The Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity

The Pharisees ask a Law question. Jesus asks a Gospel question. The Pharisees seek to trap Jesus in His own words. Jesus seeks to "trap" them in the saving reality of who He is as the Messiah (Matt 22:34-46). The Law requires you to *"fear the Lord your God, to walk in all His ways, to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul"* and to *"love the stranger"* (Deut 10:12-21). Failure to keep the Law perfectly brings judgment. On the other hand, the Gospel brings the grace of God given by Jesus Christ, that you may be blameless in the day of His return (1 Cor 1:1-9). Jesus is David's Son yet David's Lord, true God and true man. He is Love incarnate who fulfilled all the demands of God's Law on our behalf, that we might be saved from the Law's condemnation and sanctified in the Gospel's forgiveness. Thereby we see that *"God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."*

Introit: (Psalm 122:1, 6, 8-9; antiphon: Ecclesiasticus 36:16-17a)

Pastor: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for You: and let Your prophets be proven faithful.
Congregation: Hear the prayer of Your servants,
according to the blessing of Aaron upon Your people.
P: I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!"
C: Pray for the peace of Jerusalem! "May they be secure who love you!
P: For my brothers and companions' sake I will say, "Peace be within you!"
C: For the sake of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek your good.
All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
P: Give peace, O Lord, to those who wait for You: and let Your prophets be proven faithful.
C: Hear the prayer of Your servants, according to the blessing of Aaron upon Your people.

Collect of the Day

O God, because without You we are not able to please You, mercifully grant that Your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

+ Deuteronomy 10:12-21 +

"And now, Israel, what does the LORD your God require of you, but to fear the LORD your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul, (13) and to keep the commandments and statutes of the LORD, which I am commanding you today for your good? (14) Behold, to the LORD your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it. (15) Yet the LORD set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day. (16) Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no longer stubborn. (17) For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not partial and takes no bribe. (18) He executes justice for the fatherless and the widow, and loves the sojourner, giving him food and clothing. (19) Love the sojourner, therefore, for you were sojourners in the land of Egypt. (20) You shall fear the LORD your God. You shall serve him and hold fast to him, and by his name you shall swear. (21) He is your praise. He is your God, who has done for you these great and terrifying things that your eyes have seen.

Gradual: (Psalm 122:1, 7)

I was glad when they | said to me, *
"Let us go to the house | of the LORD!"
Peace be with- | in your walls *
and security within your | towers!

+ 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 +

Paul, called by the will of God to be an apostle of Christ Jesus, and our brother Sosthenes, (2) To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints together with all those who in every place call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:
(3) Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (4) I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, (5) that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge— (6) even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you— (7) so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, (8) who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.
(9) God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

+ The Lutheran Confessions Responsive Reading: The Law & The Gospel (Art.V Formula of Concord, Epitome) (1577) +

P: What do we believe, teach, and confess of The Law?
C: We believe, teach, and confess that the Law is properly a divine doctrine [Romans 7:12]. It teaches what is right and pleasing to God, and it rebukes everything that is sin and contrary to God's will. For this reason, then, everything that rebukes sin is, and belongs to, the preaching of the Law.
P: What do we believe, teach, and confess of The Gospel?
C: ...The Gospel is properly the kind of teaching that shows what a person who has not kept the Law (and therefore is condemned by it) is to believe. It teaches that Christ has paid for and made satisfaction for all sins [Romans 5:9]. Christ has gained and acquired for an individual—without any of his own merit—forgiveness of sins, righteousness that avails before God, and eternal life [Romans 5:10].
P: What happens when people hear the bare preaching of the Law without hearing of Christ?
C: They do not learn from the Law to see their sins correctly. They either become bold hypocrites ‹who swell with the opinion of their own righteousness› like the Pharisees [Matthew 23], or they despair like Judas [Matthew 27:3–5].

Verse: (Psalm 117:1)

P: Alleluia. Praise the LORD, all nations!
C: Extol him, all peoples! Alleluia!

+ Matthew 22:34-46 +

But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. (35) And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. (36) "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the Law?" (37) And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. (38) This is the great and first commandment. (39) And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (40) On these two commandments depend all the Law and the Prophets." (41) Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them a question, (42) saying, "What do you think about the Christ? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." (43) He said to them, "How is it then that David, in the Spirit, calls him Lord, saying,
(44) "'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet"'?
(45) If then David calls him Lord, how is he his son?" (46) And no one was able to answer him a word, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.