



**EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY
AFTER PENTECOST**

*“These Stories About Jesus
Are Myth, Not History.”*

October 1, 2023





4651 Kernan Blvd S,
Jacksonville, Florida
32224
904-642-8900

Worship at 8am and
10:30am

Bible Class and Youth
Sunday School at 9:15am

victorylutheran.org



*Find us on Facebook,
Instagram, and YouTube*



*Victory is affiliated with the
Wisconsin
Evangelical Lutheran
Synod*

Welcome to Victory!

- Thank you for choosing to worship the Triune God with us. May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you as we join together in worship.
- We prepare for worship by quietly meditating on the theme for the day and respectfully listening to the music chosen and prepared by our musicians.
- If you are looking for a church home, we would be thrilled to serve your spiritual needs. Our name comes from 1 Corinthians 15:57: **"Thanks be to God! He gives us the VICTORY through our Lord Jesus Christ!"**
- Our mission as a Christian congregation is to: **"Win souls for Christ and coach Christians for life."**
- Please sign the Connection Card inside of your worship folder to give us a record of your visit, and so we can properly thank you for joining us!
- Restrooms are located in the hallway to the right as you enter the front doors. Changing tables are available in both the women's and men's restrooms.
- A Quiet Room for children who need a quiet moment with a caretaker is located on the right before entering the sanctuary.

TODAY'S WORSHIP:

"Once upon a time, there was a..." "A long, long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away..." "This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria." One of these things is not like the other ones! When you're hearing a myth or a fable, they sounded like the first two. But the last one sounds like history! And for good reason. Although the skeptics claim that the stories of Jesus are all myths and fables, blown out of proportion by Christians who want Jesus to be something he really wasn't, the actual facts of Jesus' life, ministry, and miracles are deeply entrenched in real, secular, human history! So today, we look to Scripture, and logical argument to defend our faith in the historic, real truth of Jesus as the Savior of the world!

Current Series: *Prepared to Answer*

Scripture instructs us, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have" (1 Peter 3.:15). That leads us to the question, "How prepared are you to answer?" In a world full of skepticism and downright animosity toward the message of the Bible, how equipped are you to defend your faith? This series presents us with opportunities to consider the best ways we can defend our faith in light of common and important questions that the world will ask, or statements that unbelievers will make. Together, we'll discuss how we can best defend our faith, and how we can stay strong and confident in that faith by the light of God's truth!

Oct. 1	"These stories about Jesus are myth, not history."
Oct. 8	"Do you really believe in miracles?"
Oct. 15	"There are many paths to God."
Oct. 22	"There are no moral absolutes."

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT



OPENING HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

Christian Worship 624

M: 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

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

Kyrie

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.



M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.



M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

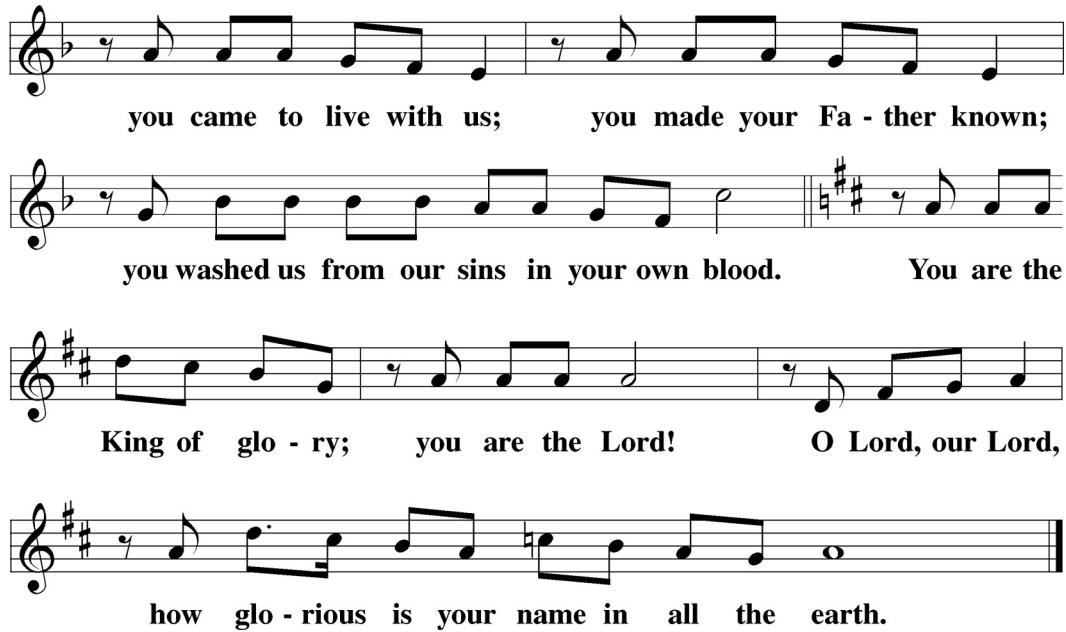


M: The works of the Lord are great and glorious; his name is worthy of praise.

O LORD, OUR LORD

C: O Lord, our Lord, how glo - rious is your name in
all the earth. Al - might - y God, mer - ci - ful Fa - ther,
you crown our life with your love. You take a - way our sin;
you com - fort our spir - it; you make us pure and
ho - ly in your sight. You did not spare your on - ly Son,
but gave him up for us all. O Lord, our Lord,
how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.
O Son of God, e - ter - nal Word of the Fa - ther,

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef. The key signature consists of two sharps (F# and C#), indicating D major or B minor. The time signature is common time (C). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' over the notes) in the second, third, and seventh staves. The lyrics are aligned with the notes, with some words spanning across bar lines. The score ends with a double bar line and a key signature change to B minor (two flats) in the final staff.



you came to live with us; you made your Fa - ther known;
 you washed us from our sins in your own blood. You are the
 King of glo - ry; you are the Lord! O Lord, our Lord,
 how glo - rious is your name in all the earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray.

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



C: A - men.



THE WORD

FIRST READING: Matthew 1:1-16

The human ancestry of Christ

¹This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham:

²Abraham was the father of Isaac,

Isaac the father of Jacob,

Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers,

³Judah the father of Perez and Zerah, whose mother was Tamar,

Perez the father of Hezron,

Hezron the father of Ram,

⁴Ram the father of Amminadab,

Amminadab the father of Nahshon,

Nahshon the father of Salmon,

⁵Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab,

Boaz the father of Obed, whose mother was Ruth,

Obed the father of Jesse,

⁶and Jesse the father of King David.

David was the father of Solomon, whose mother had been Uriah's wife,

⁷Solomon the father of Rehoboam,

Rehoboam the father of Abijah,

Abijah the father of Asa,

⁸Asa the father of Jehoshaphat,

Jehoshaphat the father of Jehoram,

Jehoram the father of Uzziah,

⁹Uzziah the father of Jotham,

Jotham the father of Ahaz,

Ahaz the father of Hezekiah,

¹⁰Hezekiah the father of Manasseh,

Manasseh the father of Amon,

Amon the father of Josiah,

¹¹and Josiah the father of Jeconiah and his brothers at the time of the exile to Babylon.

¹²After the exile to Babylon:

Jeconiah was the father of Shealtiel,
Shealtiel the father of Zerubbabel,

¹³Zerubbabel the father of Abihud,
Abihud the father of Eliakim,

Eliakim the father of Azor,

¹⁴Azor the father of Zadok,

Zadok the father of Akim,

Akim the father of Elihud,

¹⁵Elihud the father of Eleazar,

Eleazar the father of Matthan,

Matthan the father of Jacob,

¹⁶and Jacob the father of Joseph, the husband of Mary, and Mary was the mother of Jesus who is called the Messiah.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21

Eyewitness testimony of Christ

¹⁶For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we told you about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ in power, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. ¹⁷He received honor and glory from God the Father when the voice came to him from the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."

¹⁸We ourselves heard this voice that came from heaven when we were with him on the sacred mountain.

¹⁹We also have the prophetic message as something completely reliable, and you will do well to pay attention to it, as to a light shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts.

²⁰Above all, you must understand that no prophecy of Scripture came about by the prophet's own interpretation of things. ²¹For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:1-4; 2:1-7

God entrenched in human history

¹Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ²just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³With this in mind, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.



CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

All children are invited to join Pastor Troy at the front of the sanctuary for a message based on today's sermon, specifically designed for them! If it would help the children would feel more comfortable, an adult is welcome to come up with them.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH (10:30am Service)

Children ages 3-5 can be dismissed to the 3K/Kitchen classroom for Children's Church. Children will return from Children's Church to the sanctuary after the conclusion of the sermon.



HYMN OF THE DAY

How Good, Lord, to Be Here

Christian Worship 389

SERMON.....Pastor Troy Schreiner
Text: 2 Peter 1:16-21

"These Things Weren't Done in a Corner."

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

Guests: This is the moment in our worship when members and friends of Victory Lutheran respond to God's good news with gifts to support his saving work in the Jacksonville community and beyond. If you are our guest today, you are welcome to participate in this offering, but don't feel forced to!

You can also give an online thank offering by using the camera on your smartphone to scan the QR code.

Please also fill out the Connection Card found inside your worship folder, and drop it in the offering plate, or in the basket on the back table.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for your Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

C: **Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.**

M: Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our watchfulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

C: **Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.**

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray:

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 SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.



M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He sends the Holy Spirit to testify that we are his children and to strengthen us when we are weak. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *Sanctus*

The musical score is written for a single voice part in C major, 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a C-clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.' The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: 'The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.' The third staff has the lyrics: 'You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.' The fourth staff has the lyrics: 'I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -' The fifth staff has the lyrics: 'va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.' The sixth staff concludes the piece with the lyrics: 'The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.' The music ends with a double bar line.

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.

I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -

va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.

The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (+) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (+) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

M: The peace of the Lord be with you always.



O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD *Agnus Dei*



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION

Guests please note: Scripture teaches that when Christians partake of the Lord's Supper together, they are expressing their unity of faith. Through this act they are confessing that they agree on all the teachings of Scripture. We do not wish to put our guests in the position of making such a confession without knowing our teachings. Therefore, we ask that only those who are members of this or another WELS or ELS congregation come to receive communion at this time. If you desire communion fellowship with us, please speak to our pastor. We are eager to help anyone take this step.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

Christian Worship 663

THANKSGIVING

THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

C: A - men.

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

C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

Christian Worship 868

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MY WORSHIP NOTES



For children to use during worship.

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

What is the name of the church season or special day today? _____

What is the color of the church today? Circle one:

Blue White Purple Red Green

The Sermon Text Was: _____

This is in the: ☐ Old Testament ☐ New Testament



What was the sermon about? _____



My favorite song today was:



Did we have a Sacrament today?



Baptism?

☐ Yes
☐ No



Communion?

☐ Yes
☐ No

Draw a picture of something you heard or saw today:

What did you learn about God today?

Sermon Notes



VICTORY LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

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**Victory is a member congregation of the
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS),
headquartered in Waukesha, Wisconsin.**

