

**Sermon Notes June 18, 2023 3<sup>rd</sup> Sun after Pentecost**  
**Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church – Dade City, Florida**  
**“Rejoice and Serve”**

**Memory Verses:**

**Exodus 19:4-6 “4You yourselves have seen what I did to the Egyptians, and how I bore you on eagles’ wings and brought you to myself. 5Now therefore, if you will indeed obey my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is mine; 6and you shall be to me a Kingdom of priests and a holy nation. These are the words that you shall speak to the people of Israel.”**

**Psalm 100: 1-2 “1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth!  
2Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into his presence with singing!”**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost, “Father’s Day.”**

**Remembrance of Relationships...**

**Exodus 19 - God’s covenant relationship with his people Israel and Israel’s response “All that the LORD has spoken, we will do.”( Ex. 19:8)**

**Relationship as priests..., Jesus perfectly mediates between sinners and God; the church also intercedes (1 Peter 2:9).**

**Luther had said:” Do not despair after sin, but lift your eyes on high to where Christ intercedes for us. He is our advocate. He intercedes for us and says: ‘Father, I have suffered for this person; I am looking after him.’ This prayer cannot be in vain.” (AE 30:236)**

**Covenant/promise relationship with heavenly much more than just a promise to obey His words.**

**Despite human failures, our sins can be forgiven and by righteousness of Jesus, we could be counted as righteous in his sight.**

**Coming with humble and repentant hearts we can be restored in our relationships.**

Remembering all that the LORD has done for us, we can respond with a spirit of joy and a motivation for service to God and service to our fellow human beings. Psalm 100...

Psalmist includes 2 important parts of relationship with the almighty...  
Serving the Lord with gladness & coming into His presence with singing.

To “enter God’s presence,” refers to worship.

Hebrew for “presence” = “face”...to be in front of someone or something. LORD’s “presence/face” fearsome to his enemies. Worship of the LORD enables us to face our enemies of sin, death, and the forces of evil as we recall Jesus’ triumph over sin, death, and the power of the devil that we might be forgiven of our sins, that even though we may die, that we too shall rise to newness of life in His name. And we can know true peace and joy and life through the one who gives us life/ He gave His life for us.

And we can remember again how much the LORD cares for us and what it should mean for fathers and their families everywhere...

Message/ promise passed on to future generations /true for present generations. Paul and early Christians could boldly proclaim God’s great love for us while acknowledging our own weakness, Romans 5:6 ff.

God’s perfect timing... Paul wrote... about weak sinners.... “For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, now that we are reconciled, shall we be saved by His life. More than that, we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.”

A personal loving relationship between God and humans has been restored by Christ.

We have a wonderful true story to tell and to pass on from generation to generation. In our Gospel reading from Matthew in chapters 9 & 10, we are reminded that “...the harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few; therefore pray earnestly to the LORD of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.”

... “Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God”(1 Cor. 1:24)

... “not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what

you are to say will be given to you in that hour. For it is not you who speak, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”

Beethoven's Ode to Joy ...Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal (#836)  
English translation with appropriate words of encouragement for making a joyful noise and praising the Lord for all of his works, especially the work of forgiveness as our Lord teaches us how to love one another as we have been loved by him.... “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee. ”

### Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee (ELW #836)

Joyful, joyful we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love!  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee, praising thee, their sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the gloom of doubt away.  
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, veil and mountain, flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
chanting bird, and flowing fountain call us to rejoice in thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blessed,  
well-spring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;  
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine!

### Let's Pray:

Lord Jesus, thank you for the family relationships you have given us.  
Strengthen my determination to serve as Your ambassador of peace,  
even when I encounter opposition. We are the sheep of your hand, O  
LORD. Fill us with joyful praise as we seek to serve You. Amen.