

Lectionary 29 - Proper 24 - 20th Sunday after Pentecost  
Setting Ten  
Sunday, October 18, 2020

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.

## **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**October 18, 2020**

**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.

## **GATHERING ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**Amen.**

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

Faithful God,  
**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace  
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another  
before examining ourselves.**

**We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.**

**We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.**

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,  
and turn us again to life in you  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,  
and through his death and resurrection,  
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness  
to do God's work in the world.

**Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG *God Is Here!* (ELW 526)

1 God is here! As we your people  
meet to offer praise and prayer,  
may we find in fuller measure  
what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us,  
all our varied skills and arts  
wait the coming of the Spirit  
into open minds and hearts.

2 Here are symbols to remind us  
of our lifelong need of grace;  
here are table, font, and pulpit;  
here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching,  
here in silence, as in speech,  
here, in newness and renewal,  
God the Spirit comes to each.

4 Lord of all, of church and kingdom,  
in an age of change and doubt,  
keep us faithful to the gospel;  
help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication,  
all we have to give, receive;  
we, who cannot live without you,  
we adore you! We believe!

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### 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.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.**

### WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

### 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.*

<sup>1</sup>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:  
<sup>2</sup>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,  
<sup>3</sup>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.  
<sup>4</sup>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.  
<sup>5</sup>I am the LORD, and there is no other;  
 besides me there is no god.  
 I arm you, though you do not know me,  
<sup>6</sup>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.  
<sup>7</sup>I form light and create darkness,  
 I make weal and create woe;  
 I the LORD do all these things.

Word of God, word of life....**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]**

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.  
<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;  
 proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**  
<sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory among the nations  
 and God's wonders among all peoples.  
<sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,  
 more to be feared than all gods.**  
<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
 but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

**<sup>6</sup>Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,  
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

**<sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

**<sup>10</sup>Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!  
The one who made the world so firm  
that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."**

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

**<sup>12</sup>Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,  
for you come to judge the earth.**

<sup>13</sup>You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

## **SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

*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.*

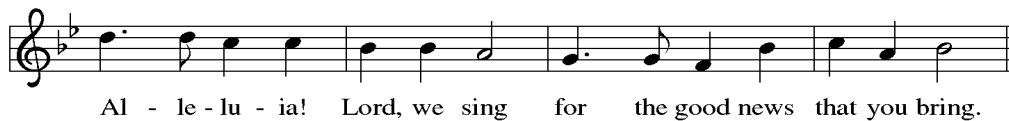
<sup>1</sup>Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:  
Grace to you and peace.

<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

Word of God, word of life.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205)



### GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

*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.*

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. <sup>16</sup>So 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. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" <sup>21</sup>They 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." <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

**SERMON** Rev. Doug Reble – Assistant to the Bishop

## HYMN OF THE DAY *Lift Every Voice and Sing* (ELW 841)

(You can follow the words on the screen if you don't need the music)



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,  
felt in the days when hope un - born had 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;  
we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,  
lest, our hearts 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

**APOSTLES' CREED**

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.

Ich glaube an Gott, den Vater, den  
Allmächtigen, den Schöpfer des Himmels  
und der Erde.

Und an Jesus Christus, seinen  
eingeborenen Sohn, unsern Herrn,  
empfangen durch den Heiligen Geiste,  
geboren von der Jungfrau Maria,  
gelitten unter Pontius Pilatus,  
gekreuzigt, gestorben, und begraben,  
hinabgestiegen in das Reich des Todes,  
am dritten Tage auferstanden von den  
Toten, aufgefahren in den Himmel;  
er sitzt zur Rechten Gottes,  
des allmächtigen Vaters; von dort wird  
er kommen, zu richten die Lebenden und  
die Toten.

Ich glaube an den Heiligen Geist,  
die heilige christliche Kirche,  
Gemeinschaft der Heiligen, Vergebung  
der Sünden, Auferstehung der Toten und  
das ewige Leben. Amen

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Gracious God, you call us by name and invite us to share your good news. Send your Holy Spirit among preachers, missionaries, and evangelists esp. our pastor Rasma, our Bishops Susan and Michael and our assistants to the Bishop.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of praise, the heavens and all creation declare your salvation. From the rising of the sun to its setting, may the whole universe show forth your goodness. Raise up devoted stewards of all that you have made. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of all, may your word of justice sound forth in every place. Restore divided nations and communities with reconciling truth. We pray for Canada and its Prime Minister as well as for our neighbours to the south.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**



God of light, we pray for those living with pain, illness, isolation, grief, anger, or doubt (*especially*) Helen, Barbara, Hedwig, Friedrich and those we mention before you....  
Join their voices in a new song, assuring them that you call them each by name.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of truth, you show no partiality. May your spirit guide the work of justices, magistrates, court officials, and all vocations of the law, that your promise of restoration may be known. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Living God, as you raised Jesus from the dead, so raise up those who have died in you. We give thanks for their witness, confident of your rescuing welcome for all.  
Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### **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.**

**Vater Unser, der du bist im Himmel.  
Geheiligt werde dein Name.  
Dein Reich komme.  
Dein Wille geschehe,  
wie im Himmel, so auf Erden,  
Unser tägliches Brot gib uns heute,  
und vergib uns unsere Schuld,  
wie auch wir vergeben unsern  
Schuldigern.  
Und führe uns nicht in Versuchung,  
sondern erlöse uns von den Bösen.  
Denn dein ist das Reich und die Kraft  
und die Herrlichkeit in Ewigkeit. Amen.**

#### **PEACE**

#### **OFFERING PRAYER**

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.**

## SENDING

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *Your Will Be Done: Mayenziwe* (ELW 741)

*This is first sung twice in the original language and then twice in English. Give it your best shot)*

**Your Will Be Done**  
*Mayenziwe*



Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma -  
Your will be done on earth, O Lord. Your

ye - nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi -  
will be done on earth, O Lord. Your will be

we 'nta - ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta -  
done on earth, O Lord. Your will be done on

ndo ya - kho. Ma - ye - nzi - we 'nta - ndo ya - kho.  
earth, O Lord. Your will be done on earth, O Lord.

Text: South African, based on the Lord's Prayer

Music: MAYENZIWE, South African traditional, as taught by Gobingca George Mxadana

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**Thanks be to God.**