

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Trusting Against All Odds
October 21 & 22, 2023
5:00pm & 8:00am

AS WE GATHER

The most profound comfort lies in the assurance that God is always working out His purpose no matter the circumstances or the people. God's saving purpose cannot be thwarted. Isaiah lived in an age of bad news and despair, but he was confident that God could overcome them all. In the short term, this redemption came through an unlikely messianic figure named Cyrus. At the appointed time, however, the true Messiah would come and save Israel and all who trust in Him. God is in charge—not just of the ups and downs of this world's good and bad news but for the sake of His saving work. Jesus' power is greater than every other power, and His saving purpose will prevail. This is our comfort.

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

Live as people who are free, not using your freedom as a cover-up for evil,
but living as servants of God.
Honor everyone. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the emperor.
1 Peter 2:16-17

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

✠ PREPARATION ✠

OPENING HYMN #851 "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given Blessings countless as the sand
To the unthankful and the evil With Your own unsparing hand.

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

Wondrous honor You have given To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence, "You have done it all to Me."
Can it be, O gracious Master, That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?

Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on You;
but, oh, best of all Your graces, With Your love our love renew.

(Rise)

INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: My help comes from the LORD,

People: who made heaven and earth.

Pastor: The LORD will keep you from all evil;

People: He will keep your life.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Silence is kept for meditation and reflection.

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

People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: He who began this good work within you will bring it to completion on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Page 204

To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless you, Father; Your holy name, we sing –
Our thanks for your great glory, Lord God, our Heav'nly King.

To You, O solebegotten, The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, Be worshipped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High.
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, your Word and will are accomplished despite the enemies of your purpose and through the unlikely means of those indifferent to you. Encourage us when we are quick to judge and slow to believe, that we may never forget the triumph of your saving purpose in your Son; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

☩ WORD ☩

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 45:1–7* ("I am the LORD, and there is no other.") Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped, to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings, to open doors before him that gates may not be closed: ²"I will go before you and level the exalted places, 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 the hoards in secret places, 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 name you, though you do not know me. ⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, ⁶that people may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the LORD, and there is no other. ⁷I form light and create darkness; I make well-being and create calamity; I am the LORD, who does all these things.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 1:1–10* (Become imitators of us and of the Lord.) Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. ²We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, 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 loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men

we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸ For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. ⁹ For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

8:00 CHOIR ANTHEM *"Here I Am Lord"*

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 22:15–22 ("Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.")

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. ¹⁶ And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" ²¹ They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be Seated)

CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

"Jesus Loves Me This I Know"

Jesus loves me! This I know, For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to Him belong; They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! He who died Heaven's gates to open wide.
He has washed away my sin, Lets His little child come in.
Yes Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so.

SERMON HYMN #726 "Evening and Morning"

Evening and morning, sunset and dawning,
Wealth, peace, and gladness, Comfort in sadness:
These are Thy works; all the glory be Thine!
Times without number, Awake or in slumber,
Thine eye observes us, From danger preserves us,
Causing Thy mercy upon us to shine.

Father, O hear me, Pardon and spare me;
Calm all my terrors, Blot out my errors
That by Thine eyes they may no more be scanned.
Order my goings, Direct all my doings; As it may please Thee,
Retain or release me; All I commit to Thy fatherly hand.

Ills that still grieve me Soon are to leave me;
Though billows tower, And winds gain power,
After the storm the fair sun shows its face.
Joys e'er increasing And peace never ceasing:
These shall I treasure And share in full measure
When in His mansions God grants me a place.

To God in heaven All praise be given!
Come, let us offer And gladly proffer
To the Creator the gifts He doth prize.
He well receiveth A heart that believeth;
Hymns that adore Him Are precious before Him
And to His throne like sweet incense arise.

SERMON

(Rise)

NICENE CREED

People: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.
And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

8:00 INSTALLATION OF DEACONESS CAROLE R KING, DIRECTOR OF PARISH MUSIC

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

God of our salvation, you deliver your Son's work through your Word in power and in the Holy Spirit. Strengthen the Church's pastors to proclaim your truth. Increase the faith of all who hear, that they may respond in love, steadfast in their hope. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: God of all truth, from the rising of the sun to its setting, you make known your salvation in Christ. Bless fathers and mothers as they teach their children your Word and your ways. Let them know that there is no God besides you and so rejoice in your faithfulness. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: God our Father, you appointed Cyrus as your instrument to return your people to Jerusalem. Uphold the authorities of our nation in wisdom and integrity, that we might live in peace with a good conscience. Grant that they would make salutary use of the taxes we render, and lead us to recognize them as your instruments, honoring them as you command. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord of the Resurrection be with Michelle and Frank Schuh as they mourn Michelle's mother Mary Hunt and with the family of Carol Petsch who mourn her passing. Also be with Diane Ferkovich and family as they remember their mother. Give them the peace that surpasses all understanding as they look forward to the day of your Son's return. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, our help comes from you, who made heaven and earth. You preserve our life. Have mercy on Janice, Bill, Marga, Chris, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Don, Pat, Shirley, Jill, Janet, Norma, Vern, Amy, Cathy, Cindy, Dorothy, Helga, June, Shirley, Sarah and all who are afflicted. Keep them from all evil and shade them from all harm. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, guard those who travel. Keep their going out and their coming in. Protect them from every trouble, prosper their journey according to your will and make their homecomings joyful. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: True and living God, you have turned us from idols to serve you and live. As we await your Son's return in glory, grant that we would faithfully receive Him at this altar with repentance and joy. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

(Be Seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #876 "O Blessed, Holy Trinity"

O blessed, holy Trinity, Divine, eternal Unity,
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, This day your name be uppermost.

My soul and body keep from harm, And over all extend your arm;
Let Satan cause me no distress Nor bring me shame and wretchedness.

The Father's love shield me this day; The Son's pure wisdom cheer my way;
The Holy Spirit's joy and light Drive from my heart the shades of night.

My Maker, hold me in your hand; O Christ, forgiven let me stand;
Blest Comforter, do not depart; With faith and love enrich my heart.

Lord, bless and keep me as your own; Lord, look in kindness from your throne;
Lord, shine unfailing peace on me By grace surrounded; set me free.

HYMN #731 "O God, Forsake Me Not"

O God, forsake me not! Your gracious presence lend me;
Lord, lead Your helpless child; Your Holy Spirit send me
That I my course may run. O be my light, my lot,
My staff, my rock, my shield – O God, forsake me not!

O God, forsake me not! Take not Your Spirit from me;
Do not permit the might Of sin to overcome me.
Increase my feeble faith, Which You alone have wrought.
O be my strength and pow'r – O God, forsake me not!

O God, forsake me not! Lord, hear my supplication!
In ev'ry evil hour Help me resist temptation;
And when the prince of hell My conscience seeks to blot,
Be then not far from me – O God, forsake me not!

O God, forsake me not! Lord, I am Yours forever.
O keep me strong in faith That I may leave You never.
Grant me a blessed end When my good fight is fought;
Help me in life and death – O God, forsake me not!

HYMN #628 “Your Table I Approach”

Your table I approach; Dear Savior, hear my prayer.
Let not an unrepentant heart Prove hurtful to me there.

Lord, I confess my sins And mourn their wretched bands;
a contrite heart is sure to find Forgiveness at Your hands.

Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

O grant, most blessed Lord, That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good;

People: for His steadfast love endures forever!

Pastor: Let us pray. You are without equal, O Lord, and mighty in purpose and power. Deliver us from all our fears and grant our hearts to know with confidence that you will work through all things to accomplish your purpose and fulfill Your promise. Help us by this very Communion upon the holy food of Christ’s flesh and blood to be comforted in adversity and encouraged to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #850 “God of Grace and God of Glory”

God of grace and God of glory, On Your people pour Your pow’r;
Crown Your ancient Church’s story; Bring its bud to glorious flow’r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

Lo, the hosts of evil round us Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

Cure Your children’s warring madness; Bend our pride to Your control:
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage Lest we miss Your kingdom’s goal,
Lest we miss Your kingdom’s goal.

Save us from weak resignation To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of Your salvation Be our glory evermore.

Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, Serving You whom we adore,
Serving You whom we adore.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Josh Grotelueschen
Pastor Harold Bender
Jodi Drew, Debbie Nier
Olivia Kukor