

20TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

October 18, 2020 - 10:00 AM

Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223

www.livingspringscolumbia.org

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.



Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen... since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus... (Hebrews 11:1-3, 12:1-2)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

We stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

People: Amen.

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

(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)

Pastor: Faithful God,

People: **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.**

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

We focus on the cross as it enters the sanctuary.

GATHERING SONG

"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



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,



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.

*God is Here; Text: Fred Pratt Green; Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor
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APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

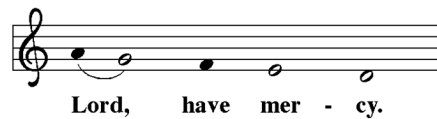
People: **And also with you.**

We are seated

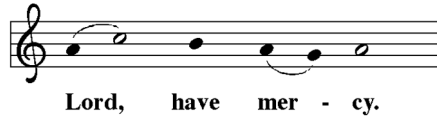


KYRIE & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



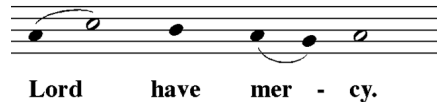
Pastor: For the peace from above
and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Pastor: 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.



Pastor: For this community of faith,
and all who offer their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.



Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us Gracious Lord.



Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Adriana McMurphy

Children, youth, and young at heart are invited for a special message. You may collect your coins or dollars at home for the bucket collection and bring them to in-person worship, to the Parking Lot Communion Distributions, or drop them off at the church office. Current collection is for the Disaster Response Fund.

*For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)
For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)
Christ is lead-ing us ...
For-ward in faith!*

*For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)
For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)
With our eyes on Jesus
WE'RE RUNNIN' THE RACE!*

FIRST READING

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.

Lector: A reading from Isaiah.

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. (Isaiah 45:1-7)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96:1-9 [10-13]

Lector: Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**People: Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

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

**People: For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

Lector: As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

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

Lector: Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

**People: Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

Lector: Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

**People: 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."**

Lector: Let 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.

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

Lector: You will judge the world with righteousness

People: and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING

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.

Lector: A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

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. (1 Thessalonians 1:1-10)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

We stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

People: 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. (Matthew 22:15-22)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

We are seated
MESSAGE

Rev. Eric Fink



HYMN OF THE DAY

"Lift Every Voice and Sing"

1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty.
Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.

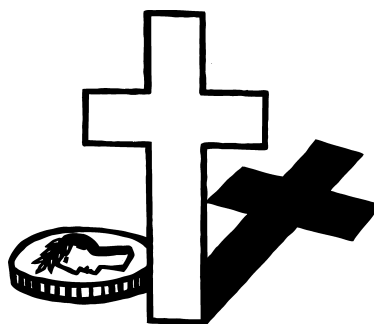
Lift Every Voice and Sing; Text: James W. Johnson; Music: LIFT EVERY VOIS AND SING, J. Rosamond Johnson

APOSTLES' CREED

People: 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

Assist: With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.
+ A brief silence +

Assist: Gracious God, you call us by name and invite us to share your good news. Send your Holy Spirit among preachers, missionaries, and evangelists. We give thanks for the witness of your servant Luke, the evangelist, whom the church commemorates today. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

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

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: 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,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: God of light, we pray for those living with pain, illness, isolation, grief, anger, or doubt. Join their voices in a new song, assuring them that you call them each by name. We pray especially for: *Pat Bartucca; Gwen Brantley; Karl Schmidt; Melody Hair; Elise Gerald; Anne Ducate; Lois Mattson; Barbara Imbert; Elizabeth Maddox; Henrietta Kaiser; Debbie Smith; Tammy Mancuso; Ed Brennan; Margaret Blank; Charles Kauffman; Bunie Talbert; William Appleton; Kelly Koziol; Lila Bell; Wilma Bracey; Charles Levitt; the Eichorn family; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud...* Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: 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,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: We pray for our confirmation students who are in their final week of preparation to affirm their baptism: *Lauren Bloss; Preston Ginn; Anna Leigh Graves; Lina Mooney; Dakota Shannon.* Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Assist: 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,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O God, as we face ongoing uncertainties around coronavirus, we continue to pray for our nation and the world. Protect the most vulnerable among us, those who are currently sick, in isolation, or awaiting test results. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to scientists, vaccine researchers, educators, and health care/food/essential workers as their daily work puts them at risk. Fill us with patience and guide us as we consider how best to continue to respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, schools, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear or self-centeredness, but with compassion, concern, and acts of loving service for others, trusting that you abide with us always. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

SHARING OF PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

We greet one another, with the words that the risen Jesus spoke to his disciples: "Peace be with you."

OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN

Offering may be dropped off at the office during the week or sent through the mail. For those who wish to give electronically, you may use the secure Givelify app.

Google Play



App Store



OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: God of goodness and growth, all creation is yours, and your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens. Water and word, wine and bread: these are signs of your abundant grace. Nourish us through these gifts, that we might proclaim your steadfast love in our communities and in the world, through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering therefore his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out your Spirit of love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

People: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

People: 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: Friends of Jesus, come to this table. Receive nourishment for your journey.

People: Thanks be to God.

+ THE ELEMENTS ARE SYMBOLICALLY CARRIED OUT OF THE CHANCEL +

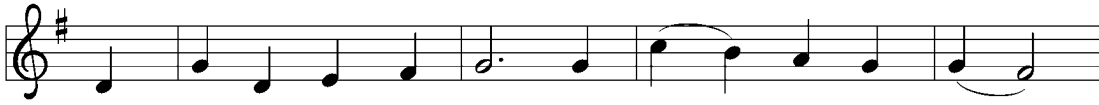
DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*THIS WEEK: Our worship will continue with **distribution of Holy Communion on Sunday from 12:15 - 1:00 pm** in the Parking Lot. We will utilize sanitary-packaged individual communion elements, which have been consecrated during the worship service. There will be an "usher" in the parking lot to direct vehicles to the distribution altar, and the pastor will be there, wearing mask and gloves (he will change gloves after each vehicle). Everyone please remain in your vehicle throughout the process. Once it's your turn, drive up and put your vehicle in park. The pastor will come to your car window(s) to distribute Holy Communion. AFTER you have consumed the elements, the Pastor will offer a blessing – and then you can pull away. While in the parking lot, everyone should be in prayerful worship-mode, as you represent God's people gathered to continue the worship experience from the morning service. Think of this in the same way you would think about "coming up to the communion rail for distribution" in your vehicle during an ongoing worship service.*



COMMUNION REFLECTION

"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.

We Give Thee But Thine Own; Text: William W. How; Music: HEATH, L. Mason & G. Webb;

The elements are symbolically carried back to the altar.

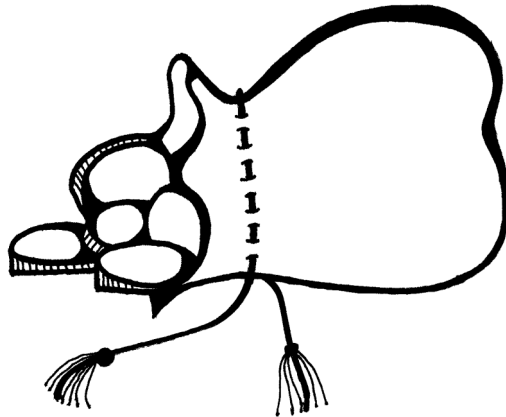
POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.

People: Amen

Pastor: Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, ✠ Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love.

People: Amen



SENDING SONG

"How Great is Our God"

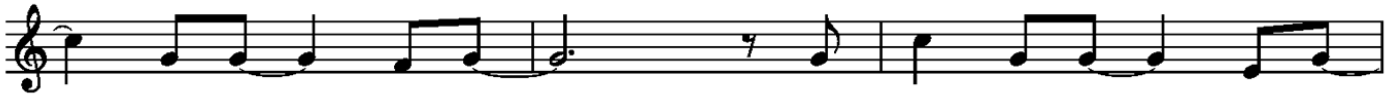
(While we sing, we turn and face the processional cross as it is carried out the center aisle.)



1. The splen - dor of the King, clothed in maj - es - ty;
(2. And) age to age He stands, and time is in His hands;



Let all the earth re - joice, all the earth re - joice. He wraps
Be - gin - ning and the End, Be - gin - ning and the End. The God -



Him - self in light, and dark - ness tries to hide,
head, three in one, Fa - ther, Spir - it, Son,



and trem - bles at His voice, and trem - bles at His voice. How great
the Li - on and the Lamb, the Li - on and the Lamb.

CHORUS



is our God! Sing with me: How great is our God! Fine



And all will see how great, how great is our God!



BRIDGE

2. And Name a - bove all names,



wor - thy of all praise. My heart will sing: How great is our God!



is our God! How great

*How Great is Our God; CCLI Song # 4348399; Chris Tomlin | Jesse Reeves | Ed Cash
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DISMISSAL

Assist: Surrounded by the great cloud of witnesses, go in peace to run the race and move forward in faith!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

WORSHIP HELPERS FOR TODAY'S STREAMED SERVICE - THANK YOU!

Adriana McMurphy (Assisting Minister/Children's Message); Todd Gunvalson (Lector); Karen Kranz (Crucifer); Kay Herbert (Leader Worship Singer); Christopher Girardeau (Leader Worship Singer/Guitar); Jim Zieche (Congregational Singer); Laura Turnmire, Jan Berger, Midge Gunvalson, Wendy McKenzie, Karlene Stuart (Bells); Toni Hollingsworth (Organ/Piano); Bob Turnmire (Sound); Tiffany Ginn (Altar Guild).

OCTOBER "ALTAR FLOWERS" - THANK YOU!

The following have given monetary gifts in lieu of, or in addition to, the flowers at the altar for our Sunday and Tuesday in-person services:

October 4: in memory of parents and in honor of children and grandchildren by Gay Walter.



God's Love Shared Through You ...



One Life Deeper in 2020!

*Our prayerful goal is that God will work in every LS disciple to have an impact of faith and hope in the life of one person during 2020. **What shoes might they be wearing?** It may be someone you know already—at work, at home, at school, in the neighborhood, in your daily life. It may be a stranger whom God will bring to you this year. How will the Spirit work through you to bring someone deeper in 2020? **Deeper in Christ, Deeper in Grace, Deeper in Love!***

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS: inviting, involving, mentoring, discipling relationships 1 person at a time!

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS: for the work of God's kingdom in our community and world!

SHARING GOD'S LOVE: with those who are hurting, alone, marginalized, or feeling unloved!

SHARING GOD'S STORIES: so we do not remain silent about God's ongoing work in the world!

TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

The Image of God

The Pharisees and Herodians come to Jesus with a seemingly simple question: "Is it lawful to pay taxes or not?" In a deft move characteristic of his ministry, Jesus refuses to pick a side. He doesn't debate them, but reframes the whole question. In doing so, he creates space in which they are open to hear a new possibility and be amazed.

The imperial coin bears the image of the emperor, just as our currency bears the image of our nation's favored leaders. What bears God's image? You! In the first chapter of Genesis we learn that all of humankind is created in the image of God, blessed, and entrusted with caring for every living creature.

When Jesus says, "Give . . . to God the things that are God's" (Matt. 22:21), we are reminded that there is nothing in this world and nothing in ourselves that is beyond the scope of God's care. Like the money stamped with the ruler's image, we see what God treasures in the face of every person on the planet: ourselves and our neighbors, those we love and those we fear. God's own image is in every race, every age, every gender identity, every ability. Each of us shines forth a unique facet of who God is. All that we have and all that we are is from God and for the sake of the whole world.

The sacred image in us is reinforced every week when we take part in the celebration of Holy Communion. As we are fed with the body of Christ, we pray that we too might "give ourselves away as bread for the hungry" (Evangelical Lutheran Worship, p. 114). Nothing is ours to keep. All is gift from God, freely given and constantly renewed. Set free by the promises of God's steadfast presence and generosity, we may live with open hands and open hearts.

October Book of the Month: Ezekiel