

20th Sunday of Pentecost

October 18, 2020

PLEASE – SIGN YOUR NAME IN THE BOOK AT THE MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE NARTHEX...

Welcome back inside as we safely gather for worship. We're glad that you are here!

Masks must be worn at all times while in the building, except while you are taking communion or while you are standing at the microphone as a reader. If you cannot mask, we will continue to broadcast on 91.9 FM and offer a Zoom worship for you to be a part of.

Sit only in designated pews. Households may sit together, but please distance from other groups or individuals.

A Reconciling in Christ Congregation

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Praise!

Share!

Serve!

Welcome to Bethany!

Bethany recognizes that each of us is a unique creation made in the image of God. We celebrate and give thanks for the many diverse gifts that God has bestowed on us. We proclaim ourselves to be an open and affirming congregation to all of God's people; welcoming into our midst persons of every race, culture, age, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, and economic status. We believe that our openness will allow us to grow in our faith through Christ's teaching to love one another as God loves us.

You may place your gifts and offerings in the offering plate as you enter the sanctuary. We will not be passing the plate. Thank you and God Bless

Ringling of the bells

Announcements:

Prelude:

We Gather as God's People

(Please stand as you are able)

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.

Gathering Hymn: God Is Here!!

ELW 526

Prayer of the Day

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.

(Please be seated)

We Hear God's Word for Us

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.

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.

The Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God

Psalms 96:1-9[10-13] (Said together)

¹Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**²Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

**⁴For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;

but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

**6 Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

**8 Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**

⁹Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

[**10 Tell it out among the nations: “The Lord is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge
the peoples with equity.”**

¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is
therein.

**12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O
Lord,
for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

Second Reading – 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.

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.

The Word of the Lord,

Thanks be to God

(Please stand as you are able)

Gospel:

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Matthew 22:15-22**

Glory to you, Lord Christ

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.

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, Lord Christ

(Please be seated)

Reflection

Special Piano Music – "Für Elise" (Beethoven) Muriel Frable

(Please stand as you are able)

Creed:

**We believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**We 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.**

**We 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.**

(Please be seated)

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer response: Lord in your mercy **C: hear our prayer**

(Please stand as you are able)

The Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: and also with you.**

Holy Communion

(People on Zoom will not be doing communion but please continue to pray with us)

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of

your love.

And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we say:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

(Place in your hand the bread and wine to be consecrated.)

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with all your saints, from every tribe and language and people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever. **AMEN.**

Lord's Prayer

Lord remember us in your kingdom as we 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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

These are the gifts of God for the People of God, Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. (Receive the body and blood of Christ)

Post Communion Prayer

Let us pray,

**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.
Amen.**

Blessing

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

Amen.

Sending Hymn: "You Servants of God"

ELW 825

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Pastor Kim Rossi

Seminarian - Crista Wentworth

Organist - Ray Sprout
Lay Lector – Kari Sprout

SMILES: For Men and Women with a bit of humor!...

Bookseller conducting a market survey asked a woman, “Which book has helped you most in your life?” The woman replied, “My husband’s check book!”

A prospective husband in a book store: “Do you have a book called ‘Husband – the Master of the House?’” Sales girl: “Sir, fiction and comics are on the 1st floor!”

Someone asked an old man: “Even after 70 years, you still call your wife – darling, honey, luv. What’s the secret?” Old man: “I forgot her name and I’m scared to ask her.”

Pharmacist to customer: “Sir, please understand, to buy an anti-depression pill, you need a proper prescription... Simply showing a marriage certificate and wife’s picture is not enough!”

A man was granted two wishes by God.
He asked for the best drink & the best woman ever.
Next moment he got mineral water & Mother Teresa.

Dear Mother-in-law,
Don’t teach me how to handle my children. I am living with one of yours and he needs a lot of improvement.

A lady says to her doctor: “My husband has a habit of taking in his sleep! What should I give him to cure it?” The doctor replies: “Give him the opportunity to speak when he’s awake!”

October is Pastor Appreciation Month

Thank you Pastor Kim (and Owen too) for all you do for

Bethany and St. Stephens.....!

Please remember to wear **RED** next Sunday as we celebrate Reformation/Reconciliation Sunday.

All Saints' Sunday is in 2 weeks. Please submit any names for our **Roll Call of the Saints** to the office as soon as possible.