

SOLI DEO GLORIA

# Mountain *Reformed Church*

**Sunday July 30, 2023**  
*9<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost*



***Your Church for Worship and the Arts!***  
**WORD | CONNECTION | MUSIC**

## **Welcome to Mountain Reformed Church!**

We are so grateful that you have chosen to worship with us today! The vision of our church is to provide an open door to relationship with God for all through worship, teaching God's Word, and by celebrating with music and the arts. Our mission is simple: All Glory to God! Our church is independent and non-denominational, with a theology based in the reformed way of being Christian. Please see our website at [www.mountainreformed.org](http://www.mountainreformed.org) for more information about our church.

## **Prayer of Meditation**

I awake this day eager to receive divine instruction and to enact your word. As we gather to worship, may I step more deeply into your heavenly realm and bring glory to your name. Keep my feet in your paths and bless us so that we may multiply blessings to others through loving you and serving your world, in Jesus name, Amen.

## **MRC Men's Breakfast**

The men of Mountain Reformed Church will be meeting for their monthly fellowship breakfast Monday, August 7<sup>th</sup> at 8am at Zeke's Eatin' Place in the Frontier Village Shopping Center. All men are invited and encouraged to attend!

## **No Women's Ministry Meetup for the month of August**

Due to the high number of our ladies traveling and/or hosting visitors next month, MRC women will not be holding a meetup in August.

## **August 6th Benevolence Offering**

The recipient of our Benevolence Offering taken on Communion Sunday August 6th will be the Life Pregnancy Resource Center in Chino Valley. Their motto is "always caring, always confidential, always free". This is a great organization that offers prenatal care, parenting classes, and so much more to moms in need. The purpose of the funds given through our Benevolence Offering will be to purchase diapers for babies in need. Cash donations should be dropped in the Benevolence basket, and donations via check can be made out to Mountain Reformed Church with the memo "August Benevolence". Thank you, MRC Family, for continuing to bless those in need!

## **Liturgical Spotlight: What does the "IHS" symbol mean on the paraments?**

There are many creative interpretations of this sign, often found stitched into paraments or inscribed on brass crosses — "In His Service," "I Have Suffered," "Jesus Hominum Salvator" (Jesus, Savior of Humanity), or "In Hoc Signo" (In This Sign). These are all "backronyms," however, spurious acronyms created after the fact. The symbol is actually an ancient monogram for Christ (or Christogram), derived from the first three letters of "Jesus" in Greek: iota – eta – sigma: I H Σ.

ORDER OF WORSHIP  
July 30, 2023 - 10:30 AM  
*9<sup>th</sup> Sunday After Pentecost*

**Gathering**

Words of Greeting and Life of the Church

L: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you!**

L: This is the day that the Lord has made;

**C: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

Prayer of the Day

Prelude

*Be Thou My Vision (Hymn #83)*  
Jim Klein, keyboard

arr. Brent Edstrom

**(Please stand as you are able)**

Call to Worship

L: O give thanks to the Lord, call on his name,  
make known his deeds among the peoples.

*Ps. 105:1-6*

**C: Sing to him, sing praises to him;  
tell of all his wonderful works.**

L: Glory in his holy name;  
let hearts of those who seek the Lord rejoice.

**C: Seek the Lord and his strength;  
seek his presence continually.**

L: Remember the wonderful works he has done,  
his miracles, and the judgements he uttered,  
O offspring of his servant Abraham,  
children of Jacob, his chosen ones.

**C: Let us worship God!**

**(Please remain standing)**

Opening Hymn #1

*Praise to the Lord, the Almighty*

LOBE DEN HERREN

**(Please be seated)**

Call to Confession

Unison Prayer of Confession

**God of mystery, God of life,  
we imagine that we are capable judges  
of power and wisdom and goodness.  
We trust our own standards;  
we separate and categorize;  
we mark the performance of others.  
We fail to trust your power, hidden in all things.  
We fail to watch for you, working out your purposes.**

*Matt. 13:31-33,  
44-52*

**We confess that we have turned away from you  
and have not lived with upright hearts.  
Forgive us for failing to follow you.  
Guide our feet to walk in your ways  
and serve your world  
to the glory of your name.**

*1 Kgs. 3:6:  
Ps. 119:132, 133*

**(Silent Confession)**

L: Amen.

**(Please stand as you are able)**

Gloria Patri, Hymn #670

GLORIA PATRI (GRETorex)

Declaration of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

**(Please be seated)**

Call to Offering

Offertory

*Morning Praise*  
MRC Handbell Choir

arr. Cathy Moglebust

**(Please stand as you are able)**

Doxology, Hymn #668

OLD HUNDRETH

## Prayer of Thanksgiving/Dedication

**(Please be seated)**

### **The Word**

Reading of Scripture

*Romans 8:26-39 (ESV)*

26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. 27 And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. 30 And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified.

31 What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? 32 He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? 33 Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. 34 Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. 35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 36 As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

**L:** The Word of our Lord.

**C:** **Thanks be to God!**

**(Please remain seated)**

Response Hymn #44

*He Knows My Name*

HE KNOWS MY NAME

Prayer for Illumination

Reading of Scripture

*Matthew 13:31-33, 44-46 (NIV)*

31 He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 32 Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

33 He told them still another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough.”

44 “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

45 “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

“Out on the Limb of the Bonsai Tree”

Lyndi Peacock

**(Please stand as you are able)**

Hymn of the Day #346

*The Church's One Foundation*

AURELIA

**(Please remain standing)**

Affirmation of Faith

The Nicene Creed

L: Christians, what do you believe?

**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 truly 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 with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**WE BELIEVE in one holy catholic 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.**

**(Please be seated)**

Prayers for the People, concluded with The Lord's Prayer in unison:

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

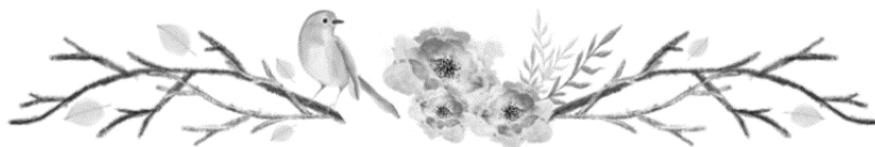
**Sending**

**Charge**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

*God of Grace (Hymn #115)* arr. Robert Hobby  
Jim and Eileen Klein, keyboard; Katie Staudt, handbells



Flowers today are given in praise and thanksgiving for the glory of God!

### **Assisting in Worship:**

Liturgist: Linda Hoover

Pianist: Jim Klein

Acolyte: Tubal Gastonguay

Ushers: Beth Wingate and Judi Williams

Greeter and Coffee Fellowship Coordinator: Karen Thorstad

### **MRC Bulletin and Weekly Email**

Would you like to place an announcement in the Sunday bulletin or “This Week at Mountain Reformed Church” email? Please send your info to Ryan Gastonguay at [ryan@mountainreformed.org](mailto:ryan@mountainreformed.org). The deadline is Monday evening of each week for the coming weekend, but we always appreciate as much notice as possible.

### **Pastor on Call**

The Rev. Dr. Gene Grimm is the Pastor on Call. If you would like to get in touch, feel free to email [eugenegrimm@me.com](mailto:eugenegrimm@me.com) or call 928-925-6057.

### **Prayer Ministry and Prayer Chain**

If you would like to be a part of our prayer ministry and prayer chain, please indicate this on your welcome card. Lyndi Peacock coordinates this ministry, and she will send prayer requests to you by email: [lyndi@milehighlending.com](mailto:lyndi@milehighlending.com). You can also call or text Lyndi at 928-899-2085. If you are seeking prayer please email Lyndi your request directly or fill out a prayer request card (available at the usher’s table) and place in the offering plate.

### **Mountain Reformed Church**

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**7/23/2023 Worship**

**Attendance: 81**

**Bank Balances as of**

**7/26/2023: \$71,164**

