



October 22, 2023

21st Sunday after Pentecost

An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in spirit,
and you are invited to read aloud responses found in **bold**.

We welcome you to First Lutheran Church!

we GATHER

This Sonata was commissioned by First Lutheran Church in 1980, in celebration of the then new Hendrickson organ. Premiered here by David Fienen on April 26, 1981.

*In today's gospel, we hear about the concept of allegiance. In this **Gathering Hymn**, we sing of the reign of Jesus, the leader we place above all other worldly leaders and entities.*

Prelude — “Allabreve (from Sonata for Organ opus 84)”

Setting by Jan Bender
David Fienen, organ

Words of Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** — no. 434

“Jesus Shall Reign”

***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be God,
the one who forms us,
✠ Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.
Amen.
Let us bow before God in humility,
confessing our sin.

Steadfast and faithful God,
**you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused,
known and unknown, forgive us.**

**For the unjust demands
we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you
and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.**

Beloved in Christ, God's justice stretches
beyond all understanding. God's
compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way
for us. In ✠ Christ, we are already and
always forgiven.
Amen.

***Apostolic Greeting & Kyrie** — from *ELW Setting Four, front of hymnal, pg. 147*

***Canticle of Praise** — from *ELW Setting Four, front of hymnal, pg. 149* “This Is the Feast”

***Prayer of the Day**

May God 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.**

we LISTEN and RESPOND

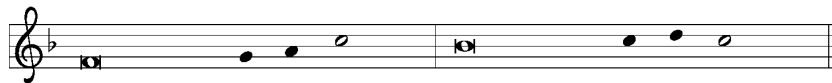
A Reading from the prophet Isaiah — Isaiah 45:1-7

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:
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,
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.

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.
I am the Lord, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
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.
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 96:1-9 — sung responsively by verse



Sing to the Lord | a new song;
sing to the Lord, | all the earth.
**Sing to the Lord, bless the name | of the
Lord;**
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.
Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
**For great is the Lord and greatly | to be
praised,**
more to be feared | than all gods.
As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but
idols;
but you, O Lord, have | made the heavens.

**Majesty and magnificence are | in your
presence;**
**power and splendor are in your |
sanctuary.**
Ascribe to the Lord, you families | of the
peoples,
ascribe to the Lord hon- | or and power.
**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the |
holy name;**
**bring offerings and enter the courts | of
the Lord.**
Worship the Lord in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, | all the earth.

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians — I 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.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, 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. 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, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 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. 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, 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 Acclamation** — from *ELW Setting Four, front of hymnal*

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

***Gospel** — Matthew 22:15-22

The Gospel of Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. 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. Tell us, then, what 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 he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” 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.” 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 — “Marked for Life”

Pastor Ted Kunze

***Hymn** — no. 1036, from *All Creation Sings* “Commonwealth is God’s Commandment”

In the gospel, Jesus teaches that governments may demand some of our resources, but our primary allegiance is to God and God’s commonwealth of “common goods,” “tables set,” and “doors wide open.”

1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.
2 Shar-ing lav-ish gifts and bless-ings, love that not one mite with-holds,
3 Gen-ders, rac-es, tribes, and na-tions, hear the Ho-ly One who calls,
Ta-bles set and doors wide o-pen wel-come an-gels un-a-ware.
stretch out arms to friends and strang-ers: God has sheep of man-y folds.
bid-ding all to work to-geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.
Refrain
Plead for the peace of all cre-a-tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.
Shan-ti, pax, sha-lom, mas-la-ha: com-mon good is ho-ly ground.

*The Apostles' Creed

P: Let us confess our faith together:

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 power of 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

A: Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith, and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Creating God, the sea roars, the earth rejoices, and the heavens are glad at the wonder of all you have made. Bless the work of ecologists and conservationists and all those who safeguard the riches of creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, your rule and authority is over the cosmos. As you once worked through the ruler Cyrus for the good of your people, accomplish your purposes through the work of elected leaders and public servants. Guide them with your wisdom and compassion. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Caring God, your arms enfold all who are lonely, oppressed, despairing, sick, and suffering. Pour out your abundant mercy on all whom this world has neglected, abandoned, and forgotten, that they may know your joy. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, all our life belongs to you. When earthly idols threaten to lead your church astray, remind us that you alone are the source of our eternal hope. Direct the work of church treasurers, councils, and all who manage financial matters. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Everlasting God, the saints of every age have sung your praise and shared your word. We give you thanks for their witness and pray that we may join them as citizens of your unending kingdom. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Offering

Music During Offering
"Andante"

Setting by Felix Mendelssohn
David Fienen, organ

***Offering Prayer**

A: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you. We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed. Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

we SHARE the meal

***The Great Thanksgiving** — from *ELW Setting Four, front of hymnal, pg. 152*

***“Holy, Holy, Holy”** — from *ELW Setting Four, front of hymnal, pg. 153*

***Words of Institution and Lord’s Prayer**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

We remember Christ, our Savior, who taught us to pray: **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.**

We will observe continuous communion this morning and sing of the wonder and majesty of our God: “Then let us adore and give him his right, all glory and pow’r and wisdom and might,” putting Jesus above all others.

*In this **Sending Hymn**, we ask: “Grant us wisdom, grant us courage.” May we have the wisdom and courage to serve God and to show that Christ is number one in our lives through our actions.*

***Invitation to the Table**

P: Jesus invites you to this table with no exception. Come, eat and live.

Distribution of Communion

“Lamb of God” — from *ELW Setting Four, front of hymnal, pg. 154*

Hymn — no. 825

“You Servants of God”

Prayer After Communion

P: Blessed be your name, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus’ name we pray. **Amen.**

we are SENT to serve the world

Announcements

***Sending Hymn** — no. 705

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

***Blessing & Dismissal**

P: The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

A: Go in peace. God is at work in you. **Thanks be to God!**

***Postlude — “God of Grace and God of Glory”**

Setting by Paul Manz
David Fienen, organ

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris	Assisting Minister: Larry Kiewel	Communion Preparers: Nancy Thorkelson, Diane Stewart
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat	Greeter: Sharon Malm	Communion Servers: Sharon Domeier, Cindy Nadeau, John Nadeau
Pulpit Supply: Ted Kunze	Reader: Liz Hawkinson	Bread Bakers: Diane Stewart
Audio/Video: Brett Petersen	Ushers: Tom Thorkelson, Michelle Doose	
Musician: David Fienen		

Announcements

- There will be an opportunity to have your photo taken for the directory here at FLC TOMORROW, October 23 from 2:00-8:30 pm. Please check our website for more details on how to register.
- You are invited to a community dinner at 5:30 pm this Wednesday, Oct. 25th. A \$5 donation is asked.
- Pastor Chris will be away from Oct. 18 - 24. Should you have an emergency, please call the church office.
- Please join us for our Clean Up Day on Saturday, Oct. 28, beginning at 9:00am. Many hands make light work.
- Our next First Forum will be held following worship on Oct. 29. Kathryn Lozada from Isaiah will be speaking in the Chapel.
- We will honor the many years of pastoral service that Bob Stenson, Steve Kidder and Mary Gaebler have given to Christ’s church next Sunday. Please wear RED in honor of Reformation Sunday.
- In two weeks on November 5, we will be celebrating All Saints Sunday with a special cantata for worship. You are invited to bring a photo or memento of a past or present saint, and there will be an opportunity to display these and light candles during the service.
- From our Safety and Security task force: FLC is hosting an awareness seminar to prepare us in case of an active shooter at the church, Saturday, Nov 18th from 10am – 1pm. This is especially important for Council members, ushers, greeters or any members who wish to have some preparedness training. Members of FLC can attend for free, see posters in the halls for registration information. The training will be open to members from all area churches as well. Contact Dawn Wenner if you have any questions.

Prayers

We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Erika Schuldt, Ursula McRostie, Karen Wendroth, Allen Storkson, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson, Claire Cardwell, Ella Twaddle, Tim Schwartz, Carol Peterson, Sarah Smith, Gretchen Bray, Bob and Kay Moline, Takhmina White, Allison Ellingson, and Jim Wendroth.

We pray for the family of Gene Roemhildt who passed away on October 15. The funeral and visitation will be on November 9 at FLC.