



OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH
Southern Pines, North Carolina

ORDER FOR WORSHIP
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 15, 2023

PRELUDE

WELCOME

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 (+), you are forgiven. Amen.

GATHERING SONG - I Could Sing Of Your Love Forever

THE 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.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

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. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING: 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.

Here ends the reading. Word of God, Word of Life...

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE PSALM: Psalm 96:1-9 (*Read responsively by half verse.*)

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

Sing to the Lord, bless his name;
tell of his salvation from day to day.

Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvellous works among all the peoples.

For great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
he is to be revered above all gods.

For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.

Honour and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

Ascribe to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name;
bring an offering, and come into his courts.

Worship the Lord in holy splendour;
tremble before him, all the earth.

THE SECOND READING: 1 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 labour 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 people 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 where 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.

Here ends the reading. Word of God, Word of Life...

People: **Thanks be to God.**

THE CHILDREN'S SERMON - Heather Lussier

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – *I Love to Tell the Story ELW #661*

I love to tell the story of unseen things above, of Jesus and his glory, of Jesus and his love. I love to tell the story, because I know it's true; it satisfies my longings as nothing else would do.

I love to tell the story; 'twill be my theme in glory to tell the old, old story of Jesus and his love.

THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 13:31-32

He put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God!**

THE SERMON: Kingdom Stories

The Power of Little Things

Pastor Frank Waugh

THE HYMN OF THE DAY - We Give Thee but Thy Own ELW 686

PROFESSION OF FAITH

**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**

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

THE PEACE

THE OFFERING

THE OFFERING RESPONSE

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - ELW p. 144

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.**

THE PREFACE (*Sung by Pastor*)

THE SANCTUS

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

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER *As It is In Heaven, Arr. Michael W. Smith*

Refrain:

Our Father, which art in Heaven.

Hallowed be Thy name.

Our Father, which art in Heaven.

Hallowed be Thy name.

Verse 1: Thy Kingdom come,

Thy will be done.

On earth as it is in Heaven.

Verse 2: Give us our day, our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts

As we forgive our debtors

Verse 3: And lead us not into temptation

But deliver us, deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the Kingdom,

And all the power

And the glory, forever Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

COMMUNION SONGS

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

grant us peace, grant us peace.

THE COMMUNION PRAYER

Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, 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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING

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

THE SENDING SONG - This Is Amazing Grace

THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE