Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost October 18, 2020

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Welcome and Worship Announcements

Invocation

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**.

Confession and Forgiveness

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

In the mercy of almighty God,
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.
As a called and ordained minister
of the church of Christ, and by his authority,
I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.



Opening Hymn "You Servants of God" pub - lish You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and 2 As - cend - ed on high, al might - y to save. still he yet 1S Let Sal - va - tion God the throne! who sits on all to cry a -Then let dore give him his us and right, all glo - ry a and broad his won - der - ful the name, all - vic to - rious, of name; great con - gre ga - tion nigh, his pres - ence we have. The his loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es Je - sus the of pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless-ing, with glo-rious and his king - dom is all! Je - sus ex - tol; rules o - ver tri-umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king! an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor-ship the Lamb. a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas-ing, and in - fin - ite love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

an - gels

Music: LYONS, attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737-1806

Greeting

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

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.

Psalm 96: 1-9 Sung by all

¹Sing to the LORD | a new song;

sing to the LORD, | all the earth.

²Sing to the LORD and | bless his Name;

proclaim the good news of his salvation from | day to day.

³Declare his glory a- | mong the nations

and his wonders a- | mong all peoples.

⁴For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised;

he is more to be feared | than all gods.

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

but it is the LORD who | made the heavens.

⁶Oh, the majesty and magnificence | of his presence!

Oh, the power and the splendor of his sanctuary!

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples;

ascribe to the LORD hon- or and power.

⁸Ascribe to the LORD the honor | due his Name;

bring offerings and come in- | to his courts.

⁹Worship the LORD in the beaut- | y of holiness; let the whole earth trem- | ble before him.

First Reading Isaiah 45: 1-7

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:

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,

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.

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.

I am the Lord, and there is no other;

besides me there is no god.

I arm you, though you do not know me,

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.

I form light and create darkness,

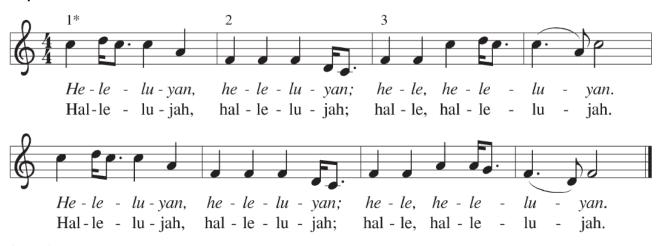
I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

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

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because 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. And 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, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For 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. For 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, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Gospel Acclamation



^{*} May be sung in canon.

Music: Muscogee (Creek) Indian; transc. Charles H. Webb, b. 1933 Transcription © 1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. The Copyright Company

Gospel Matthew 22: 15-22

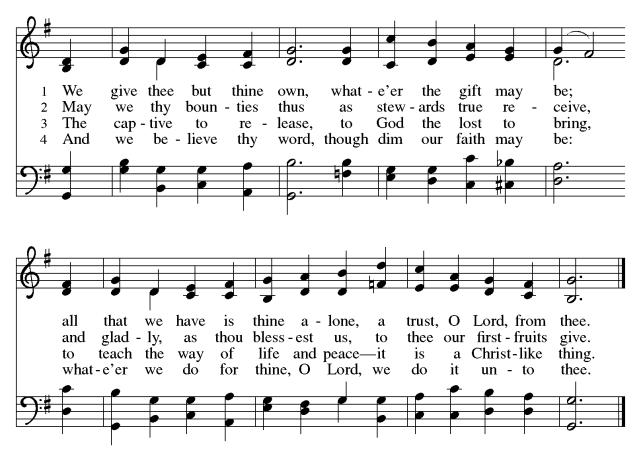
The Holy Gospel according to _____. Glory to you, O Lord.

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. So 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. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They 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." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day

"We Give Thee But Thine Own"



Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, Cantica Lauda, 1850

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 into hell.

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.

Prayers of Intercession

Peace

Offering

| We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word, | |
|---|-------------------|
| for calling creation into being, | Gen. 1:3 |
| declaring forgiveness from the cross, | <i>Luke 23:34</i> |
| and delivering the spirit of rebirth. | John 3:5 |
| We praise you, O God, for your Word: | |
| we praise you, O God, for your Word. | |

| Your word is a lamp lighting our path, | Ps. 119:105 |
|---|-------------|
| a mirror reflecting our selves, | James 1:23 |
| a shield providing us refuge, | Prov. 30:5 |
| a fire burning for justice and truth. | Jer. 23:29 |
| Your word is sweeter than honey: | Ps. 119:103 |
| it nourishes our bodies like milk, | 1 Pet. 2:2 |
| it sustains your people like bread. | Matt. 14:20 |
| We receive your promises, more treasured than gold. | Ps. 19:10 |
| We bless you, O God, for your Word: | |
| we bless you, O God, for your Word. | |

| Open our ears to your prophets, apostles, and saints, | Eph. 2:19-20 |
|---|---------------|
| and to all the cries of the needy. | James 5:4 |
| Breathe into your church the mighty Spirit of Christ, | John 20:22 |
| that heeding your voice of beauty and power | Ps. 29:9 |
| we are strengthened to serve wherever we are called. | Rom. 16:25-26 |

To you, Father, Son, and Spirit – the Source, Word, and Breath – we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word: we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word. Amen.



Lord's Prayer



Blessing

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and for ever. **Amen.**



Text: William W. Reid Jr., b. 1923 Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent. Text © 1958, ren. 1986 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Announcements and Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

BEGINNING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY



PLACE GOD FIRST IN YOUR BUDGETING AND SPENDING

The Ten Commandments stress that God must be first in our lives. And Jesus said, "Seek first God's kingdom and righteousness and all these things shall be yours as well." (Matthew 6:33)



Many experience difficulty giving generously despite the desire and pledge to do so, because they attempt to give from what is left over at the end of the week or month rather than from first fruits, from all they have received.

The simple practice of placing God and the Church first in budgeting and spending has helped many to experience joy in their giving. When you do this you are giving from all that a good and loving God has provided. And you are practicing stewardship, understanding that you are but a temporary trustee of what God has entrusted to you.

BEGINNING A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY



Did you know that that the average protestant church member gives away about 2% of their income to the church? Another statistic shows that the median protestant (person in the middle if lined up smallest percentage to largest) only give 0.62% of their income to the church.

For most people the reason for this has less to do with their wealth or income and more to do with intentionality and regular systematic giving.

Over the course of a year, \$1 per day comes to a gift of \$365, which for about 35-40% of Americans would be significant growth in their giving to the church. The average Starbucks coffee costs \$2.75. This amounts to over \$1,000 if one is purchased every day of the year.

Regular, systematic giving can help all of us become more generous. We get overwhelmed when we think about larger numbers like \$1,000. However, most of us can find \$2.75 per day. As you think and pray about your generosity this year, consider how systematic giving may help you become more generous.

How can one not be thankful for such loving support and community? How can you not feel God's abiding grace and favor? We increase our financial giving to St. Mark's and the Church-at-large every year. For over 35 years we have supported Lutheran World Relief and other ministries of the Church.

-Mark F.

We have been richly blessed and return to God what is already His. There is joy in giving and being generous with our time, talents, and financial resources.

-Henry U.