

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost ✠ October 18, 2020

***WELCOME!** In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.*



THE PASTORAL GREETING

THE OPENING HYMN – “God Himself Is Present”

LSB 907

- 1 God Himself is present: Let us now adore Him
 And with awe appear before Him.
God is in His temple; All within keep silence;
 Humbly kneel in deepest rev'rence.
He alone On His throne
 Is our God and Savior; Praise His name forever!

- 2 God Himself is present: Hear the harps resounding;
 See the hosts the throne surrounding.
“Holy, holy, holy!” Hear the hymn ascending,
 Songs of saints and angels blending.
Bow Your ear To us here:
 Hear, O Christ, the praises That Your Church now raises.

- 3 Fount of ev'ry blessing, Purify my spirit,
 Trusting only in Your merit.
Like the holy angels, Worshiping before You,
 May I ceaselessly adore You.
Let Your will Ever still
 Rule Your Church terrestrial As the hosts celestial.

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THE INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, Who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.** *1 John 1:8-9*

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

THE KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Sovereign God, place your throne in our hearts. Let us live in your image; created for you. Let us act for your glory, and not for our own; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE – “God Is Here” Tune: Abbot’s Leigh

- 1 God is here! As we your people Meet to offer praise and prayer
 May we find in fuller measure What it is in Christ we share.
 Here, as in the world around us, All our varied skills and arts
 Wait the coming of the Spirit Into open minds and hearts.
- 2 Here are symbols to remind us Of our lifelong need of grace
 Here are table, font, and pulpit; Here the cross has central place.
 Here in honesty of preaching, Here in silence, as in speech,
 Here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to teach.
- 3 Lord of all, of church and kingdom, In an age of change and doubt,
 Keep us faithful to the Gospel; Help us work your purpose out.
 Here, in this day’s dedication, All we have to give, receive;
 We, who cannot live without you, We adore you! We believe!

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✠ THE WORD ✠

THE FIRST READING – Isaiah 45:1-7, TLB

The prophet Isaiah announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel’s exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god

of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

This is the Lord's message to Cyrus, God's anointed, whom he has chosen to conquer many lands. God shall empower his right hand, and he shall crush the strength of mighty kings. God shall open the gates of Babylon to him; the gates shall not be shut against him anymore. I will go before you, Cyrus, and level the mountains and smash down the city gates of brass and iron bars. And I will give you treasures hidden in the darkness, secret riches; and you will know that I am doing this—I, the Lord, the God of Israel, the one who calls you by your name.

And why have I named you for this work? For the sake of Jacob, my servant—Israel, my chosen. I called you by name when you didn't know me. I am the Lord; there is no other God. I will strengthen you and send you out to victory even though you don't know me, and all the world from east to west will know there is no other God. I am the Lord and there is no one else. I alone am God. I form the light and make the dark. I send good times and bad. I, the Lord, am he who does these things. Open up, O heavens. Let the skies pour out their righteousness. Let salvation and righteousness sprout up together from the earth. I, the Lord, created them.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE READING – 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, NIV

In this reading from Paul's first letter to the Christians in Thessalonica, Paul is giving pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic pagan environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you.

We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE HYMN – “Lift Every Voice and Sing”

LSB 964

- 1 Lift ev'ry voice and sing Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty.
Let our rejoicing rise High as the list'ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
Facing the rising sun Of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.

- 2 Stony the road we trod, Bitter the chast'ning rod
 Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
 Yet with a steady beat, Have not our weary feet
 Come to the place for which our parents sighed?
 We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
 We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
 Out from the gloomy past, Till now we stand at last
 Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

- 3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
 Thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
 Thou who hast by Thy might Led us into the light,
 Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
 Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee;
 Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;
 Shadowed beneath Thy hand, May we forever stand,
 True to our God, true to our native land.

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THE HOLY GOSPEL READING – Matthew 22:15-22, NIV

Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?”

But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?”

“Caesar’s,” they replied. Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE HYMN – “Take My Life and Let It Be”

LSB 783

- 1 Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
 Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

- 2 Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love;
 Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.

- 3 Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King;
 Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee.

- 4 Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold;
 Take my intellect and use Ev’ry pow’r as Thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine;
 Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.

- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee.

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THE MESSAGE

✠ THE RESPONSE ✠

THE HYMN – “We Give Thee But Thine Own”

LSB 781

- 1 We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.
- 2 May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blestest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!
- 3 Oh, hearts are bruised and dead, And homes are bare and cold,
And lambs for whom the Shepherd bled Are straying from the fold.
- 4 To comfort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,
To tend the lone and fatherless Is angels' work below.
- 5 The captive to release, To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace, It is a Christ-like thing.
- 6 And we believe Thy Word, Though dim our faith may be:
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord, We do it unto Thee.

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THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition will end with the words: Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Hear us Heavenly Father, as we pray the prayer that Christ gave us:

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 trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

P: May almighty God: Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.
C: Amen.

THE HYMN – “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”

LSB 805

- 1 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host:
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

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✠ May God bless you and yours. ✠

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