



St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

"A Legacy of Worship and Outreach in San Antonio since 1857"

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29th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

October 18, 2020

Welcome! In this week's First Reading, God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. In the Gospel assigned for this day, the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, but 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.



Prelude

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us by Benjamin M. Culli

Bells

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

In the presence of God,
who sees our hearts and our minds,
let us confess our sin.

(Silence for personal reflection)

God our strength:

**We confess that we are captive to the power of sin that dwells within us.
We put ourselves first and others last.
What we think makes us happy leaves us longing for more.
Even when we want to do what is good, we find ourselves doing the opposite.
Rescue us from death's grip on our lives, and raise us up day by day,
that we may be alive to God in Christ Jesus. Amen.**

Sisters and brothers, all have fallen short of the glory of God;
therefore we are justified by God's grace as a gift.
Nothing can separate us from the love of God in † Christ Jesus,
in whom we have forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation. **Amen.**

Choir

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

Greeting

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

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day

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.**

First Reading

Isaiah 45:1-7

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 Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

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.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:15-22

The good news of Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew:
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.

The Gospel of the Lord:
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor James Dew

Anthem



Apostles' Creed

With the whole Church in heaven and on earth, we confess our 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.**

Prayers of Intercession

Let us open our hearts and lift our prayers on behalf of Christ's Church and all the world around us:

Holy God, we pray for your Church, for this congregation, and for all our faith communities, that we may pray unceasingly, even in our daily living, and be always opened to your invitations to lead us into deeper discipleship. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the gifts of both courage and trust, that as you speak to us, O Lord, in ways that challenge us, help us also to be assured that you will always accompany us along those new pathways. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Abiding God, we pray for the grace to recognize your Spirit leading us toward people and places where you need us to be, that we may readily respond to what we discern to be your hope for us and for all. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray, Lord God, for our many partners in ministry, including our co-workers at CAM, Haven for Hope, Habitat for Humanity, and so many others, that the work we do together may make a real difference in the lives of many. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those whose lives are weighed down with struggle, for those who have difficulty finding what words to pray, for those who pray and wait, and for those who wait even more. We lift up to you the lives of *Bob Cauble, Chris Gates, Danny Myers, Ralph Detwiler, Claudine Michalek, Kim Friesenhahn, Kenny and Cherie Knippa, Jeff and Lori Sackett, Frances Franz, Alwin Schaefer, Bill Brewer, Paul Mason, Paul and Gloria Boenisch, Beth Knox, Lee Iredale, Mary Jane Schessenhagen, Dean Olson, Tammy Dorsey* and all else whom we also name, that they may indeed experience, in you, the gifts of healing and wholeness and peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your good hands, O God, we commend all for whom and which we pray, trusting always in your abundant mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you. *(Please verbally greet those nearest you these or similar words: "Peace be with you.")*

Great Thanksgiving

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.

It is both our duty and our delight, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through Jesus our Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection has opened to us the way of everlasting life. As we gather around this table, we feast on both his promise and his presence, made known to us through the emptying of himself on our behalf.

For on 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, as often as you drink of it, for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, Christ living among us, his eating with sinners and outcasts, his dying and rising again, we await the feast he prepares for all of creation, the heavenly feast which has no end:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Pour out, we pray, O Lord, your Holy Spirit upon these gifts of bread and wine, and upon all whose lives are nourished by this meal, that we might become what we receive, the body of Christ, blessed, broken, and given, for the sake of the life of the world. **Amen.**

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Remember us, Lord, in your kingdom, and help us to 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,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Holy Communion

We believe that Christ is truly present in the consecrated bread and wine and we welcome all who wish to receive the Holy Sacrament. During this time of pandemic, individual servings of the Eucharist are being offered in the pews at the direction of the Pastor.

Communion Prayer

God of Promise,
through the gift of this meal, this bread and wine of our Lord,
you heal our brokenness and give us a foretaste of your kingdom.
Strengthen also our spirits, increase our faith,
and bring us to new life, even now,
in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Benediction

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, protect you, and bring you to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Choir

By Your Hand You Feed Your People

Dismissal

Let us go in peace and seek the ways of the Lord.
In the Name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude

Carillon Toccata by Douglas E. Wagner

Worship is central to who we are as a people of God. Every time we gather to hear and respond to the Word, to offer up our prayers for the needs of many, and to receive Christ's living presence in the consecrated bread and wine, we seek to "become what we receive", namely, the Body of Christ for the sake of the life of the world. As we are gathered, fed, and then sent back out in mission, God empowers us to be bearers of blessing and vessels of grace, commissioning us to intentionally live out the reign of God throughout the course of our weekly living.

This Week at St. John's

Today, October 18 @ 8:30am	Pastor's Class
Today, October 18 @ 10:00am	Worship
Today, October 18 @ 11:30am	Memorial for Tom Bartholomew
Tuesday, October 20 @ 11:00am	CAM Sandwiches
Wednesday, October 21 @ 12:15pm	Word, Silence, and Prayer - Online (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87978848058)

*Please see our online calendar at www.stjohnssa.org for other events.
For prayer requests, please contact the church office
(210) 223-2611 or info@StJohnsSA.org*

Opportunities to Make a Positive Difference

CAM Clothing Needs CAM is currently accepting gently-used clothing items for both adult men and women; casual wear, jeans, khakis, t-shirts, tennis shoes, and athletic shoes. (They are not accepting at this time any slacks, suits, heels, men's dress shoes, prom dresses, or business wear.) Contact Sarah Kory at skory@cam-sa.org or call 210-223-4099 with any questions.

CAM Sandwiches Every other Tuesday, we deliver sandwiches to CAM to help feed others. The next scheduled Tuesday happens this week. For more information about this ministry, please contact Bea Imken at 210-878-7874.

Habitat for Humanity We will be participating in a build on Saturday, October 31. If you are able to help, please email Bae Imken at beafitt@gmail.com. Experience is not required. A full list of safety precautions will be emailed to all volunteers prior to the event.

Lutheran Disaster Response The ELCA is often the first on the scene to provide emergency help and continued assistance whenever trouble strikes. Right now, the Lutheran Disaster Response is in need of your generous donations to speed aid to those whose lives have been impacted by recent hurricanes, wildfires, and other calamities. You can donate at <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/Lutheran-Disaster-Response>

Synodical Ministries Closer to home, you can donate to any number of our own synodical ministries at <https://www.swtsynod.org/give>



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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