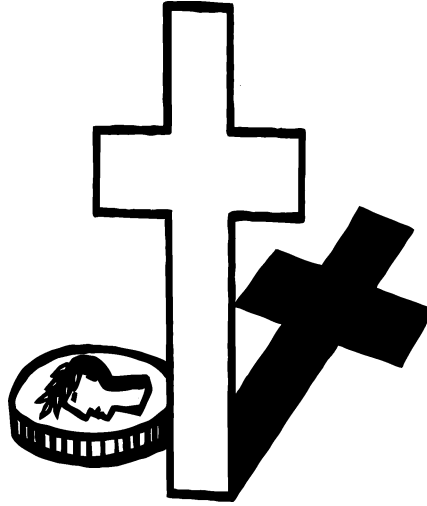


**St John Center Lutheran Church
East Earl, Pennsylvania**



October 18, 2020
20th Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Thomas Darr, Pastor 717-320-3642
Vickie Kissinger, Director of Music, Organist

717-445-5505 office@sjclutheran.org / website www.sjclutheran.org

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY 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.

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

ALTAR FLOWERS are offered to the glory of God and in memory of James Sampson by Sandy Sampson and in honor of our 25th anniversary by Pastor Tom and Liz Darr.

CONGRATULATIONS to Pastor Tom and Liz who will celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary on Wednesday, October 21!

PRELUDE

"Jesus Is Calling"

Franklin Ritter

C Please respond to the portions of the service in bold print.

GATHERING HYMN PRE-RECORDED SERVICE ONLY - WOV 719
HUM VERSE 1 ONLY

THE DIALOG

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,
for in your wisdom you have formed us.

You feed the hungry and clothe the naked.
We bless you and praise your name forever.

You set free those who are bound.
We bless you and praise your name forever.

You raise up those whose courage falters.
We bless you and praise your name forever.

You provide for our every need.
Accept our grateful praises.

You have called us from all peoples.
We rejoice and bless your name forever.

You bless your people with peace.
We bless you and praise your loving grace.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, king of the universe,
for in your wisdom you have formed us.

APOSTLES' CREED

God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope,
we confess our faith.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray together. **Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations. Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

FIRST LESSON: ISAIAH 45:1-7

A reading from Isaiah, the 45th chapter.

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.**

SECOND LESSON: 1 THESSALONIANS 1:1-10

A reading from 1 Thessalonians, the first chapter.

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.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 22:15-22

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd chapter. **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.

¹The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY PRE-RECORDED SERVICE ONLY - LBW 562

HUM VERSE 1 ONLY

Lift Every Voice and Sing

1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
 2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,

ring with the har - mo - nies of - lib - er - ty, died;
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
 yet with a stead - y beat have not our wea - ry feet
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,

let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea,
 come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
 keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
 lest, our hearts tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
 drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;

fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
 shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,

let us march on till vic - to - ry is won.
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871–1938
 Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873–1954

Offering Moment

Let us pray our offering prayer, to bless the gifts that we continue to give in response to God's gifts to us.

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

THE PRAYERS

Joined together in confidence of God's grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

That even through global sorrows the church can rejoice in your salvation, that bishops, pastors, deacons, and church leaders be sustained for their ministries, that church find strength in ecumenical and interracial collaboration, that church members resolve their conflicts in peace, and that all the baptized find ways in this difficult time to uphold what is honorable and just.

We pray for the church, O God our Shepherd: **receive our prayers.**

That the damaged places on earth be restored to fruitfulness, that animals in the wild be safeguarded, and that we humans will be dedicated to a commendable use of your creation,

We pray for the earth, O God our Creator: **receive our prayers.**

That national conflicts be resolved without warfare and destruction, that the work of diplomats and international peace workers be honored, that leaders of nations attend to the needs of the poor, that our country be preserved from discord, rancor, and violence, that the election process will be just, that prejudice based on ethnicity, skin color, and economic status be ended, and that justice will prevail in our laws and through our courts.

We pray for peace and justice, O God our Ruler: **receive our prayers.**

That the plague of coronavirus will subside, that all who are sick with the virus, from rulers to refugees, be healed, that people living with fear be comforted, that medical workers be supported and medical supplies be made available everywhere, and that a vaccine be developed and fairly distributed.

We pray during this pandemic, O God our Healer: **receive our prayers.**

That those who suffer from want be assisted, that those without work find jobs, that children be educated, that ministries of care be strengthened to feed those who hunger and those without homes, that extremism be lessened and a spirit of cooperation be nurtured, and for all who are sick, especially *Marie, Carine, Liz, Sally, Cindy, Doris, Bob, Sheila, Deb, Elmo, Mary Jean, Anna, Mary, Catharine, Bev, Jane, Jack, Maudie and those we name before you.*

We pray for all in need, O God our Guardian: **receive our prayers.**

Into your hands, merciful God our Father, we offer ourselves and all the world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

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

THE BENEDICTION

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN PRE-RECORDED SERVICE ONLY - LBW 252

HUM VERSE 1 ONLY

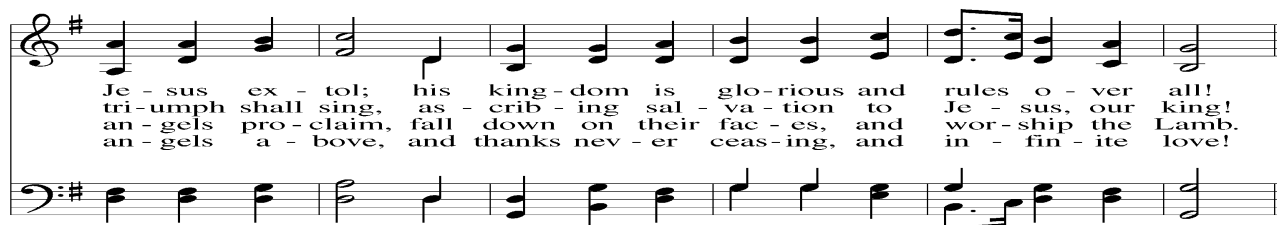
You Servants of God



1 You ser - vants of God, your mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -
2 Our God rules on high, al - might - y to save; and still he is
3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -
4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and



broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of
nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his
loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the
pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with



Je - sus ex - tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all!
tri - umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king!
an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.
an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: LYONS, Johann M, Haydn, 1737–1806, adapt.

SERVICE PARTICIPANTS**Rev. Thomas E. Darr***Organist: Vickie Kissinger***LAST WEEK’S ATTENDANCE:**

Viewed Online	Parking Lot Attendance	In Church Attendance
24	11	20

WHEN YOU COME

- Your temperature will be taken
- Masks are worn all the time – your hands will be sanitized as you arrive.
- Pick up your own bulletin and communion cup if a communion Sunday and go to your seat.
- Deposit your offering in the plate as you come in the sanctuary.
- Please sit in designated pews observing the 1-2-3 rule. 1 family per pew, 2 couples per pew or 3 individuals per pew.
- There will be no congregational singing at the in person service. The music listed is for the pre-recorded service only.
- There will be no sharing of the peace.
- Remain seated for entire service.
- We can accommodate no more than thirty people in the sanctuary. If you are planning on worshipping from home, or from the parking lot, please let me know. My email is revdrrthms@gmail.com or call me at 717-320-3642.

PRAYER CONCERNS

For those serving in the military... Christopher Buch (Susie Welsh’s grandson), Trinity Gilkey (Bauer’s), Jeremy Reifsnyder (J Reifsnyder), Richard Witwer (Maudie Witwer’s grandson)

For those with ongoing illness... Cindy Petersheim, Jack Weaver

For the homebound... Mary Martin

For those afflicted with cancer... Sandra Bair (M Nuessle), Ritch Bedell (Bauer’s), Doris Bewley, Ed Carvell (J Oatman), Gail D. (M J Ludwig), Jeff Donahue (P Wallace), Robert Freeman (Mary Hafer), Isaiah Hoar and family (M J Ludwig), Connie Howe (V Haug), Harold

Kring, Nate Mohler (Mary Hafer's son-in-law), Randy Royer (V Kissinger), Matt Sanger (T Wentzel), T Simmons, Jr. (Simmons'), Robyn Wiley (K Wallace)

For those facing or recovering from a hospitalization...

For those in need of strength and comfort.. Richard Burkhardt, Steve Cammauf (J Kring), Dan Carpenter (B Wallace), Michael Clause, Sierra Cortez (T Wentzel), the Craven family, Liz Darr, Amy DeFalco(J Kring), Sally Dettra, Bernice Dietrich (J Kring), Bob Dettra, Sister Phyllis Enck (D Lorah), Linda Fritz (Kon/Sampson), Darlene Ganse (J Kring), Scott Gockley (C Doman), Norma Good, Sheila Good, Don Griffith (Raffauf's), Mary Hafer, Vickie Haug, Allen Kimball (W Kimball), Judy Kring, Deb Lorah, Elmo Lorah, Mary Jean Ludwig, Judy Oatman, **Marie Paul (T Good)**, Wanda Lutz (T Raffauf), Anna McComsey, Catharine Messner, Israel Newswanger (L Burns), Mimi Nuessle, Andrea Ray (H Kon), Carolyn Seddon (J Kring), Carine Shorr (Darr's), Bev Simmons, Shaun Sitkowski, Tim Stanley (T Wentzel), Tammy Stiffler (Haug's), Lance Stoudt, Jane Sweigart, Carlos Terres (T Weaver), Tammy Weaver, Darlene Wentzel (T Wentzel), Maudie Witwer, Steve Young (T Weaver)

*Underlined indicates names of members of the congregation. **Bold** indicates names added since last week.*

IF YOU ARE IN NEED OF PASTORAL CARE please contact Pastor Darr at 717-320-3642 or Alvin McCoy at 610-286-9647.

LECTIONARY 29

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.