



## **Christ Lutheran Community Church**

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2020

### **INTRODUCTION TO THE THEMES OF THE DAY**

*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.*

# THE GATHERING

*Gather in prayer and prepare to receive God's Word.*

## WELCOME

## PRELUDE

## 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.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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.**

# O God beyond All Praising



1 O God be-yond all prais - ing, we wor-ship you to - day  
2 The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,  
3 Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;  
its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;  
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,  
but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown -  
and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer-cies with - out end:  
though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav-en's gar - den grown:  
we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,  
for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,  
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.  
and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.  
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

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.**

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.**

## **THE WORD**

*We several scriptures each Sunday. The Old Testament parallels the themes of the Gospel reading. The New Testament is chosen from the earliest letters of the church.*

### **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.*

<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  
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.  
 5 I am the Lord, and there is no other;  
 besides me there is no god.  
 I arm you, though you do not know me,  
 6 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.  
 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 96

### Psalm 96: Give the Lord Glory and Honor

Refrain



Verses

1. Sing to the Lord a new song. Sing to the Lord all you lands!  
 Sing to the Lord with all your heart, and bless God's name!
2. Announce salvation day by day, God's glory throughout the earth!  
 Among all the people in ev'ry land, God's wondrous deeds!
3. Give to the Lord, you nations, praise to the Lord of all!  
 Sing glory and praise and sing to the name, above all names!
4. Worship the Lord, and tremble, proclaim the one who reigns!  
 Say to the nations: "The Lord is King;" who rules with justice!

## **SECOND READING: I 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.*

<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.

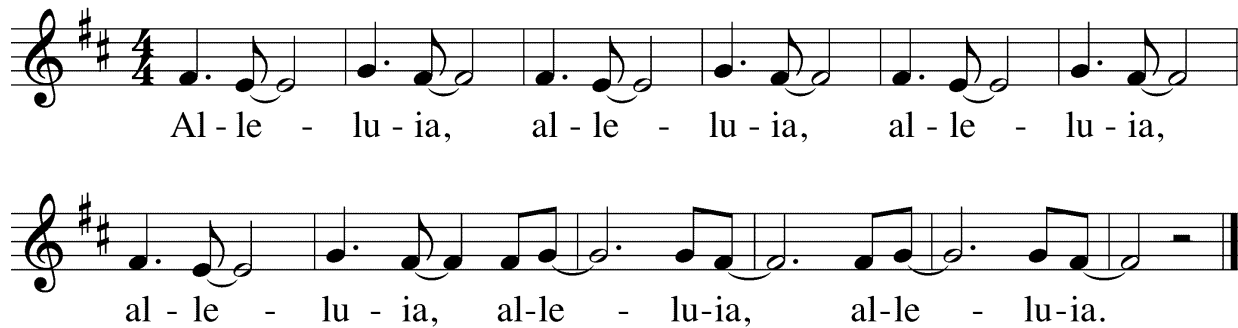
<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that 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.

Word of God, Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL Matthew 22:15-22**

*By tradition, we stand during the readings of the Gospels, remembering that they speak of Christ, who is the center of our faith.*



*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.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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**

# Lift Every Voice and Sing



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.



## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Having heard the news of God's liberating power, we ask for God's salvation for all the world.*

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need, responding to each petition with the words "Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer."

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church around the world: that church leaders be supported in their ministries; that national and local churches receive the necessary funding to accomplish their tasks; and that, hearing you call us by name, we join with all the baptized to give you praise, even in this time of great trouble.

*A brief silence.*

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the earth, the lands, the waters, the animals: that what has been destroyed or harmed be renewed; that the wildness of both storms and viruses be tamed; and that all people become faithful stewards of your good creation.

*A brief silence.*

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations of the world: that violence between and within nations cease; that ELCA World Hunger, the World Food Program of the United Nations, and other relief agencies be enabled to feed those who face starvation; that elections in the world's democracies be conducted fairly; and that the people of our country shun acts of hostility and sedition.

*A brief silence.*

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for a right use of taxation: that laws concerning taxes reflect justice for all; that tax monies be directed to worthy uses; and that citizens

honestly pay what is fairly charged, so that our nation may be maintained.  
*A brief silence.*

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

On this day commemorating St. Luke, we pray for all ministries of healing: that hospitals and clinics receive adequate resources; that medical care be improved in neighborhoods of poverty, in prisons, and in refugee camps; that physicians and nurses be upheld; and that kindly hospice care be available to the dying.

*A brief silence.*

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all in need: for all who are sick; for all who suffer from the coronavirus; for all who are living with high anxiety; for those who are unemployed; for those evicted from their housing; for all who experience prejudice based on skin color, ethnicity, or economic status; for those we name here before you: Pat, Ella, Louise, Barbara, Howard, George, Nettie, Bruce, Richard, Eveline, Bill, Carrie, Darryl, Penny, Mary Ellen, Rene, Tony, Joan, Will, Val, Ken, Paul, Kathleen, and others we name, aloud and in our hearts:

*A brief silence.*

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Lord hear the additional prayers we bring before you:

*Allow time for additional prayers to be spoken.*

Bless those celebrating birthdays last week and in the week ahead, especially Kate Vicente, Ryan Savitz, Ron Grace, and Alice Arndt.

*A brief silence.*

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We praise you for the centuries of the faithful who have died in the faith, and for those we remember in our hearts. That at the end you will welcome us all into your presence, we pray.

*A brief silence.*

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear us when we call upon you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

*We share Christ's peace with each other.*

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

*The ministries of this congregation rely on the gifts God bestows upon us through our members and friends. Contributions can be made through our website, [www.ChristUD.org](http://www.ChristUD.org), by mailing in your gift, or by initiating a transfer through your bank.*

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND LORD'S PRAYER**

Glory to you, O God, for your creative Word:  
making and mending all things,  
evoking the cosmic hymn of praise,  
and singing a love-song for your beloved:  
your vineyard, your flock, your people.  
With all creation we sing, Glory! **Glory!**

Blessed are you for your liberating Word:  
speaking through Moses and the prophets,  
encountered in the Gospels,  
and proclaimed in the assembly:  
your freedom, forgiveness, and life for the world.  
With the whole world we say, Blessing! **Blessing!**

Holy are you, O God, for your living Word:  
among us wherever we gather,  
welcoming everyone to your feast,  
and, with grace and generosity,

bringing to earth the kingdom of heaven.  
With saints and angels, we cry, Holy! **Holy!**

Clothe us in your loving Spirit,  
flowing from the Crucified and Risen One,  
and keep us awake to your presence  
in the people and places you call us to serve.  
Glory, praise, and blessing are yours, Holy God,  
now and forever. Amen. **Amen.**

And now we pray as Jesus taught us: **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.**

## **THE SENDING**

*Having been fed by the life-giving Word of God, we are sent into the world  
to be the hands and feet of Christ, continuing his ministry of healing,  
forgiveness, liberation, and reconciliation.*

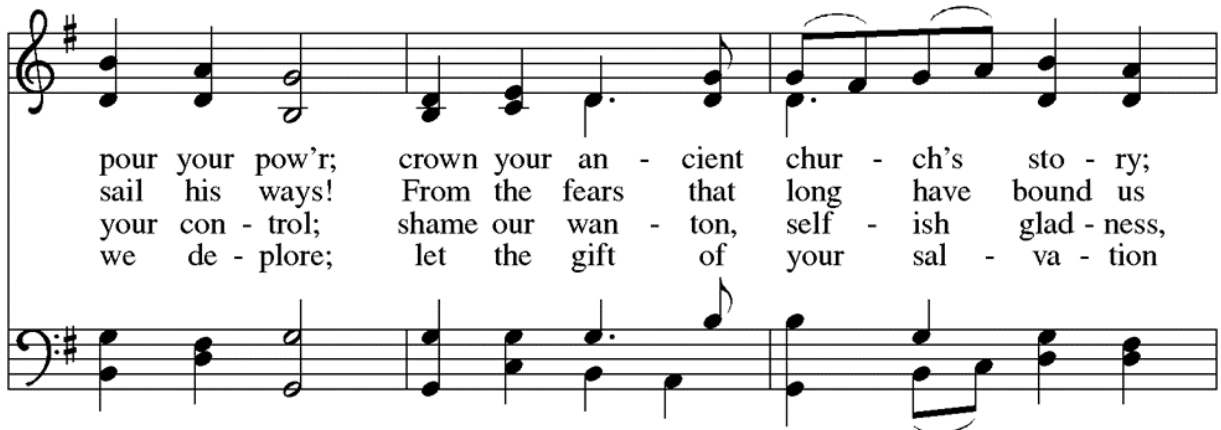
## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **SENDING HYMN**

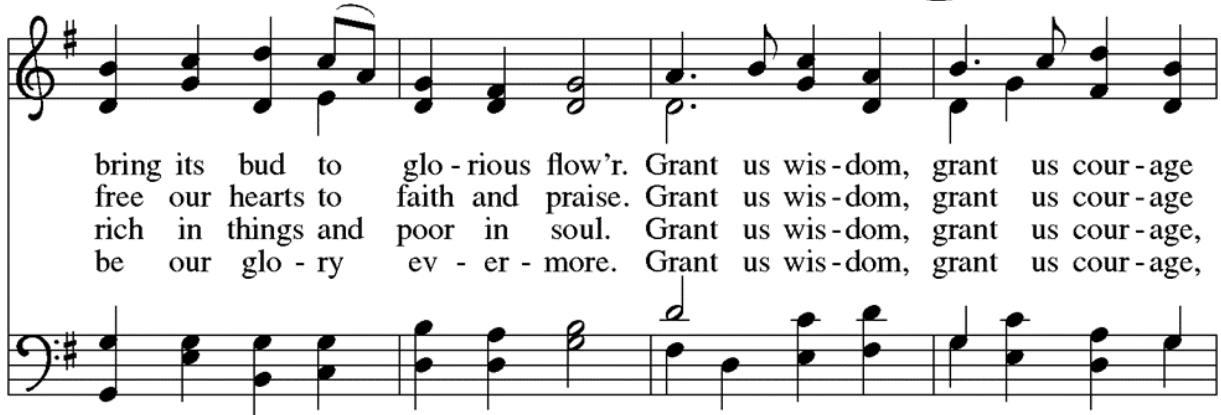
# God of Grace and God of Glory



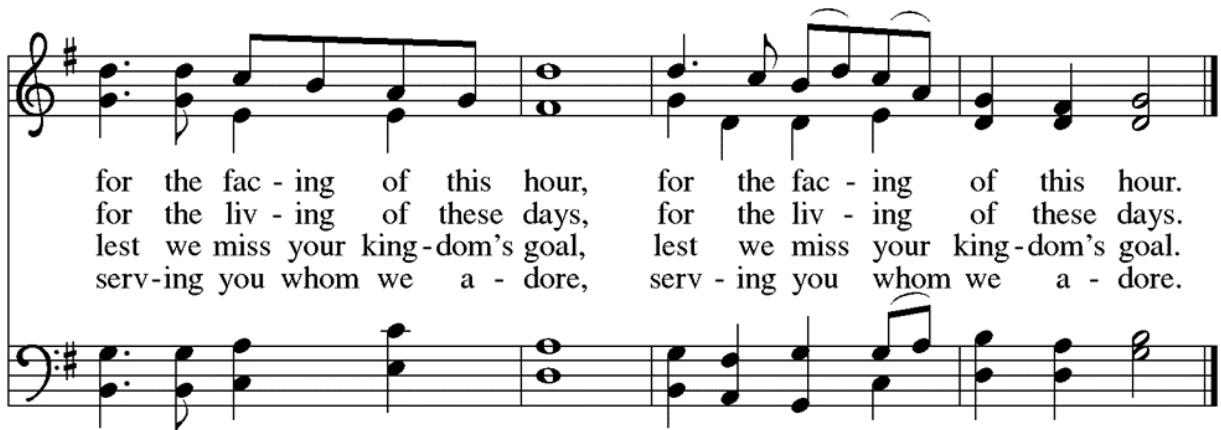
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple  
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -  
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to  
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;  
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us  
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,  
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age  
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,  
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.  
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.  
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.  
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share God's love for all the world.

**Thanks be to God.**

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