



JESUS SAID...

**“Render therefore to Caesar
the things that are Caesar’s,
and to God
the things that are God’s.”**

Matthew 22.21

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 2023

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Setting Four

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.

Prelude

Joys & Concerns

Confession and Forgiveness

P. Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete.

C. Amen

P. Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P. Steadfast and faithful God,

C. 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.

P. 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 already and always forgiven

C. Amen

Gathering Hymn

Oh, Worship the King

ELW 842

The Greeting

P. From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

C. And also with you.

This is the Feast



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.

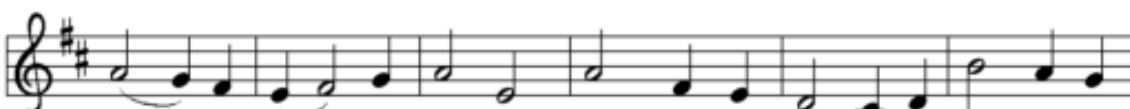
Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

Prayer of the Day

A. Let us pray

C. **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

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.

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.

L. Word of God, word of life.

C. **Thanks be to God.**



- ¹Sing to the Lord¹ a new song;
sing to the Lord,¹ all the earth.
- ²Sing to the Lord, bless the name¹ of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from¹ day to day.
- ³Declare God's glory a-¹ mong the nations
and God's wonders a-¹ mong all peoples.
- ⁴For great is the Lord and greatly¹ to be praised,
more to be feared¹ than all gods. R
- ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they¹ are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have¹ made the heavens.
- ⁶Majesty and magnificence are¹ in your presence;
power and splendor are in your¹ sanctuary.
- ⁷Ascribe to the Lord, you families¹ of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord hon-¹ or and power.
- ⁸Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the¹ holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts¹ of the Lord. R
- ⁹Worship the Lord in the beau-¹ ty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord,¹ all the earth.
- ¹⁰Tell it out among the nations: "The¹ Lord is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved
will judge the peo-¹ ples with equity."
- ¹¹Let the heavens rejoice, and let the¹ earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that¹ is therein.
- ¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com-¹ ing, O Lord,
for you come to¹ judge the earth.
- ¹³You will judge the¹ world with righteousness
and the peoples¹ with your truth.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Back of Bulletin

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.

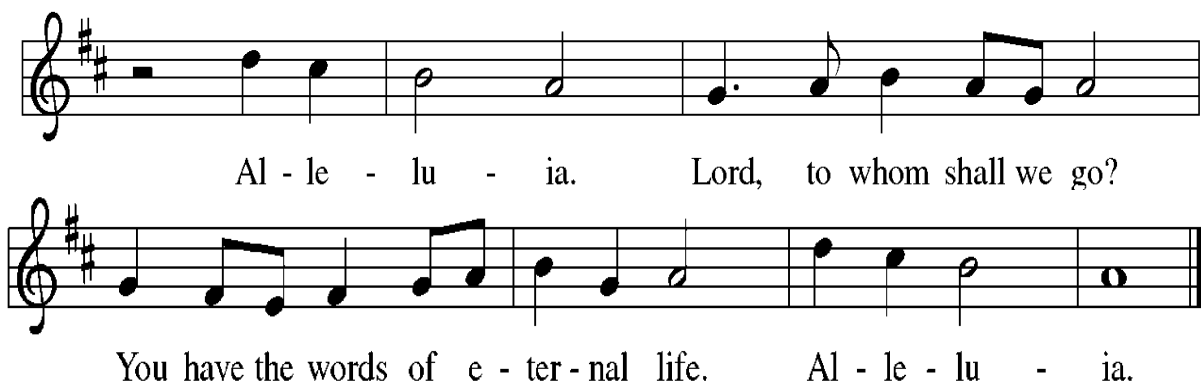
- ¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.
- ²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly
³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and
steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved

by God, that he has chosen you,⁵ 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.⁶ 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,⁷ so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.⁸ 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.⁹ 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,¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

L. Word of God, word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation



P. The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

C. Glory to you, O Lord.

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

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.

P. The Gospel of the Lord.

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

John Petry, Interim Pastor

Hymn of the Day

O God of Every Nation

ELW 713

The Apostles' Creed

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



Prayers of Intercession

A. Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence

Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith, and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love. God of grace,

C. hear our prayer.

P. Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C. Amen.

The Peace

P. Jesus said, Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.

Do not let your hearts be troubled. May His peace be with you always.

C. And also with you.

The Offering

Anthem

My Shepard, You Supply My Need

Choir

Let the Vineyards...

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

Offertory Prayer

- A. 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.
- C. Amen.

Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

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

- P. Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live. Everyone is invited, no exceptions.
- C. Amen.

Distribution of Holy Communion

Do this in
remembrance
of me



Communion Music

Thy Holy Wings

ELW 613

Jesus, the Very Thought of You

ELW 754

Post Communion Blessing

- P. The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his peace.
- C. Amen

Post Communion Prayer

- A. 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.
- C. Amen.

Blessing

- P. The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.
- C. Amen.

Sending Hymn *Let All Things Now Living* ELW 881

Dismissal

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

Postlude

Serve
the Lord
with
gladness

Servers for Sunday, October 22nd

- Assisting Minister..... Shannon Thomsen
- Reader Shannon Thomsen
- Altar Guild Barbara Kyles
- Greeters/Counters..... Neil Brennecke/Shannon Thomsen
- Guest Musician Donna Hanna



UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars



TODAY After Worship – Ministry Fair



Come and see how
YOU
can make a difference
in your church!



October 29th, 2 pm CROP Hunger Walk

Flowers on the altar this week
are provided by Sylvia Lambert
in loving memory of Jack Lambert.



WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Greater Triangle Area
CROP HUNGER WALK

OCTOBER 29, 2023

RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

**Greater Triangle Area CROP Hunger
Walk**

Sunday, October 29, 2023

First Baptist Church parking lot
GPS - 176 Hillsborough Street
Raleigh, NC 27603

Candles for the month of October given by Julia Lochra
in honor of many family birthdays.



*Pray for your
Call Committee*

Family of Peg Stamp

Family of Ellis (Tony) Guedel

Family of Tomma Hargraves

Family of Monna Stamm

Hannah Kestner Bockover – in critical condition at Wake Med

Forrest Smith – recovering from ablation

Rita's co-worker, Elizabeth Alexander – colon cancer

Sylvia Lambert's grandson, Ian – deployment to Republic of Niger, West Africa

Kathy Hart's brother, Dan – recovering from a stroke

Tess Andrews' brother, David Van Benschoten

Wendy Casey's mom, Barbara – under hospice care

Sheila Dorey – recovering from angioplasty

Clyde Bogle's sister-in-law, Wanda - cancer

Mr. Smith, neighbor of Carolyn Watkins

Father of Julya Mirro - (Gale's friend)

Holly Hans' sister, Heather House & her family

Linda Hash's brother, Charles Barlow

Linda Hash's sister-in-law, Beth Hash Lennon

Pam Klawiter's co-worker, Carolyn Harbertson – breast cancer

Rebecca Swanson's sister in PA – Post Polio Syndrome

Rebecca Swanson's nephew – Dr. David Shaefer

Diana Havenstein

Rob Havenstein

Donna Hannah – bad fall

Nick & Sharon Vietri

Mary Ann Jackson Dayshaun

Jonathan McCoy Jim Powers

Holly Han's mother, Carol Hardy

Andrew Avakian – MS

