

**ST. JOHN  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**

**7:45AM &  
10:45AM**

**OCTOBER  
18, 2020**



**Making the  
Love of  
Christ  
Known**

**Jeffery Gramza**  
*Senior Pastor*

**Doug Meyer**  
*Pastor Emeritus*

**Charlie Frekot**  
*Vicar*

# Prelude

## Welcome /Announcements

### Gathering Hymn

ELW 526

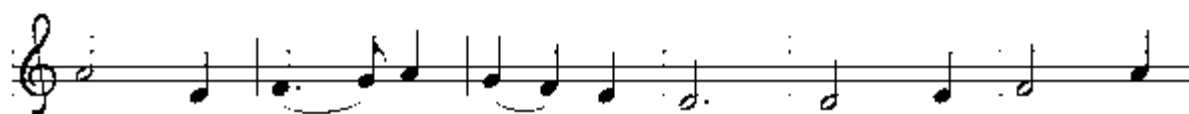
#### God Is Here!



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  
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;  
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 -  
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,  
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,

we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We he - lieve!



## Prayer of the Day

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.**

## Children's Sermon

### 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.

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

*The reading is concluded:*  
Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 96:1-9



- <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**

*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 reading is concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 22nd Chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

### **Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22**

*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.*



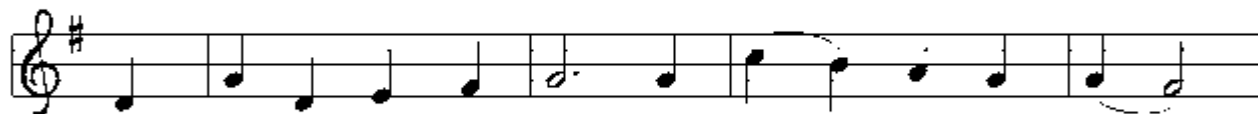
<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. <sup>16</sup>So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not 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 is concluded:*  
The Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Sermon**



We Give Thee but Thine Own



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;  
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,  
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,  
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.  
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give,  
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing,  
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

Text: William W. How, 1873-1897, alt.  
Music: HUBERT L. MASON and G. WEBB, *Cantata Landa*, 1850



## **Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the † holy Trinity,  
the one who fashions us,  
the one who heals us,  
the one who reforms us again and again.

**Amen.**

**Source of all life, we confess that we have not allowed  
your grace to set us free.**

**We fear that we are not good enough.**

**We hear your word of love freely given to us,  
yet we expect others to earn it.**

**We turn the church inward,  
rather than moving it outward.**

**Forgive us. Stir us.**

**Reform us to be a church powered by love,  
willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just,  
and seek the healing of your whole creation.**

**Amen.**

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us  
and to empower our lives in the world.

Our sins are forgiven, + God's love is unconditional,  
and we are raised up as God's people  
who will always be made new,  
in the name of Jesus Christ.

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. Each portion of the prayers concludes with these words:*

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.**





## **Offering Prayer**

Living and true God, we give to you the things that are yours--our skills, our time, our possessions, our selves. Bless us and these your gifts. Move us to works of faith and labors of love for the good of all your people and the wholeness of your creation; through our Lord Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

## **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.**

## **Blessing**

The blessing of almighty God,  
the Father of glory,  
+ Jesus Christ our peace,  
and the Spirit of truth,  
be upon you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

## **Sending Hymn**

**ELW 880**

*Next page*

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord!  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**



## 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.

Text: Michael Perry, 1912-1996

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874-1934

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*We* GIVE YOU THANKS,  
AND *praise* YOUR  
*glorious*  
*name.*