



## COMMUNITY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Sunday, October 18, 2020  
20th Sunday after Pentecost  
Online Edition

### WELCOME

We welcome you to our worship service this morning. We pray that you will leave refreshed by the hearing of God's Word and the fellowship of this community.

### INTRODUCTION

*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 to 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.*

### GATHERING

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

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ☐ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

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.**

## **GATHERING SONG: *God Is Here!* (ELW 526) - next page**

### **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.**

O Lord, I cry to you for help.  
**In the morning my prayer comes before you.**  
Let my mouth be full of your praise  
**and your glory all the day long.**  
Every day will I bless you,  
**and praise your name forever and ever.**  
Awesome things will you show us in your righteousness,  
O God of our salvation,  
**O hope of all the ends of the earth  
and of the seas that are far away.**  
Bless the Lord, O my soul,  
**and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.**  
You redeem my life from the grave,  
**and crown me with mercy and steadfast love.**  
Lord, hear my prayer,  
**and let my cry come before you.**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.*

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

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.*

<sup>1</sup>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:

<sup>2</sup>I will go before you

# God Is Here!

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer  
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long  
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's  
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of

praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure  
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;  
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,  
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;

what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the  
 here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -  
 Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants  
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's

world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts  
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,  
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore  
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.  
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.  
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.  
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000  
 Music: ABBOTS LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991  
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and level the mountains,  
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze  
and cut through the bars of iron,  
<sup>3</sup>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.  
<sup>4</sup>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.  
<sup>5</sup>I am the LORD, and there is no other;  
besides me there is no god.  
I arm you, though you do not know me,  
<sup>6</sup>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.  
<sup>7</sup>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]**

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.  
<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;  
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**  
<sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory among the nations  
and God's wonders among all peoples.  
<sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,  
more to be feared than all gods.**  
<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.  
<sup>6</sup>**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**  
<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.  
<sup>8</sup>**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**  
<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;  
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

### **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.*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,  
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:  
Grace to you and peace.

<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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, <sup>10</sup>and 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.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

*Repeat 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.*

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” <sup>21</sup>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.” <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

## SERMON

# HYMN OF THE DAY *O God of Every Nation (LLANGLOFFAN) (ELW 713)*

## O God of Every Nation

The musical score is written in a two-staff system (treble and bass clefs) with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment line. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 O God of ev - 'ry na - tion, of ev - 'ry race and land,  
2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,  
3 Lord, strength-en all who la - bor that all may find re - lease,  
4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem your whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand;  
from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc-tion through the night,  
from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;  
when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,  
from pride of race and sta - tion and blind-ness to your way,  
when hope and cour-age fal - ter, Lord, let your voice be heard;  
till dawns the morn-ing glo - rious when truth and love shall reign,

in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.  
de - liv - er ev - 'ry na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.  
with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.  
and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

Text: William W. Reid Jr., b. 1923

Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

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## 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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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 (*especially*). Join their voices in a new song, assuring them that you call them each by name. 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 (*especially*). We give thanks for their witness, confident of your rescuing welcome for all. Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, in you we live and move and have our being. Guide and govern us in this day by your Holy Spirit, that in all the cares and occupations of our life we may not forget you, but remember that always we are walking in your sight. 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.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **BLESSING**

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.**

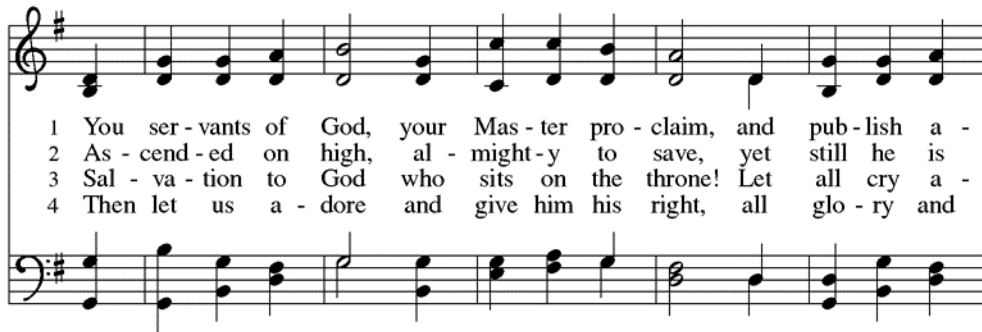
The God of all grace ☐ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

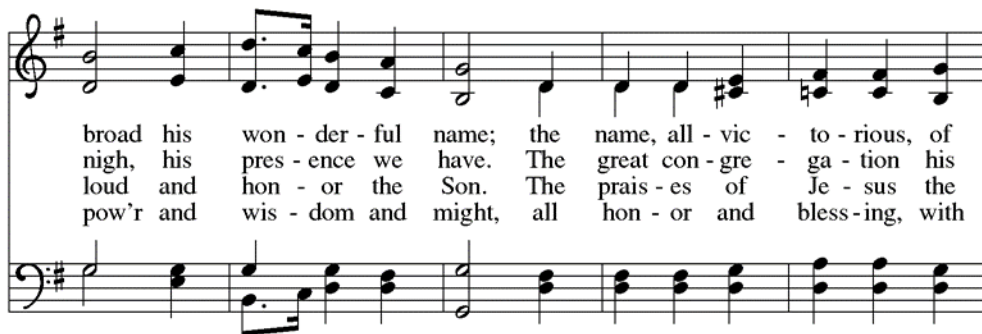
**SENDING SONG *You Servants of God* (ELW 825) - next page**



## You Servants of God



1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -  
2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save, yet still he is  
3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -  
4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and



broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of  
nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his  
loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the  
pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with



Je - sus ex - tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all!  
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.  
an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.  
Music: LYONS, attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737–1806

### DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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