

**The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost 10/1/2023**

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**Opening Hymn: 603 All Praise to God Who Reigns Above**

**Confession,** *pg. 154*

**Lord, Have Mercy,** *pg. 156*

**Glory Be to God,** *pg. 157*

**Prayer of the Day**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.

**First Reading Ezekiel 18:1–4,25–32**

**Psalm of the Day: 25 To You, O Lord, I Lift My Soul**

**Second Reading Philippians 2:1–11**

**Gospel Acclamation**, *pg. 161*

**Gospel Reading Matthew 21:23–32**

**Hymn of the Day: 547 (verses 1 - 4) At the Name of Jesus**

**Sermon**

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**Offering**

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**Distribution Hymn: 661 Draw Near and Take the Body of Your Lord**

**Distribution Hymn: 667 Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared**

**Blessing,** *pg. 170*

**Closing Hymn: 496 (verses 1, 5, & 6) Jesus! Name of Wondrous Love**

##### **First Reading**

### Ezekiel 18:1–4,25–32

1The word of the Lord came to me: 2“What do you people mean by quoting this proverb about the land of Israel:

“ ‘The parents eat sour grapes,  
 and the children’s teeth are set on edge’?

3“As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, you will no longer quote this proverb in Israel. 4For everyone belongs to me, the parent as well as the child—both alike belong to me. The one who sins is the one who will die.

25“Yet you say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Hear, you Israelites: Is my way unjust? Is it not your ways that are unjust? 26If a righteous person turns from their righteousness and commits sin, they will die for it; because of the sin they have committed they will die. 27But if a wicked person turns away from the wickedness they have committed and does what is just and right, they will save their life. 28Because they consider all the offenses they have committed and turn away from them, that person will surely live; they will not die. 29Yet the Israelites say, ‘The way of the Lord is not just.’ Are my ways unjust, people of Israel? Is it not your ways that are unjust?

30“Therefore, you Israelites, I will judge each of you according to your own ways, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent! Turn away from all your offenses; then sin will not be your downfall. 31Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, people of Israel? 32For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!

##### **Second Reading**

### Philippians 2:1–11

1Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, 2then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. 3Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, 4not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

5In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6Who, being in very nature God,  
 did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;  
7rather, he made himself nothing  
 by taking the very nature of a servant,  
 being made in human likeness.  
8And being found in appearance as a man,  
 he humbled himself  
 by becoming obedient to death—  
 even death on a cross!

9Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
 and gave him the name that is above every name,  
10that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
11and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
 to the glory of God the Father.

##### **Gospel**

### Matthew 21:23–32

23Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while he was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to him. “By what authority are you doing these things?” they asked. “And who gave you this authority?”

24Jesus replied, “I will also ask you one question. If you answer me, I will tell you by what authority I am doing these things. 25John’s baptism—where did it come from? Was it from heaven, or of human origin?”

They discussed it among themselves and said, “If we say, ‘From heaven,’ he will ask, ‘Then why didn’t you believe him?’ 26But if we say, ‘Of human origin’—we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet.”

27So they answered Jesus, “We don’t know.”

Then he said, “Neither will I tell you by what authority I am doing these things.

28“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’

29“ ‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

30“Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.

31“Which of the two did what his father wanted?”

“The first,” they answered.

Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. 32For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

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