

sPentecost 20, October 18, 2020, Order of Worship

Greeting In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Call to Worship (Psalm 96:1-4, 9-12) ***Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise his name; proclaim his salvation day after day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples. For great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; he is to be feared above all gods. Worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness; tremble before him, all the earth. Say among the nations, "The Lord reigns." The world is firmly established, it cannot be moved; he will judge the peoples with equity. Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it; let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them. Then all the trees of the forest will sing for joy. Amen.***

Confession and Forgiveness

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

C: 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 Lord. Amen.

P: 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 now in freedom to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

Opening Hymn ***Thee We Adore, Eternal Lord*** (public domain) LBW 547, ELW 476
Sing to O Master, Let Me Walk with You, LBW 492, ELW 818

***Thee we adore, eternal Lord! We praise thy name with one accord;
Thy saints, who here thy goodness see, through all the world do worship thee.***

***From day to day, O Lord, do we highly exalt and honor thee;
Thy name we worship and adore, world without end, forevermore!***

The Kyrie In peace, let us pray to the Lord. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. 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. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. For all these things we pray: 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.

A reading from Isaiah, the 45th chapter (45:1-7) Isaiah announces that the Persian emperor Cyrus will bring an end to Israel's exile in Babylon. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize God Almighty as the only God. Persia (now Iran) had a god of light and a god of darkness; but the Lord of the Israelites is sovereign over both light and darkness. Even those who don't worship God can be used to his glory.

Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus: I take hold of your right hand to subdue nations before you and to strip kings of their armor, to open doors before you. I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break down gates of bronze and cut through bars of iron. I will give you treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who summons you by name. For the sake of Jacob my servant, of Israel my chosen ["Jacob" was given a new name, "Israel," when he wrestled with God in Genesis 32:22-32], I summon you by name and give you a title of honor, though you do not acknowledge me. I am the Lord, there is no other; apart from me there is no God. I will strengthen you, though you have not acknowledged me, so that from the rising of the sun to the place of its setting people may know there is none besides me. I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form the light and create darkness, I bring prosperity and create disaster; I, the Lord, do all these things.

Word of God, word of life.

A reading from First Thessalonians, the 1st chapter (1:1-10) In Paul's first letter he encourages and reassures new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

From Paul, Silas, and Timothy, to the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. We always thank God for all of you in our prayers. We continually remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words, but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and with deep conviction In spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with joy given by the Holy Spirit. The Lord's message rang out from you—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Word of God, word of life.

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Alleluia *Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!*

The holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd chapter (22:15-22), Sermon (page 5)

Hymn of the Day *O God of Mercy, God of Light* (public domain) LBW 425, ELW 714

*O God of mercy, God of light, in love and mercy infinite,
Teach us, as ever in your sight, to live our lives in you.*

*You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost world might hear your call;
Oh, hear us lest we stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.*

*For all are kindred, far and wide, since Jesus Christ for all has died;
Grant us the will, and grace provide to love them all in you.*

*In sickness, sorrow, want, or care, each other's burdens help us share;
May we, where help is needed, there give help as though to you.*

The Apostle's 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 (from *Sundays and Seasons*, ELCA worship guide) With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those who are in any kind of 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, that you may be glorified.

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.

God of all, may your word of justice sound forth in every place. Restore divided nations and communities with reconciling truth. As our election day draws nearer, may all leadership be civil.

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God of light, we pray for those living with pain, illness, isolation, grief, anger, or doubt. Join their voices in a new song, assuring them that you call them each by name.

God of truth, you show no partiality. May your spirit guide the work of justices, magistrates, court officials, all who make and enact our laws, and all military and peace-keeping personnel, so that your promise of restoration may be known.

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.

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.

Sharing God's Peace (if you worship alone, add your specific prayers for peace here)

The Lord's Prayer

Closing Hymn *Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now* (public domain) LBW 253, ELW 527
Sing to Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word, LBW 230, ELW 517

*Lord Jesus Christ, be present now; our hearts in true devotion bow.
Your Spirit send with light divine, and let your truth within us shine.*

*Unseal our lips to sing your praise in endless hymns through all our days;
Increase our faith and light our minds; and set us free from doubt that blinds.*

*All glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity, be praise throughout eternity!*

Benediction: May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make his face shine on you; may the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace. Amen.

May God's perfect peace that passes all understanding be with you and free you from all fear.