



**20th Sunday after Pentecost  
October 18, 2020**

## THE SERVICE at 11:00 a.m.

**Bold type** = congregational response

### – A TIME OF PREPARATION –

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

Adagio

Franz Liszt

#### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**C: Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Faithful God,

**C: 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.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**



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.

**\*GREETING**

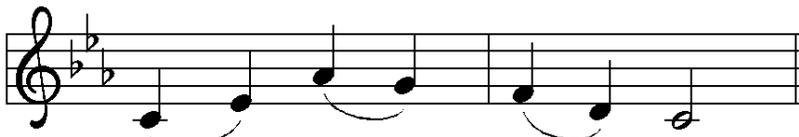
**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** **And also with you.**

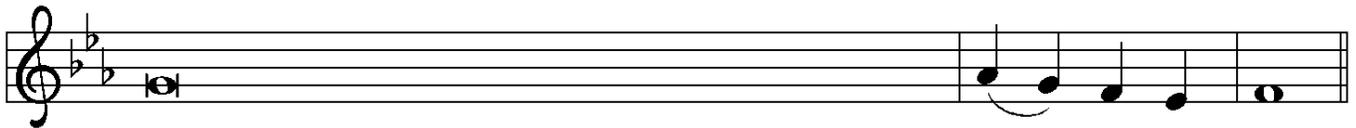
**\*KYRIE**



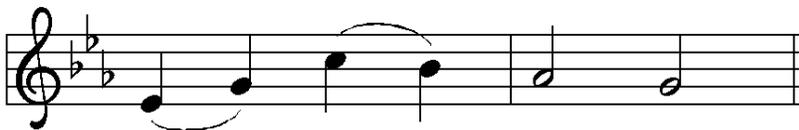
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



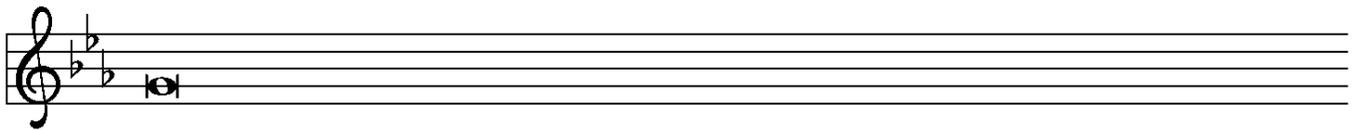
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



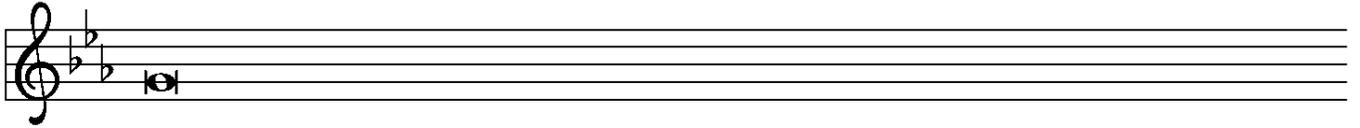
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.

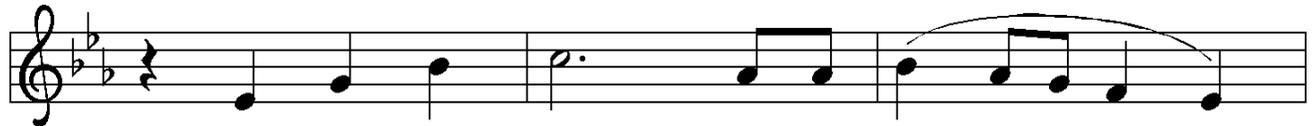


Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

\*HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo - ry to God in the high -



est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and



Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we



praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus



Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -



lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,



Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of

God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Glo - ry to God in the high -

est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** 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.

**C: Amen.**

**FIRST LESSON**

Isaiah 45:1-7

Thus says the LORD to Cyrus, the LORD's anointed, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip rulers of their robes, to open doors before Cyrus—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. <sup>7</sup>I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

**L:** Word of God, word of life.

**C: 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 a- | mong the nations  
and God's wonders a- | mong 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 hon- | or 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 beau- | ty of holiness;  
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.

SECOND LESSON

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God, the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

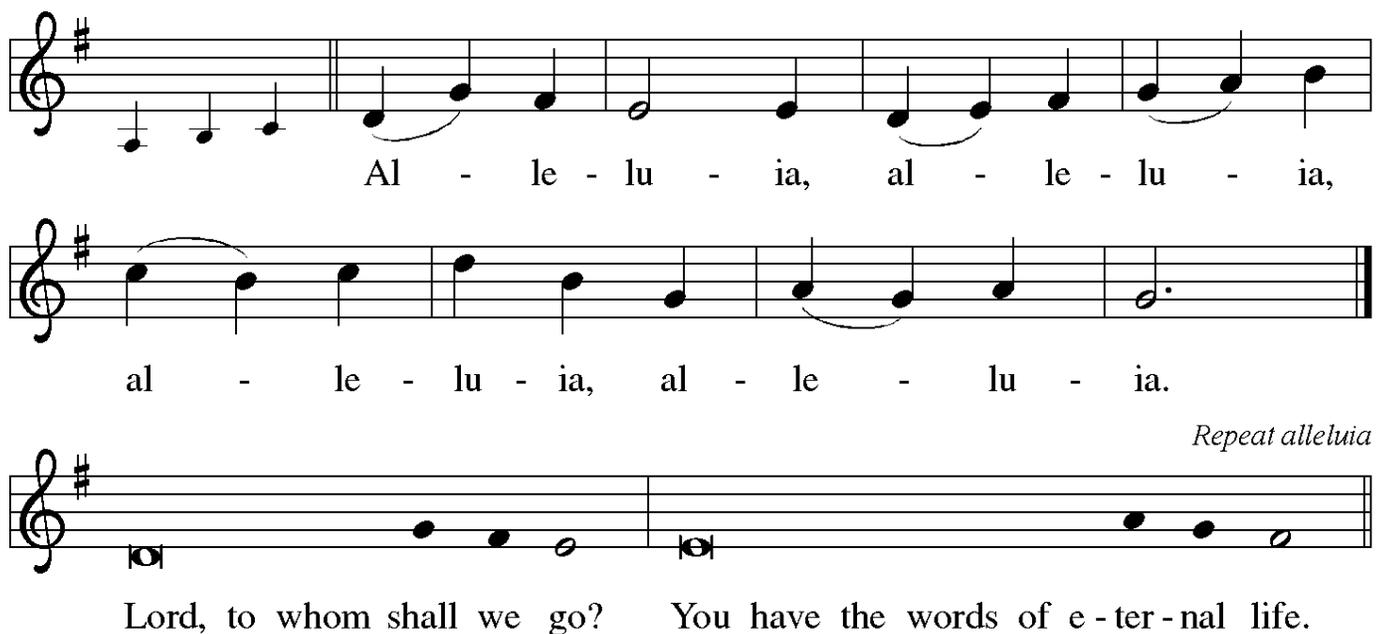
<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that God 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 God's Son from heaven, whom God raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

\*HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-22 NRSV, emended

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

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

*[While Jesus was telling parables to the chief priests and elders,]* The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in his teaching. So they sent their disciples—and some Herodians—to Jesus, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and that you show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what do you think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then Jesus

said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's."

Then Jesus said to them, "Give, therefore, to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

P: The Gospel of Our Lord!

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pr. Adrienne Meier

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.

– RESPONSES TO THE WORD –

\*APOSTLES' CREED

A: Let us confess our faith.

**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 THE CHURCH

A: 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, especially Karen Anderson, ELCA missionary in Chile; Nick & Naomi Sveholm in Slovakia; and Pr. Jack Russell at Living Waters Lutheran Church in Cherokee, North Carolina. We give thanks for the witness of your servant, Luke, the evangelist, whom the church commemorates today. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God of praise, the heavens and all creation declare your salvation. From the rising of the sun to the setting, may the whole universe show forth your goodness. Raise up devoted stewards of all that you have made. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: 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,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: God of light, we pray for those living in pain, illness, isolation, grief, anger, or doubt, especially Jim, Bruce, Carole, Tim, Roger, Paula, Erica, Bev, Liz, Audrey, JoAnne, Deborah, and Casey-Marie. Join their voices in a new song, assuring them that you call them each by name. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: 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,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: 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,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: 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.

**C: Amen.**

#### \*SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

#### OFFERING

[Click here](#) to visit the St. Thomas website and click the green Give button to provide your offering digitally. Offerings may also be mailed to our address found on the last page of this bulletin.

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

**A:** Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**– LITURGY OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST –**

**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

**\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

**A:** Let us pray as our Lord has taught us.

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION:**

**P:** Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

**Christ, Our Peace**

Christ, our peace, you break down the walls that di - vide us;

The first system of musical notation is for the first part of the hymn. It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Christ, our peace, come, make us one bod - y in you.

The second system of musical notation is for the second part of the hymn. It also consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The key signature and time signature are the same as in the first system. The melody continues in the treble clef, and the accompaniment is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

**\*EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING**

**C: Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**A:** 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.

**C: Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

**P:** Mothering God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

**C: Amen.**

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**

A: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*POSTLUDE**

God of Grace and God of Glory

Paul Manz

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*We depart in peace to continue our worship in lives of witness  
to Christ's love in work, play, service, and care for creation.*

**MINISTERS SERVING TODAY:** Catharine and Lilly Rademacher; Joan Smoke; Lynn & Ute Coyne; Mike & Debbie Witt

**We are a Christ-centered community that lives, shares and  
celebrates God's grace with all people!**

**ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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