

St. John & Bethesda Lutheran Churches

20th Sunday after Pentecost
ELW Holy Communion Setting Ten
Sunday, October 18, 2020

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

WELCOME

Ascribe to the LORD honor and power. (Psalm 96:7)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

Faithful God,

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.**

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:

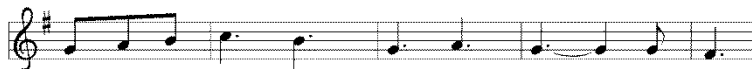
Your sins are forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ.

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

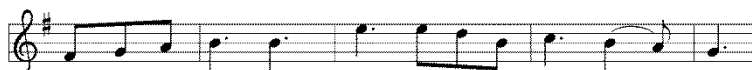
GATHERING SONG *Lift Every Voice and Sing* (ELW 841)



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty,
 felt in the days when hope un - born - had died;
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
 yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea,
 come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



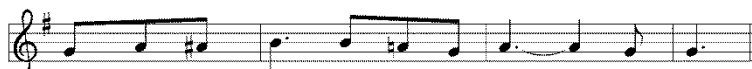
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;



fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,



let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871–1938

Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873–1954

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.

KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

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.

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.**

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.

⁷**I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.**

Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

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

¹Sing 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.**

³Declare 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.**

⁵As 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.**

⁷Ascribe 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.**

⁹Worship 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.”

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.

¹²**Then 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.

SECOND 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. ⁸**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.** 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

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. ¹⁷**Tell 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

HYMN OF THE DAY *When Our Song Says Peace* (ELW 709)



1 When our song says peace and the world says war, we will
2 When our song says free and the world says bound, we will
3 When our song says home and the world says lost, we will



sing de-spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,
sing de-spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,
sing de-spite the world. We will trust the song, for we sing of God,



who breaks the spear and sword and stills the storm of war.
who o-pens pris-on doors and sets the cap-tives free.
who brings us home at last, and gives a song to all.

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.

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* our sisters and brothers *at Bethesda*: Art Holverson, Lenyce Lawrence, Wes Moffatt, Gary and Diane Kalskett and *at St. John*: Jean Dommer, Linda Frazier, Audrey Androy, Davie Vander Kolk, Grant Gorham, Jim Berka, Jane and Dennis Schrauth, Pat DeLong, Vince Motto and Pam Odland and those we name in our hearts.. 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. *Watch over the elections in our country, so that leaders can be confident in the support of the people from accurate ballot counts.* 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.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.

DIALOGUE

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

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:

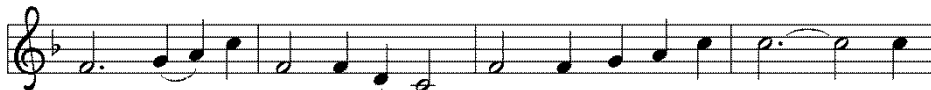
HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



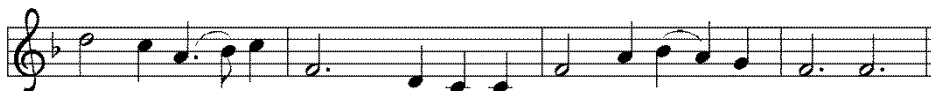
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

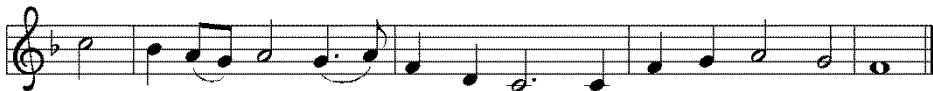
Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

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.

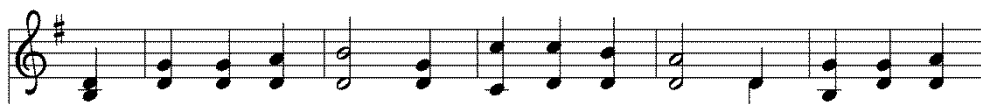
**Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven,
into your beloved vineyard
to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst,
guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ
and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.**

SENDING

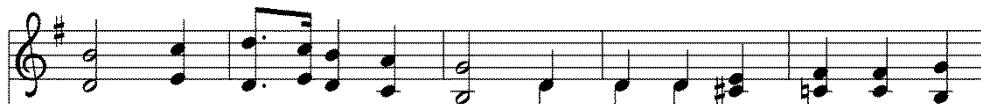
BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

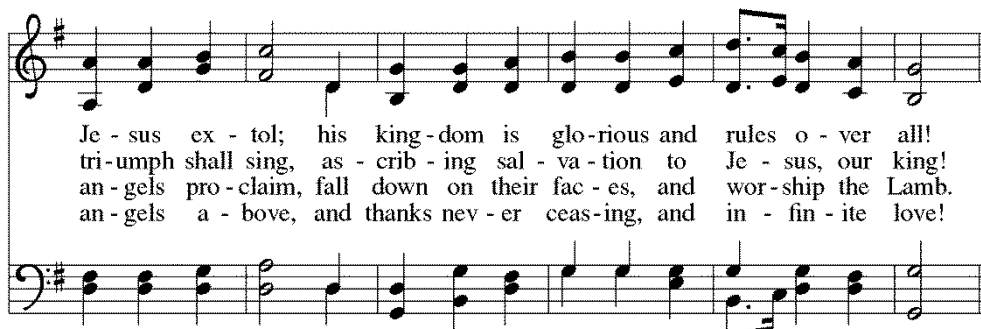
SENDING SONG *You Servants of God* (ELW 825)



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!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

The Image of God

The Pharisees and Herodians come to Jesus with a seemingly simple question: “Is it lawful to pay taxes or not?” In a deft move characteristic of his ministry, Jesus refuses to pick a side. He doesn’t debate them, but reframes the whole question. In doing so, he creates space in which they are open to hear a new possibility and be amazed.

The imperial coin bears the image of the emperor, just as our currency bears the image of our nation’s favored leaders. What bears God’s image? You! In the first chapter of Genesis we learn that all of humankind is created in the image of God, blessed, and entrusted with caring for every living creature.

When Jesus says, “Give . . . to God the things that are God’s” (Matt. 22:21), we are reminded that there is nothing in this world and nothing in ourselves that is beyond the scope of God’s care. Like the money stamped with the ruler’s image, we see what God treasures in the face of every person on the planet: ourselves and our neighbors, those we love and those we fear. God’s own image is in every race, every age, every gender identity, every ability. Each of us shines forth a unique facet of who God is. All that we have and all that we are is from God and for the sake of the whole world.

The sacred image in us is reinforced every week when we take part in the celebration of Holy Communion. As we are fed with the body of Christ, we pray that we too might “give ourselves away as bread for the hungry” (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 114). Nothing is ours to keep. All is gift from God, freely given and constantly renewed. Set free by the promises of God’s steadfast presence and generosity, we may live with open hands and open hearts.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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WELCOME

Welcome to Bethesda Lutheran Church. We are glad you joined us for worship this morning. Visitors are asked to sign the guest book in the entry way.

Please join us for worship again soon!

THIS WEEK AT BETHESDA

Today 8:45 AM – Worship with Communion
Wednesday Pastor @ St. John
Thursday Pastor @ Bethesda
Sunday 8:45 AM – Worship with Communion

THANKS TO THOSE WHO HELPED WITH THE SERVICE THIS MORNING

Reader

Jim Rains

Organist

Deb Lauritsen

NEXT SUNDAY (OCTOBER 18, 2020)

Reader

Maggie Rains

Organist

Deb Lauritsen

WELCOME

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church.

We are glad you joined us for worship this morning! Visitors are asked to sign the guest book in the entry way.

Please join us again for worship soon!

This Week at St. John

- Today** 8:45 AM – Worship with Communion
- Wed.** Pastor's at St. John
- Thurs.** Pastor's at Bethesda
- Sun.** 8:45 AM – Worship/Reformation, Confirmation

THANKS TO THOSE WHO HELPED WITH THE SERVICE THIS MORNING

- Greeters:
- Ushers:
- Reader: Carol Holst
- Acolyte:
- Organist: Damon Hopkins

Next Sunday, 8:45 AM, October 18, 2020



- Greeters:
- Ushers:
- Readers:
- Acolyte:
- Organist: Damon Hopkins

Attendance & Offering

Oct. 4 th Attendance	19
Envelope offering	\$545.00
Loose offering	\$20.00

In order to meet the proposed budget for the church year, we need a weekly offering of approximately \$1600. Thanks.

Birthdays This Week

-  **Mon** (10/19).....Maureen Heffernan, Nancy Heistand
-  **Fri** (10/23) Jaiden Ten Eyck

Our Long-Term Prayers

Each week we lift up each other in prayer. Sometimes the need for prayer continues for extended periods of time. As a church family, we care about those long-term needs. Please continue to keep these individuals and families in your prayers as they deal with long term illnesses and life changes. Also, please Pastor Chip and the office updated so the congregation knows when extra prayers are needed.

- † Audrey Gorham
- † Sam and Diane Jacobs
- † Russ Miller (Leonard and Helen Miller's nephew)
- † Joel Berka
- † Jane and Dennis Schrauth (Suzie Schutlz sister and brother in law)
- † Arlene Eisermann (Ron Holst's Sister)
- † Cheryl Rath (Tom Heistand's sister)
- † Vince Motto (Pastor Chip's Cousin)
- † Art Holverson
- † Lenyce Lawrenceeson
- † Wes Moffatt
- † Gary and Diane Kalskett
- † **Grant Gorham address:**

Grant Gorham
3333 Burnet Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45229-3026

Grant has been hospitalized.

Your prayers are especially needed at this time.