**18th Sunday after Pentecost**

“O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high, O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky: we praise You for the radiance that from the hallowed page, a lantern to our footsteps shines on from age to age.” *LSB* 523:1

**AS WE GATHER**

Among the flags of the fifty states of the United States, one of the most distinctive is the flag of Rhode Island. It is a simple design featuring a golden anchor on a field of white, surrounded by thirteen golden stars which commemorate the fact that Rhode Island was the thirteenth of the original colonies to become a state officially. There is just one word on the flag: hope. The likely inspiration for the inclusion of this word is from Hebrews: “We who have fled for refuge might have strong encouragement to hold fast to the hope set before us. We have this as a sure and steadfast anchor of the soul” (Hebrews 6:18–19). The founders of the colony of Rhode Island were hopeful of finding a place of refuge to express their Christian faith freely in their times. In our time, we also are people of Christian hope, as well as people abiding in faith who are given to charity in Christ’s name.

**PSALM** 25:1-10

**+ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION +**

(*LSB*, Divine Service, Setting Five, pg. 213)

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“O Word of God Incarnate”* (*LSB* 523)

**COLLECT OF THE DAY** *(bulletin insert)*

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32 *(bulletin insert)*

**GRADUAL** *(bulletin insert, below Collect of the Day)*

**EPISTLE** Philippians 2:1-4, (5-13), 14-18 *(bulletin insert)*

**HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 21:23-27, (28-32) *(bulletin insert)*

# NICENE CREED *(LSB*,back inside cover)

**HYMN** *“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”* (*LSB* 809)

**SERMON *“The Third Son”***

**PRAYER OF THE CHURCH** (*LSB*, pg. 215-216)

**RETURNING OF OUR FIRST FRUITS**

**+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +**

**Divine Service and the Close Fellowship of Holy Communion**

*Our Lord speaks and we listen. His Word bestows what it says. Faith that is born from what is heard acknowledges the gifts received with eager thankfulness and praise. The gifts include the Holy Supper in which we receive His true body and blood to eat and drink. Those welcome to the table acknowledge the real presence of the body and blood of Christ, confess their own sinfulness, and in true faith wish to receive the forgiveness and strength promised through this Holy Sacrament, as* ***instructed*** *… and* ***in unity of faith*** *… with God’s people here in this congregation. It is our sincerest desire that you join in the intimacy of this fellowship. However,* ***if you are not, yet, an instructed and confirmed member-in-good-standing of a congregation of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, please visit with the pastor about such a fellowship before communing****. If you wish to come forward for a blessing, you are welcome to join us at the rail to receive such. Please cross your arms in front of you to indicate that desire.*

**PREFACE** (*LSB*, pg. 216)

**LORD’S PRAYER, SUNG** (*LSB*,front inside cover)

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“Just as I Am, without One Plea”* (*LSB* 570)

*“O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee”* (*LSB* 632)

**POST-COMMUNION LITURGY** (*LSB*, pg. 218)

**HYMN** *“Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise”* (*LSB* 917)

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 **All are welcome …**

 **… Christ is honored.**