



# Generosity > Gratitude

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 12, 2025



*"Winning souls for Christ. Coaching Christians for life."*

4651 Kernan Blvd S, Jacksonville, FL 32224 • (904) 642-8900

# A Place to Call Home: Victory Lutheran

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, welcome home. We especially welcome to our house of worship our guests who have joined us today. We pray you will be strengthened by the good news about God's grace, love, and forgiveness to us through Jesus. We say with the Psalmist, whether here on campus or viewing online, "I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the LORD'" (Psalm 122:1). May the Lord continue to help us grow in His grace and knowledge as we hear, speak, and sing His holy Word.

**Please sign the Connection Card** inside the worship folder and return it in the basket on the worship table. Members, please update your contact info if there is a change.

**Restrooms** are located in the hallway to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Changing tables are available in both restrooms.

**A Quiet Room** for children who need a moment to get settled with a parent or guardian is located on the right before entering the sanctuary.

Visit our website: [www.victorylutheran.org](http://www.victorylutheran.org) or find us on Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube!



## **Worship Series Focus: Cause > Effect *in God's Kingdom***

"Every why hath a wherefore." That was Shakespeare's poetic way of saying that very little happens by chance. Generally there is an agent behind an action. There is cause and effect. And to navigate life well, it is vital we understand both. If you want to effect a healthy heart, you need to know the causes of heart disease. Before a major purchase causes you to go into debt, you need to think about the effect it will have on your budget. If you want the peace of being close to God, you need to know what causes that effect. Again, to navigate life well, it is vital we understand cause and effect.

We are nearing the end of the Church Year. This past year, we have reviewed Jesus' life and teaching. The Scripture readings in these final weeks recall some of the major themes that are woven throughout the Church Year. In this final series we will be looking at those themes with the understanding that "every why hath a wherefore." We conclude the year by talking about cause and effect in God's kingdom.

## Today's Worship: Generosity>Gratitude

Gratitude is the appreciation we feel when someone does something kind to us or for us. There are two factors that effect the intensity of gratitude. First, there is the deservedness factor. Say you do a favor for your neighbor. A month later, your neighbor does a favor for you. You are grateful, but not overwhelmingly so, because you deserved his help to some degree. However, if you have been an unkind or selfish neighbor, and yet your neighbor provides help when you are in need, you are extremely grateful precisely because you know you are undeserving. Second, there is the generosity factor. Imagine you pick up the mail for your neighbor for the three days he is out of town. When he gets back, he gives you a hundred-dollar bill. You might protest, "This is too generous!" He insists, and so you are very grateful.

Apply this to God. Deservedness. How deserving are we of his blessing? What does God owe us? Generosity. What has God done for us? What blessings has he given us now? What blessings has he promised us in eternity? As we answer those questions, we are stunned by the undeserved generosity our God has shown us. The effect? We overflow with gratitude.

*Divine Service I*

## Our Path for Worship

Minister: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

**Congregation: And also with you.**



Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;  
**Let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.**

*Psalm 95*

Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.  
**For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods.**

Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker;  
**For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.**

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;  
**Let us worship Him.**

## OPENING HYMN

CW623 | O Bless the Lord, My Soul

This is how God showed his love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might live through him. 1 John 4

**This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins.**

## HYMN

CWS738 | In Hopelessness and Near Despair

After a short introduction, **All** sing:

1 In hope - less - ness and near de - spair, I  
cry to you, my Sav - ior! My guilt is more than  
I can bear. I have not earned your fav - or. You  
know me as I real - ly am: How  
much is truth, how much is sham; Why  
should you heed my plead - ing?

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008 © 1987 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
Tune: G. A. Hennig, b. 1966 © 2006 G. A. Hennig. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.  
If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word is not in us.

*(No introduction)*

**Women (♪):**

I see my heart's condition now, My heart's diverse affections.  
Why do I love the things you loathe; I'm torn in two directions:  
Now prodigal, now Pharisee. O God, be merciful to me;  
Who else but you can help me?

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.

**All:** 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.

*(No introduction)*

**Men (♪):**

I tremble as I feel your hand, Expecting retribution,  
Yet hear no curse or reprimand, But grace and absolution:  
With you there is forgiveness, Lord, You speak the sweet, consoling Word,  
And I am sure you love me!

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, hear the word of Christ through his called servant: All your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen. Thanks be to God.**

*(No introduction)*

**All (♪):**

Forgiven, free of guilt and shame, Grant me some time to render  
A gift to glorify your name, Love to reflect your splendor:  
This world must know what I have learned, That you bestow what none has earned:  
The joy of full forgiveness!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind;  
**through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

## FIRST READING

*Genesis 8:15–22*

***Noah expressed his gratitude for God's generosity in preserving the lives of him and his family***

<sup>15</sup>Then God said to Noah, <sup>16</sup>“Come out of the ark, you and your wife and your sons and their wives. <sup>17</sup>Bring out every kind of living creature that is with you—the birds, the animals, and all the creatures that move along the ground—so they can multiply on the earth and be fruitful and increase in number on it.”

<sup>18</sup>So Noah came out, together with his sons and his wife and his sons’ wives. <sup>19</sup>All the animals and all the creatures that move along the ground and all the birds—everything that moves on land—came out of the ark, one kind after another.

<sup>20</sup>Then Noah built an altar to the LORD and, taking some of all the clean animals and clean birds, he sacrificed burnt offerings on it. <sup>21</sup>The LORD smelled the pleasing aroma and said in his heart: “Never again will I curse the ground because of humans, even though every inclination of the human heart is evil from childhood. And never again will I destroy all living creatures, as I have done.

<sup>22</sup>“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest,  
cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease.”

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN

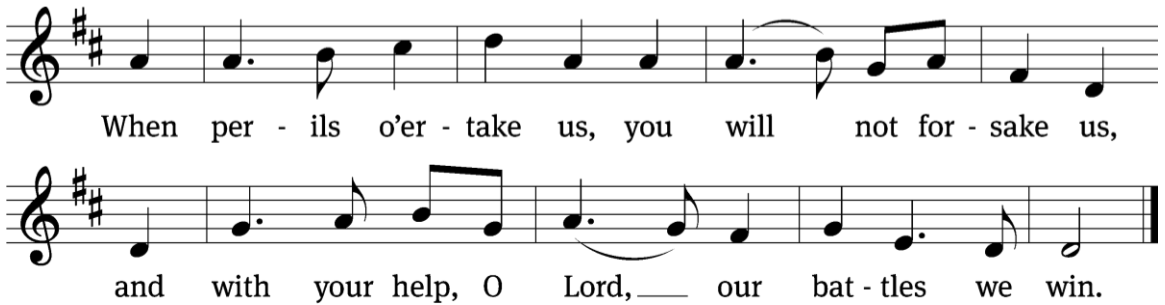
**CW609 v. 2** | *We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer*

*After a short introduction, the Congregation sings:*



The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes.

We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers, we bless you;  
through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.



Text: Julia B. Cory, 1882–1963, alt.  
Tune: Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck, Haarlem, 1626  
Text and tune: Public domain

## SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 9:10–15

***Our gratitude for God's generosity will naturally include a willingness to be generous with others***

<sup>10</sup>Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. <sup>11</sup>You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

<sup>12</sup>This service that you perform is not only supplying the needs of the Lord's people but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. <sup>13</sup>Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, others will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. <sup>14</sup>And in their prayers for you their hearts will go out to you, because of the surpassing grace God has given you. <sup>15</sup>Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## HYMN

**CW609 v. 3** | *We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer*

*After a short introduction, the **Congregation** sings:*

**With voices united our praises we offer  
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.  
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us;  
to you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!**

## GOSPEL READING

Luke 17:11–19

***Ten believed and were cleansed, but only one returned to show gratitude for Jesus's generosity***

<sup>11</sup>Now on his way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. <sup>12</sup>As he was going into a village, ten men who had leprosy met him. They stood at a distance <sup>13</sup>and called out in a loud voice, “Jesus, Master, have pity on us!”

<sup>14</sup>When he saw them, he said, “Go, show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were cleansed.

<sup>15</sup>One of them, when he saw he was healed, came back, praising God in a loud voice. <sup>16</sup>He threw himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him—and he was a Samaritan.

<sup>17</sup>Jesus asked, “Were not all ten cleansed? Where are the other nine?” <sup>18</sup>Has no one returned to give praise to God except this foreigner?” <sup>19</sup>Then he said to him, “Rise and go; your faith has made you well.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

*All children are invited to join Pastor 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.*

10:30 Service

## CHILDREN'S CHURCH

*Children ages 3–5 can be dismissed to the 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

**CW626** | *My Heart Is Filled with Thankfulness*

## FOCUS ON THE SCRIPTURES

*Pastor Jonathan Kolander*

***God Keeps His Word***

*Genesis 8:15–22*



## CONFESSION OF FAITH

*The Apostles' 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.

## HYMN

**CW609 v. 1** | *We Praise You, O God, Our Redeemer*

*As we are about to give our gifts to the Lord, we sing:*

**We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;  
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.  
We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;  
we bless your holy name, glad praises we sing.**

## THANK OFFERING

*To show our thanks to God for his generosity toward us, we gather this thank offering, an act of worship (Romans 12:1), to support our Gospel-focused ministry in the Jacksonville area and beyond. See our website for other ways to support Victory's ministry and mission. If you want to give your thank offering online, you may use 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 basket on the back (blue) table. You can also scan the QR code on the left to fill out an online Connection Card.*

## OFFERTORY

*O the Beautiful Treasures* | **arr. Boddie**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.

**Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.**

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

**Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.**

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

**Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.**

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture. Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

**Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.**

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith. Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

**Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.**

*Brief intercessory prayers may be added*

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer*

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

**Amen.**

## **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.

## BLESSING

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 T give you peace.  
**Amen.**

## CLOSING HYMN

**CW624 vs. 1, 3, 5** | *Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

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## VIDEO

*WELS Connection*

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## Serving in Worship

**Pastor**  
**Accompanist**  
**Harpist**

*Rev. Jonathan Kolander*  
*Mrs. Katie Seelman*  
*Mrs. Virginia Black*

### For reflection based on today's Scripture readings...

- 1<sup>st</sup>: What do you think was going through the mind of Noah and his family upon coming off of the Ark? What was a priority for Noah at this point? How has God's promise been kept, and what comfort do you take in this promise? Read 2 Peter 2.
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Would you consider yourself to be a generous person, and if so, in what way(s)? Why is it important to remember where our 'supplies' ultimately come from? Agree or disagree with this: God puts us in positions to be generous. What makes His gift of grace 'indescribable'? Read 2 Corinthians 5:11–21.
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Recall the circumstances connected with leprosy, such heighten the appreciation factor. Do people, in general, tend to be generous with words and actions of thanks? How about you? What is it that 'makes us well'? Read Mark 9:14–32.

## Acknowledgments

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## Sunday Service Times

8:00am Worship  
9:15am Bible Class and Sunday School  
10:30am Worship with Livestream

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

