**A person walking on a path with footprints

Description automatically generated15th Sunday after Pentecost**

“Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow His example pure, through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure. Onward in His footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above, full of faith and hope and love, let us do the Father’s bidding. Faithful Lord, with me abide; I shall follow where You guide.” *LSB* 685:1

**AS WE GATHER**

The word *mentor* can be both a noun describing a trusted counselor or a verb meaning to guide someone in new learning. The word originally was the name of a person from classical literature: Mentor was a friend of the Greek hero Odysseus who was entrusted with the education of his son Telemachus. You may have had special mentors throughout your life. We are reminded that Jesus our Lord is our best and most devoted mentor. A well-loved hymn by German writer Sigismund von Birken begins with these words: “Let us ever walk with Jesus, follow His example pure” (*LSB* 685:1). Jesus is our merciful mentor who gently leads us day by day along the path that leads to eternal life. We follow gladly in His footsteps!

**PSALM** 32:1-7

**+ CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION +**

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

**+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +**

**HYMN** *“Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now”* (*LSB* 902)

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

**OLD TESTAMENT READING** Ezekiel 33:7-9 *(bulletin insert)*

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

**EPISTLE** Romans 13:1-10 *(bulletin insert)*

**HOLY GOSPEL** Matthew 18:1-20 *(bulletin insert)*

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

**HYMN** *“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”* (*LSB* 685)

**SERMON *“At What Cost?”***

**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**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**DISTRIBUTION**

*“Lamb of God”* (*LSB* 550)

*“Sent Fort by God’s Blessing”* (*LSB* 643)

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

**HYMN** *“Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”* (*LSB* 686)

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**All are welcome …**

**… Christ is honored.**