

Worship Bulletin

October 18, 2020

GATHERING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

*Sunday, Communion and 10-11, No Sunday school (MEA break), Baptism of Bria Schroeder

*Coffee Hour at 11 am on Sunday on Zoom

*Tuesday 7 am Bible Study- Small Catechism

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 116)

In the name of the Father,

and of the + Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

GREETING (ELW p. 120)

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 124)

Let us pray.

Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

A reading from Isaiah.

The prophet 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.

1 Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
2 I will go before you
and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
3 I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the Lord,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
4 For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I surname you, though you do not know me.
5 I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
6 so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the Lord, and there is no other.
7 I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;

I the Lord do all these things.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

Ascribe to the Lord honor and power. (*Ps. 96:7*)

1 Sing to the Lord a new song;

 sing to the Lord, all the earth.

2 **Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;**

proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

3 Declare God's glory among the nations

 and God's wonders among all peoples.

4 **For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,
 more to be feared than all gods.**

5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;

 but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

6 **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;**

power and splendor are in your sanctuary.

7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,

 ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

8 **Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;**

bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.

9 Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;

 tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

10 **Tell it out among the nations: "The Lord is king!**

**The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples
with equity."**

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;

 let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

12 **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord,**

for you come to judge the earth.

13 You will judge the world with righteousness

 and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

1Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

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

2We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly 3re-
membering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of
hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has
chosen you, 5because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only, but also in power
and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved
to be among you for your sake. 6And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of
persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, 7so that you became an
example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8For the word of the Lord has sounded
forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but in every place your faith in God has be-
come known, so that we have no need to speak about it. 9For the people of those regions report
about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to
serve a living and true God, 10and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the
dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Today we are going to play some Simon Says so anyone in your chairs please stand up.....

So, we all know this game and what we are supposed to do. We are supposed to imitate or fol-
low the person up front, Simon.

Today's letter to the church in Thessalonica, Greece says that these early Christians were not im-
itators of Simon but, rather, of Paul and Jesus. Paul describes these early Christians as working
in faith, laboring in love and being steadfast- committed to- Jesus Christ.

This week how can you live like you are imitating or following Jesus like you are playing Simon
says? Jesus healed- can you help someone feel better? Jesus taught- what do you know that you
can teach to others? Jesus loved people who were unlovable- who do you know that is hard for
you can love?

That is a lot harder than Simon says but we know Jesus will help us.

Let's pray to Jesus for help:

Jesus help us to imitate you in all ways this week. Amen.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 124)

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

15Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. 16So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. 17Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" 18But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" 21They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." 22When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON (ELW p. 125)

This fall has been story after story about religious leaders trying to entrap Jesus. Today, we get another such a plot. The religious leaders thought they finally came up something that would stick and get Jesus, for real this time.

But it didn't work.

Jesus set them straight. Give to the emperor what belongs to the emperor and give to God what belongs to God.

There is more to this story than Jesus evading, outsmarting and stunning those who tried to diminish him.

In this passage, Jesus also sets the stage for people actually living in the world. In other words, he's not encouraging people to try to completely buck or avoid society. He's not telling people that caring for the needs and realities of the world (though paying of taxes or otherwise) is not important. He's saying, "Give to the emperor what is the emperor...."

In other words, you have to live in the world. You have to pay taxes. You have to buy groceries and car insurance. You have to care about your local ordinances and schools. You live in this world. Don't try to pretend it's not true.

There is a lot in the world that causes me... probably causes us... to want to retreat from the world. It's easier to avoid conversations about government and politics, especially right now. It's easier to not vote. It's easier to not be concerned about the needs of the community and try to figure out a solution for it. It's easier to just retreat to this sanctuary, or our couches, pray, talk to those in our church pews, enjoy our private space and ... well... wish everyone well from our quiet place of spiritual fulfillment.

But I don't think Christians are called to always feel fulfilled. We aren't called to always feel at peace.. sometimes we are called to be stirred up and fired up.

This doesn't mean that we are reflections *of* the world. We aren't reflections of the greed, hate, divisiveness and materialism of the world. But we are called to be in the world and be a force for the good God calls us to.

In the same way, Jesus reminds those with whom he is speaking that they are not owned or controlled by the government. Their greatest allegiance- their values, their hopes, their visions, their priorities, what they would ultimately live and die for, who could redeem them- was not to the Roman government but, instead, to God alone.

This, too, is a reminder for us all. Where are we putting our ultimate allegiance? Yes, we have to live in the world, but the world doesn't control, define or own us. If our communities, our families, our nation, our world rejects us... we are not rejected. We are not of this world. If God's calling for us places us in contradiction to the desires or practices of the world, we follow God's calling. We don't stoop to the pettiness and hatred of the world- that's not who we are, not who God created us to be. We live in the world. We contribute to the world. But we are not of this world and the Lord our God is our God above all else.

This sounds like an obvious conversation but how Christians relate to the world has always been the question... and still is a question in most of our hearts. Some groups- monastics, Amish, Hutterites- have aired on the side of being more removed from the world., though all are clearly a part of society in some form. Of course, there is no shortage of people for whom following God has little impact on their daily behaviors.

I think the question this text is asking us to daily live with is "How do I give to the emperor's what is the emperor's and give to God what is God's?" How are you transformed for the sake of the world? How are you living in the world but not of the world?

As we hear week after week, we know God can do that kind of a miracle transformation in our hearts and in our lives. Even in this terrible election year. Even in 2020. We look to Jesus' life as the perfect model of one who was fully in the world- cried at the death of his friend, was rejected by those he thought supported him, fought with people from his religion, and more. And, yet, he never became of the world.

I saw this quote from Rachel Marie Martin the other week and I think it sums up the call and what God can do through us, what it means to be Christians in a complicated, hurting and fallen world:

Don't give up on this year.
Keep fighting for the good.
Keep showing up.
Keep loving.
Keep giving back.
Keep being kind.
Keep being brave.
Keep caring.
Keep trying new things.
Keep showing grace.
Keep on.
The world needs you to believe in the good.

Amen.

CREED (ELW p. 126)

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Gracious God, you call us by name and invite us to share your good news. Send your Holy Spirit among preachers, missionaries, and evangelists. We give thanks for the witness of your servant Luke, the evangelist, whom the church commemorates today. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of praise, the heavens and all creation declare your salvation. From the rising of the sun to its setting, may the whole universe show forth your goodness. Raise up devoted stewards of all that you have made. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of all, may your word of justice sound forth in every place. Restore divided nations and communities with reconciling truth. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of light, we pray for those living with pain, illness, isolation, grief, anger, or doubt. We especially remember

Charlene Wachter, Bob Dieter, Mary Kraft, Marilyn Frisch, Julie & Denny Christensen, Dianne Sanderson, Betty Nelson **Members in Nursing Homes:** Bobbie Elvin, Gene Wachter, Sandra Marsh **Members in Care Facilities:** Joan Doeden, Adeline Larson, Jean Bender **Family Members & Friends:** Lois Gruis, Josh Hansen (Mary Ingenthron's son), Lee Morrison (Terry Morrison's son), Henrietta Lais, Tom Morgan (Sandy Randall's dad), Peggy Konold (Norma Radenbaugh's daughter), Brad Martens (Valerie Veen's son) **Our service men and women Our Missionaries:** Chuck & Sybil Rounds in Costa Rica and Love INC. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Join their voices in a new song, assuring them that you call them each by name. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray for our farmers and laborers who are finishing their harvest. Prosper the work of their hands. We thank you for this year of blessing. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God, we pray for those who are traveling for this MEA break. Give them safe travels and bless their time of rest. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Lord, we pray for the students who will receive the food we package today and tomorrow. Surround them with your love and provision. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Living God, as you raised Jesus from the dead, so raise up those who have died in you. We give thanks for their witness, confident of your rescuing welcome for all. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING (ELW p. 128)

OFFERING PRAYER (ELW p. 129)

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 129)

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE (ELW p. 130)

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 130)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 130)

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
you have brought us this far along the way.
In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,
but guided us into the path of love and light.
In every age you sent prophets
to make known your loving will for all humanity.
The cry of the poor has become your own cry;
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.

In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant
to preach good news to the afflicted,
to break bread with the outcast and despised,
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we await the day when Jesus shall return
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen
Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world.
Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen
Amen.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and martyrs of every age,
that, rejoicing in the hope of the resurrection,
we might live in the freedom and hope of your Son.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (ELW p. 134)

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION (ELW p. 134)

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

COMMUNION (ELW p. 134)

The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION (ELW p. 136)

Let us pray.

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION (ELW p. 136)

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care:

As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread,
assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament
with those who are *sick, homebound, and imprisoned*.

In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament,
and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence
through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

BLESSING (ELW p. 136)

The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL (ELW p. 137)

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.