



Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, October 18, 2020

Gathering in God's Presence

Gathering Hymn — no. 688

“Lord of Light”



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:



Refrain
Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860-1953, alt.
Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991
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Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.
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.

Kyrie — From ELW Setting Three

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 defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

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.**

Hearing & Responding to God's Word

A Reading from Hebrew Scripture — Isaiah 45:1-7

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.

⁴For 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.
⁷I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the Lord do all these things.

Psalm Interpretation

“We Are Your Creation” - A Prayer from Psalm 96

From *Spark Psalm Book: Prayers and Poems for Kids*

A Reading from the Epistles — 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

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. 8For 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.

Gospel Acclamation — *From ELW Setting Three*

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

Gospel — **Matthew 22:15-22**

The Gospel of the Lord according to the 22nd chapter of Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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. 17Tell 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 — “Give to the Emperor; Give to God”

Interim Pastor Bill Nelsen



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.

Text: William W. Reid Jr., b. 1923

Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

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Apostles' 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 and care for each other and the world. Send your Holy Spirit among preachers, missionaries, and evangelists, and raise up devoted stewards of all that you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of light, we pray for those living with pain, illness, isolation, grief, anger, or doubt. We lift up Mary Thompson and all others 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. 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.**

Living God, as you raised Jesus from the dead, so raise up those who have died in you, especially Margie Krause and Shirley Biddle. 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.**

The Lord's Prayer

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.

Offering

*Please remember to give financially to support our ministry.
You can write a check and mail it to the church office or give online at
<https://tithe.ly/give?c=283920>.*

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, 1942–1996

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

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Departing to Serve God’s World

Announcements

Blessing

Mothering God, Creator, ✠ Redeemer, and Sustainer,
 bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor among us. **Thanks be to God.**

Acknowledgements

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Announcements

From Interim Pastor Bill Nelsen: "I am pleased and excited to be serving you at First Lutheran as your Interim Pastor from now through the end of next summer. My wife Margie and I have lived in St. Peter for the past 33 years, and we have a great deal of respect for the important role that First Lutheran Church plays in this community. I know many of you and look forward to getting to know all of you. For this first Sunday when I will be leading worship, the theme, based on our Gospel lesson, is most timely: How are we called to serve God and to serve as Christians in the civic realm? God's blessings to all in this very special congregation." Pastor Bill

All Saints Celebration: Emily is planning a very special commemoration during the All Saints virtual worship on Nov. 1 to honor our saints, and she could use your assistance! If you have a picture of someone you wish to honor or remember in your life, it will be used in the worship service. *Please email a picture to musicflcstp@gmail.com by Monday, October 26* and include their name, family relation (e.g. mother of "member's name"), and optional birth and/or death dates. Thank you for anything you can provide to make our All Saints Day a special one!

Fall Clean-Up: The Building and Grounds committee is having a fall cleanup Saturday, October 24, from 10:00 am. until noon. Volunteers are needed to pick up branches blown down and leaves need to be raked and hauled to the city. Any assistance would be welcome; please bring your own rakes.

Do you need your yard raked this fall? Our Youth are looking for yards to rake and we would love to serve you! Please email Calleigh at cc.flcstp@gmail.com for more information!

Pen Pal Opportunity: Our Youth want to support YOU! We are in the midst of beginning a Pen Pal program! If you are interested or know someone that might be, please email Calleigh at cc.flcstp@gmail.com.

Confirmation Mentors Needed: Everyone, we are in need of Confirmation Mentors for the coming year. A quick break-down of what we need; 13 total mentors as of right now, 11 mentors for 7th graders and two for 9th graders. For more information or if you are interested, please email Calleigh at cc.flcstp@gmail.com.

Pumpkin Carving Contest: We are so excited to announce our 1st Annual Virtual Pumpkin Carving Contest! Submit your masterpiece now until October 30th for a chance to win a gift card to Diamond Dust Bakery and Coffee Shop in St. Peter! We will be choosing a winner for the following categories: Funniest Pumpkin, Scariest Pumpkin, Most Creative Pumpkin. Get carving!

Mankato Clinic Women's Health Forum: “Belonging & Connection” a free-seminar where hosts Mary Ann Boe and Cecil Fountain will “illustrate when in the midst of sadness, fear and an uncertain future, how connection and belonging provided each of them a sense of safety and willingness to keep going.” For more information and to register for this free virtual event on Tuesday, October 27th at 6:30pm please go to the attached link, <http://www.mankatoclinic.com/womens-health-forum>.

Prayer Concerns: We are called to remember one another prayer. We pray for the family and friends of Roger Skattum (father of Laura Boomgaarden), Margie Krause (mother of Barb Regner), and Shirley Biddle (mother of Doug Schuldt), who recently passed away.