



IMMANUEL TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
October 18, 2020

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AS WE GATHER

As the Lord speaks to us in His Word, He calls the righteous to live by faith and always gives reason why His people can do so through His continual presence, power, and providence. The Readings today urge us, in various ways, to live by faith in our confession and conviction. In Isaiah, He with great conviction reminds through the prophet, “I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides Me there is no God.” In the Epistle, Paul assures the Thessalonians, “He has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction.” Finally, in today’s Gospel, Christ urges us to live by faith and as stewards of all He has provided, to “render . . . to God the things that are God’s.” Moved by His Spirit out of gratefulness for the salvation earned for us by Christ Jesus, we then give God our willing obedience, dedicated service, and the glory due His name as we in confession and conviction live by faith in and through Him.

WELCOME

HYMN “Before You, Lord, We Bow” LSB 966, verse 1

1 **Before You, Lord, we bow, Our God who reigns above
And rules the world below, Boundless in pow’r and love.
Our thanks we bring In joy and praise,
Our hearts we raise To You, our King!**

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INVOCATION

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

C: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *Psalm 96:1–9*

P: Oh sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth!

C: **Sing to the LORD, bless His name; tell of His salvation from day to day.**

P: Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous works among all the peoples!

C: **For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.
Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.**

HYMN “Before You, Lord, We Bow” *LSB 966, verses 2-3*

- 2 **The nation You have blest May well Your love declare,
From foes and fears at rest, Protected by Your care.
For this bright day, For this fair land—
Gifts of Your hand—Our thanks we pay.**
- 3 **May ev’ry mountain height, Each vale and forest green,
Shine in Your Word’s pure light, And its rich fruits be seen!
May ev’ry tongue Be tuned to praise
And join to raise A grateful song.**

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P: For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

C: Splendor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

P: Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

**C: Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; bring an offering, and come into His courts!
Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.**

HYMN “Before You, Lord, We Bow” *LSB 966, verse 4*

- 4 **Earth, hear your Maker’s voice; Your great Redeemer own;
Believe, obey, rejoice, And worship Him alone.
Cast down your pride, Your sin deplore,
And bow before The Crucified.**

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *Psalm 51:1–3; 96:9–13; Isaiah 45:5, adapted*

P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;

C: according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

P: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!

C: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me.

P: As we come and bow before the Lord to confess our sins, we admit that we have bowed down to other gods of this world and gods of our own choosing.

C: We confess we have trusted in ourselves and others rather than in You.

P: We have failed to rely on You in all times. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, and against others in what we have done and left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart

C: and have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We confess we have trusted in ourselves and others rather than in You.

P: Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

C: let the field exult, and everything in it!

P: Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy

C: before the LORD, for He comes,

P: for He comes to judge the earth. He will judge the world in righteousness, and the peoples in His faithfulness.

C: **Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.**

HYMN "Before You, Lord, We Bow" *LSB 966, verse 5*

5 **And when in pow'r He comes, Oh, may our native land
From all its rending tombs Send forth a glorious band,
A countless throng, With joy to sing
To heav'n's high King Salvation's song!**

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P: Brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus, God is a merciful and loving Father, of whom "there is no other, besides Him there is no God." He has chosen you in the Gospel, which has come not only in word but with full conviction in power and in the Holy Spirit. Jesus died on the cross to redeem You. Through Him, in His stead, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

HYMN "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name" *LSB 940*

1 **Holy God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we bow before Thee.
All on earth Thy scepter claim, All in heav'n above adore Thee.
Infinite Thy vast domain, Everlasting is Thy reign.**

2 **Hark! The glad celestial hymn Angel choirs above are raising;
Cherubim and seraphim, In unceasing chorus praising,
Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord: Holy, holy, holy Lord!**

3 **Lo, the apostles' holy train Join Thy sacred name to hallow;
Prophets swell the glad refrain, And the white-robed martyrs follow,
And from morn to set of sun Through the Church the song goes on.**

4 **Thou art King of Glory, Christ; Son of God, yet born of Mary.
For us sinners sacrificed, As to death a Tributary,
First to break the bars of death, Thou hast opened heav'n to faith.**

5 **Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name Thee;
Though in essence only one, Undivided God we claim Thee
And, adoring, bend the knee While we own the mystery.**

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SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God, as there is no other like You, help us to give to You the things that are Yours, that we serve only You. Govern all things in this world so Your Church will serve You with conviction in confidence and peace, and that faith, hope, and love be known and shown in our earthly journeys as Your kingdom comes; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 45:1-7*

(The Lord uses Cyrus as an instrument of deliverance.)

Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: ²“I will go before you and level the exalted places, 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 the hoards in secret places, 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 name you, though you do not know me. ⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, ⁶that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the LORD, who does all these things.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 1:1-10* (The Thessalonians' faith and example)

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ²We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, 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 loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. ⁹For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 22:15–22* (Jesus tested by the Pharisees about paying taxes to Caesar)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. ¹⁶ And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone’s opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” ²¹ They said, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” ²² When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY “Renew Me, O Eternal Light” [LSB 704]

- 1 **Renew me, O eternal Light, And let my heart and soul be bright,
Illumined with the light of grace That issues from Your holy face.**
- 2 **Remove the pow’r of sin from me And cleanse all my impurity
That I may have the strength and will Temptations of the flesh to still.**
- 3 **Create in me a new heart, Lord, That gladly I obey Your Word.
Let what You will be my desire, And with new life my soul inspire.**
- 4 **Grant that I only You may love And seek those things which are above
Till I behold You face to face, O Light eternal, through Your grace.**

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SERMON “Sunday Is Here, but Monday Is Coming: So This Is What It’s Come To” Rev Gregory Prauner

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.

OFFERING and CONNECTION CARDS

HYMN “We Give Thee But Thine Own”

LSB 781, verses 1-2

- 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 blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!**

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

- P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. We offer to You, Lord, the sacrifice of our prayer and praise. You have blessed us with the gift of life in Your Son, Jesus Christ. You provide for all our needs, even when we are unaware. Accept our humble thanksgiving, and empower us to demonstrate our thanks in words, actions, and dedicated service to You. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- P: We acknowledge that You are the Lord, and there is no other. Strengthen us to resist temptations to serve other gods, whether things of this world, others, or ourselves. Open our eyes to see Your presence in all of our lives. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- P: Our Savior Jesus Christ, has reminded us to render to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to You what is Yours. As You have established all authority over us, we pray for our leaders in this world, nation, state, and community. Give them wisdom and courage to act with justice and mercy for all lives, including the unborn and aged, the vulnerable and needful. Bless also those who serve our Church as elected and called officials, and the leaders within our own congregation, that all actions bring glory to You. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- P: We lift up all those in need, the hungry and homeless, the mourning and grieving, and all who seek healing, [*especially* . . .]. Give peace, hope, and healing according to Your will. Lord, in Your mercy,
- C: hear our prayer.**
- P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.
- C: Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9–13*

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.

BENEDICTION

- P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace. *Numbers 6:24–26*
- C: Amen.**

HYMN “Spread the Reign of God the Lord” *LSB 830*

- 1 **Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spoken, written, mighty Word;
Ev’rywhere His creatures call To His heav’nly banquet hall.**
- 2 **Tell how God the Father’s will Made the world, upholds it still,
How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.**
- 3 **Tell of our Redeemer’s grace, Who, to save our human race
And to pay rebellion’s price, Gave Himself as sacrifice.**
- 4 **Tell of God the Spirit giv’n Now to guide us on to heav’n,
Strong and holy, just and true, Working both to will and do.**
- 5 **Enter, mighty Word, the field; Ripe the promise of its yield.
But the reapers, oh, how few For the work there is to do!**
- 6 **Lord of harvest, great and kind, Rouse to action heart and mind;
Let the gath’ring nations all See Your light and heed Your call.**
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POSTLUDE

Organ – Kris Vocal Leader – Lynn