

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2020 | 9:45 am | Ascension Lutheran Church



Words of Welcome

Invocation

P We begin in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

P Sing to the LORD a new song;

G **sing to the LORD, all the earth!**

P Sing to the LORD, praise His name;

G **proclaim His salvation day after day.**

P Declare His glory among the nations,

G **His marvelous deeds among all peoples!**

P For great is the LORD, and most worthy of praise;

G **Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness!** (Psalm 96:1-3, 4a, 9a)

Opening Hymn LSB 575 | "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'
3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me
4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I



blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my
in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly
then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol-id rock, I stand; All oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

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Confession and Forgiveness

P Sisters and brothers in Christ, as children of God, our hope is in the Lord. Yet in the weakness of our sinful flesh, we turn away from the Lord and put our hope in ourselves and in the things of this world. Let us think about the false hopes to which we sometimes cling and confess our sins to our heavenly Father.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Gracious heavenly Father,

A *we confess that our faith wavers at times. We allow things of this world to produce uncertainty and fear within us. Although we believe in Your victory at the end of time, we fail to trust You to*

protect us and relieve our anxieties each day. Forgive us, strengthen our faith in Your almighty power and unconditional love, and turn us again toward Your will. Grant us to serve You in peace and joy. Amen.

P With the Lord there is forgiveness! As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen!

Hymn of Praise LSB 850 | "God of Grace and God of Glory"

1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, On Your peo - ple
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion To the e - vils

pour Your pow'r; Crown Your an - cient Church's sto - ry;
we de - plore; Let the gift of Your sal - va - tion

Bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom,
Be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom,

grant us cour - age For the fac - ing of this
grant us cour - age, Serv - ing You whom we a -

hour, For the fac - ing of this hour.
dore, Serv - ing You whom we a - dore.

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Prayer of the Day

P Almighty God, You are with us here in time and have invited us into Your heavenly presence in eternity. Open our hearts and minds so that we may respond to Your special invitation in humble joy now and in eternal rejoicing at Your heavenly banquet; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading | Isaiah 45:1-7

¹This is what the LORD says to His anointed one, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him by stripping kings of their weapons, to open doors before him so that the gates cannot be shut. ²I myself will go before you, and I will level high mountains. I will break bronze doors into pieces, and I will cut through iron bars. ³I will give you treasures hidden in darkness and riches concealed in secret places, so that you will acknowledge that I am the LORD, the one who calls you by name, the God of Israel. ⁴For the sake of My servant Jacob, for the sake of Israel My chosen one, I will call you by your name. I will give you an honored name, though you do not know Me. ⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other. Except for Me, there is no god. I will equip you even though you do not know Me, ⁶so that people will know from the rising of the sun to the place where it sets that there is no one except Me. I am the LORD, and there is no

other. ⁷I am the one who forms light and creates darkness, the one who makes peace and creates disaster. I am the LORD, the one who does all these things.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle Reading | 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹Paul, Silas, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians, which is in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ²We always give thanks to God for all of you as we make mention of you in our prayers, ³because we constantly remember before God our Father your work produced by faith, your labor produced by love, and your patient endurance produced by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴Dear brothers, loved by God, we know that God has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel did not come to you with mere words, but with power, with the Holy Spirit, and with deep conviction. You yourselves know very well what kind of people we proved to be for your sake, while we were with you. ⁶You also became imitators of us and of the Lord, when you welcomed the Word during a time of great affliction with the joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became a model for all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. ⁸Indeed, the Word of the Lord has resounded from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith in God has become known. As a result, we do not need to say anything, ⁹because they themselves inform us about what kind of reception we received from you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God. ¹⁰They also report how you patiently wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead—Jesus, the one who is going to rescue us from the coming wrath.

R This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel | Matthew 22:15-22

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

C **Glory to you, O Lord!**

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went out and plotted together how to trap Him in His words. ¹⁶They sent their disciples to Him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that You are truthful and teach the way of God in accord with the truth. You are not concerned about gaining anyone's approval because You are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷So tell us, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus knew their evil purpose and said, "Why are you testing Me, hypocrites? ¹⁹Show Me the coin used for the tax." They brought Him a denarius. ²⁰He asked them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" ²¹"Caesar's," they replied to Him. Then He said to them, "Therefore give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed. Then they left Him and went away.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Hymn of the Day LSB 851 | "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"



1 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your
2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Glad - ly,

life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the
 free - ly of Your own. With the sun - shine of Your

lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice;
 good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone

And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings
 Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by

count - less as the sand To the un - thank - ful
 You, at length be - lieve That more hap - py

and the e - vil With Your own un - spar - ing hand.
 and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.

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Message

Response Verse LSB 851 | "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

4 Lord of glo - ry, You have bought us With Your

life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the

lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.

Give us faith to trust You bold - ly, Hope, to

stay our souls on You; But, oh, best of

all Your grac - es, With Your love our love re - new.

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Profession of Faith | Apostles' Creed

- P** Living together in trust and hope, we now confess our faith.
- A** *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.

Prayers of the Church

P Lord of all nations, open the hearts of all whom You have allowed to be in positions of authority—those in government, the military, and other power structures. By Your Holy Spirit move them to compassion for the people under their care and influence. Grant them wisdom in their decisions and humility in their service. Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, look on this land and bless all its inhabitants. Use the political process to continue the blessings You have so graciously bestowed on us. Grant that those who are elected may increase the prosperity, safety, and dignity of all. As You work through them, may the Gospel be spread throughout this land. Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

P Lord our God, we ask Your healing and strength for people near and far who find themselves in dire straits. For those falsely imprisoned, open the barred gates; for those oppressed by despots, break the bonds of tyranny; for those without adequate food, clothing, or shelter, arouse local concern and international pressure to meet all their physical needs. Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

P Lord Jesus, hear the cries of those who call out to You in their distress. Heal the sick (including . . .) and comfort those who mourn (including . . .); restore joy to the depressed and hope to all whose faith is weak. Lord, in Your mercy,

G **hear our prayer.**

(Special petitions are offered here.)

P These and any other things You would have us ask of You, grant to us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior, who has taught us how to pray:

A *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 Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's,

G **and to God the things that are God's.**

P The blessing of God almighty—Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit—strengthen and preserve you, now and forever.

G **Amen.**

Closing Hymn LSB 554 | "O Jesus, King Most Wonderful"



1 O Je - sus, King most won - der - ful!
4 May ev - 'ry heart con - fess Your name,
5 Oh, may our tongues for - ev - er bless,



O Con - quer - or re - nowned! O Source of peace in -
For - ev - er You a - dore, And, seek - ing You, it -
May we love You a - lone And ev - er in our



ef - fa - ble, In whom all joys are found:
self in - flame To seek You more and more!
lives ex - press The im - age of Your own!

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Sending

Go in peace as you serve the Lord!

Thanks be to God!

Postlude