

Sunday, October 18, 2020
20th Sunday after Pentecost

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS *To the glory of God in thankful praise to Jesus for new life and the hope that He gives us.*

Rita & Reed Nelson

PRELUDE

“Tis so Sweet to Trust in Jesus”

David Paxton

Sharon Gray, piano

APOSTLES’ CREED

**☩ 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!**

WELCOMING SONG

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

ELW 679

**For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation,
thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labor,
God's will is done.**

In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will is done.

In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.

For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.

For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

GREETING

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

G **And also with you.**

SONG OF PRAISE

Glory

pg. 204

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P *Sovereign God,*

G **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!**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Come and Taste"

Hanson and Murakami

Sharmyn Thompson, soprano

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.

¹Thus 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:
²I will go before you
and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
³I 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.
⁴For 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.
⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶so 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.
⁷I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

Reflection

As I read this text, it seems to me that we need to ask the question, does this text apply to us, and if so, how, and if not, why not? Who is the Lord's anointed, in this text? (verse 1) Remember that to be anointed is to be chosen (by God) for a particular purpose—here, to be the conquering ruler. What is Cyrus's purpose? (See Isaiah 44:28, also verse 1 of our text) What will the Lord do to see that God's purpose is accomplished by Cyrus? (verses 2-3) Is it surprising to you that God would call someone to serve God one who does not know God? (verses 4-5) Why does God choose Cyrus? (verse 6) One of the things that Americans have always considered, but not always agreed on, is whether as a nation we are chosen by God for a particular purpose. Much of our history argues against this, such as the destruction and annihilation of so many Native Americans; the role that slavery has played in our history; the fact that White supremacy continues to be a factor in our culture. Still, we often just "feel" and

believe that God has a special place for us among the nations. Are we like Cyrus? What do you think? Back to the text: If “there is no other” besides the Lord” (verse 6), what does that mean when bad things happen? Verse 7 proclaims that God “form[s] light and create[s] darkness. . . make[s] weal and create[s] woe.” Is God responsible for all the bad things that happen as well as the good? To be specific, is God responsible for this pandemic that we are all living through? If yes, what could be God’s purpose for this? If no, how is God involved? (This text does not allow for God not to be involved!)

Psalm 96:1-13 – read together with Howard Harmsen

- ¹Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
- ²Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God’s salvation from day to day.
- ³Declare God’s glory among the nations
and God’s wonders among all peoples.
- ⁴For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.
- ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.
- ⁶Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.
- ⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
- ⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.
- ⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.
- ¹⁰Tell 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.”
- ¹¹Let 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.
- ¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.
- ¹³You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

Reflection

The psalmist calls on the whole earth, all of creation, to sing to the Lord. (verse 1) What are we to celebrate? (verses 2-3) How does God compare to all other gods? (verses 4-5) Why is God greater? What words does the psalmist use (in this translation) to describe God’s presence? (verse 6) “Ascribe to the Lord” means to call God the author and the creator of. Who is to ascribe to the Lord honor and power? (verse 7) How are they to ascribe honor and power to the Lord? (verse 8) How will the whole earth worship the Lord? (verse 9) Who is to be told about the Lord? (verse 10) Who or what else will know the greatness of the Lord? (verse 11) How will these praise the Lord? (verses 11-12) What does it mean that the Lord will “judge the world

with righteousness and the peoples with your truth?” Is that something that will happen sometime in the future, or is the Lord always the judge of the world? What do you think?

SECOND READING – Sharmyn Thompson, reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

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 ³remembering 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 become 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.

Reflection

Who is this letter from? (verse 1) To whom is it addressed? What do they pray for? (verses 2-3) For what have the Christians in Thessalonika been chosen? (verse 4) Through whom were they called? (verse 5) What might have interfered with their calling? (verse 6) How did the Thessalonians respond, even to persecution? (verses 6-7) How have they witnessed to their faith in Jesus? (verses 8-9) How is their faith related to the resurrection of Jesus? (verse 10) How can we learn from this congregation in Thessalonika twenty centuries ago?

GOSEPL ACCLAMATION

“Halle, Halle, Hallelujah”

ELW 172

☞ Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-22

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.

Reflection

The Pharisees wanted to "get" Jesus. What is the "gotcha" question they sent their disciples to ask him? (verses 15-17) What do you think of the flowery language they surrounded their question with? To understand the explosiveness of this question, imagine being in Boston at the time of the Boston Tea Party right before the Revolution, and asking people that. What would be their answer? In this text, most of the Jewish people were angry that they had to pay taxes to Caesar, their oppressor, and the Romans required it. In fact, the question of paying these taxes was the spark of the Jewish revolt that led to the destruction of Jerusalem. So the Pharisees thought Jesus would need to advocate either revolt against Rome or submission to the taxes that made the people so angry. How did Jesus answer their question? (verses 18-20) Whose image was on the coin? Who, then, does the money belong to? What do you think belongs to God? What belongs to the government? (Especially in our democracy, when our government is the people?)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Kris Langdon

SERMON

Rev. Keith Hohly

SONG OF THE DAY

"You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore"

ELW 817

**You have come down to the lakeshore
seeking neither the wise nor the wealthy,
but only asking for me to follow.**

Refrain

**Sweet Lord, you have looked into my eyes;
kindly smiling, you've called out my name.
On the sand I have abandoned my small boat;
now with you, I will seek other seas.**

**You know full well what I have, Lord:
neither treasure nor weapons for conquest,
just these my fish nets and will for working. *Refrain***

**You need my hands, my exhaustion,
working love for the rest of the weary--
a love that's willing to go on loving. *Refrain***

You who have fished other waters;
you, the longing of souls that are yearning:
O loving Friend, you have come to call me. *Refrain*

PRAYER SONG

“Hear Our Prayer”

ELW 178

Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole:
peace to all people, hope for each soul.
God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION – led by Phil & Nancy Lewis

We remember in our prayers

Bonnie Hall, Sarah and Tim Sedlacek, Janet, Marge, Roy, Pamma Williams, Sonny Thompson, Tom Farrell, Marlene Hebb, Ann Newman, Scott Correa, Savannah Rousch, Lynn Ann Flora, Kira & Kaitlyn Wall, Andy Wilson, Reed Nelson, Ashley Sollars, Nancy Reder, Dorothy Masteller, Phil Lewis, David Bezona, Dee Rasmussen, the friends and families of: Cathy Michaelis, Helen Good, and Charles Fowler, those affected by wildfires in the western United States and those affected by storms in the Gulf

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

A brief silence.

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. Bonnie, Sarah and Tim, Janet, Marge, Roy, Pamma, Sonny, Tom, Marlene, Ann, Scott, Savannah, Lynn Ann, Kira & Kaitlyn, Andy, Reed, Ashley, Nancy, Dorothy, Phil, David, Dee, the friends and families of: Cathy Michaelis, Helen Good, and Charles Fowler, those affected by wildfires in the western United States and those affected by storms in the Gulf and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

*God of truth, you show no partiality. May your spirit guide the work of justices, magistrates, court officials, and all vocations of the law, that your promise of restoration may be known. 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!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P *Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.*

C **Amen!**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P *Faithful God,*

C **have mercy on us.**

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

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you**

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen!

P *God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.*

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.

*Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.*

C **Amen!**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

- P** *The peace of Christ be with you always.*
C **And also with you!**

DIALOGUE

- P** *The Lord be with you.*
C **And also with you.**
- P** *Lift up your hearts.*
C **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*
C **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

- P** *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:*

SANCTUS

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

ELW 190

- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, 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

- P** *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 in 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 for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this in remembrance of me.*

LORD'S PRAYER

**☩ Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen!**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

☩ *Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink. All are welcome.*

COMMUNION

BLESSING

☩ *May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in His grace.*

☩ Amen!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

☩ *We give you thanks, gracious God,*

☩ *that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen!*

BENEDICTION

P *Mothering God,
Father, ~~F~~ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.*
G Amen!

SENDING SONG

“Step by Step”

O God You are my God
And I will ever praise You
O God You are my God
And I will ever praise You
I will seek You in the morning
And I will learn to walk in Your ways
And step by step You'll lead me
And I will follow You all of my days

DISMISSAL – Jeff Langdon

P *Go in peace. Serve the Lord.*
G Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

“How Great Thou Art”
Sharon Gray, organ

arr. Gregg Sewell

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Rev. Keith Hohly, Interim Pastor

Instruments: Drums – Bruce Taylor | Piano and Organ – Sharon Gray | Guitar – Jim Pierce

Song leaders and vocal talents: Sharmyn Thompson, Rev. Keith Hohly, Deb Hohly,
Dave Newman, Jeff Langdon, Phil Lewis, Nancy Lewis, Jim Pierce, Juel Pierce, Jim Bunge
and Carol Bunge

Reflections on Today's Readings written by Rev. Juel Pierce

Music and Liturgy:

"For The Fruits Of All Creation" (Ar Hyd Y Nos) | CCLI Song # 1871251 | Fred Pratt Green | Luther Orlando Emerson
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"Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" ELW #172 | Music: Caribbean traditional; arr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954
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"You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore" ELW #817 | Text: David Haas, b. 1957
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"Hear Our Prayer" ELW #178 | Text: Paul Andress, b. 1956
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"Holy, Holy, Holy" ELW #190 | Text: Franz Schubert, 1797 - 1828
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"Step by Step" | CCLI Song # 696994 | David (Beaker) Strasser
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