amen.**

Leader: *This is the Promise of the Lord*

All: **Thanks be to God!**

 **Gloria Patri**

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.  
A-men, A-men.*

**Sacrament of Baptism**

*Dennis Lesher*

Introduction *Tim, Ginny & Andrew Latham*

Words of Institution

Hear these words of Jesus, an invitation and a promise offered to us all: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

In obedience to this command, the church baptizes believers and their children.

Response

Having heard God's gracious promises to us in Christ, do you desire that [Andrew] be baptized?  
Parent(s): **We do.**

Questions

Do you acknowledge Andrew's need of the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ, and the renewing grace of the Holy Spirit?

**We do**

Do you claim God's covenant promises and benefits for Andrew by faith and do you look to the Lord Jesus Christ for the salvation of your child as you do your own?

**We do**

Do you now unreservedly dedicate your child to God, and do you promise by relying on God's power and grace through the Holy Spirit to live an exemplary life before your child?

**We do**

Do you commit yourself to pray with and for your child, to teach your child the Scriptures and the great articles of our faith in Jesus Christ?

**We do**

Do you promise to use every means provided by God, including faithful participation in the life of the Church, to bring your child up in the loving discipline of the Lord?

**We do**

#### Questions to the Congregation

Do you, the members of this congregation, acting in behalf of the whole Body of Christ, assume responsibility with these parents for the spiritual nurture of this child?

**We do**

Do you commit yourself to set a godly example before this child, to provide as far as you are able, all that is necessary to the end that this child may one day confess Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord?

**We do**

#### Baptism

Our Lord said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."  
(—from Mark 10:14, NIV)

[Andrew],  
I baptize you in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

#### Welcome

Some of us will have the privilege of encouraging Andrew often, over the course of many years. Others of us may not be able to do so. Yet we all speak words of promise and welcome, speaking on behalf of Christ's whole church, in time and space, and committing ourselves to live lives of Christian encouragement, wherever God calls us.

#### Blessing

*Pamela Johnson, Tommy Vereb*

The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face to shine upon you,  
and give you peace, and give you peace.  
and give you peace forever.



**Sermon**

*“Practicing Love”  
Tim Latham*

**Responding**

***We respond to God’s Word***

**Hymn of Response 379**

*Take My Life and Let it Be*

*Take my life and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee;  
Take my moments and my days—  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise,  
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love;  
Take my feet and let them be  
Swift and beautiful for Thee,  
Swift and beautiful for Thee.*

*Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;  
Take my lips and let them be  
Filled with messages from Thee,  
Filled with messages from Thee.*

*Take my silver and my gold—  
Not a mite would I with-hold;  
Take my intellect and use ev’ry pow’r as Thou shalt choose,  
Ev’ry pow’r as Thou shalt choose.*

*Take my will and make it Thine—  
It shall be no longer mine;  
Take my heart—it is Thine own,  
It shall be Thy royal throne,  
It shall be Thy royal throne.*

*Take my love—my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store:  
Take myself—and I will be  
Ever, only, all for Thee,  
Ever, only, all for Thee*

**Sacrament of Communion**

*Dennis Leshar*

Communion Prayer

Distribution\* (Prepackaged Communion elements are in your pew.)

(\*Please dispose of your used communion packaging when leaving  
Worship . Waste receptacles are located at the top of the stairs)

**✠ Profession of Faith** *(Responsively)*

God is our refuge and strength,  
a very present help in trouble.  
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,  
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;

though its waters roar and foam,  
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.  
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,  
the holy habitation of the Most High.  
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;  
God will help it when the morning dawns.  
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;  
he utters his voice, the earth melts.  
**The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**  
Come, behold the works of the LORD;  
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.  
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;  
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;  
he burns the shields with fire.  
"Be still, and know that I am God!  
I am exalted among the nations,  
I am exalted in the earth."  
**The LORD of hosts is with us;  
the God of Jacob is our refuge.**

## Prayers of the People/Lord's Prayer

### Commissioning *God sends us out into the world as His witnesses*

#### Hymn 376     *I Have Decided to Follow Jesus*

*I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
I have decided to follow Jesus  
No turning back, no turning back.  
I have decided to follow Him.*

*The world behind me, the cross before me;  
The world behind me, the cross before me;  
The world behind me, the cross before me,  
No turning back, no turning back.  
I have decided to follow Him.*

*Tho' none go with me, I still will follow,  
Tho' none go with me, I still will follow,  
Tho' none go with me, I still will follow,  
No turning back, no turning back.  
I have decided to follow Him.*

*Will you decide now to follow Jesus?  
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?  
Will you decide now to follow Jesus?  
No turning back, no turning back.  
I have decided to follow Him.*

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Organ Postlude**

*Go Forth in Peace*

Turner