



Give Honor Where It Is Due

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 2023

KING OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH | *Golden Valley, Minnesota*

Welcome to God's divine service among his saints in his house this morning. If you experience any kind of barrier to worship, please speak with an usher. There is a hearing assistance system available, there are activity bags for children, and the service is streamed live in the Fireside Room down the hall for small children.

Service of Preparation

PRESERVICE MUSIC

Use this time in quiet preparation for worship by looking ahead at today's Bible readings and hymn texts, and in prayer.

HYMN

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty | #65

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God, our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to you both that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and also that we have each sinned against you in our thoughts, words, and actions. Therefore we flee for refuge toward your infinite mercy, pleading for your grace on the basis of the work of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, you have given your only-begotten Son to die for us. Have mercy upon us and for his sake grant us remission of all our sins. And by your Holy Spirit, increase in us true knowledge of you and of your will, and true obedience to your word, to the end that—by your grace—we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given his only-begotten Son to die for us, and on the basis of his work forgives us all our sins. To all who believe in his name he gives power to become the children of God, and has promised them his Holy Spirit. He who believes and is baptized will be saved.

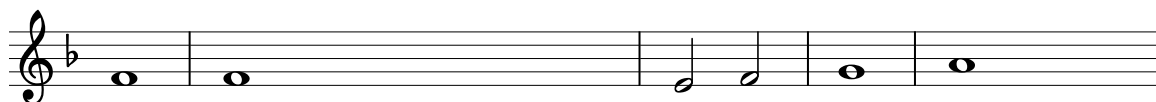
C: Grant this unto us, O Lord. Amen.

HYMN


Gloria



Glory be to God on high, And on earth peace, good will toward



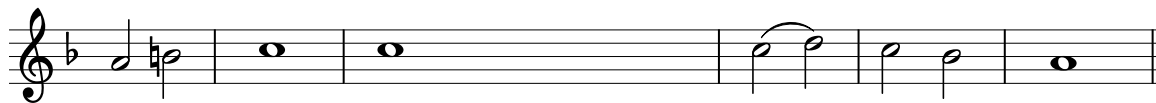
men. We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,



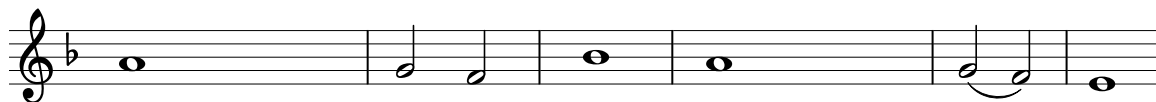
we give thanks to you, for your great glory. O Lord God, heav'n-ly




King, God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son,



Je-sus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,



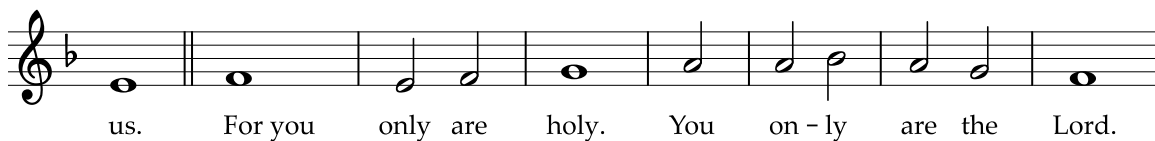
you take away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.



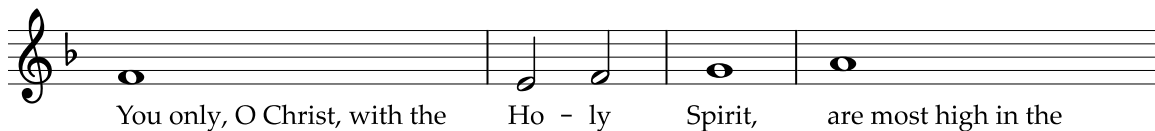
You take away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.



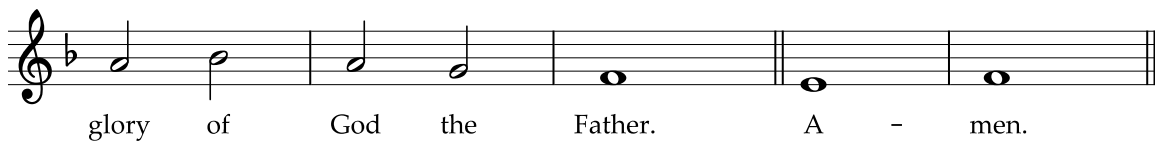
You are seated at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up - on



us. For you only are holy. You on - ly are the Lord.



You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit, are most high in the



glory of God the Father. A - men.

Service of the Word

The Christian pursuit of unity and love extends beyond the church community to our places in society as well, even while sometimes living against the grain of that society. The readings for the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost teach us all authority ultimately traces back to God, who uses his power to save us.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray for godly government: O Lord our God, govern the nations on earth so that your church may obey you without conflict and live in peace and joy with others. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Daniel 1

Daniel and his friends acted and spoke respectfully even while resisting their government and its values, always acknowledging they served a greater Kingdom.

¹ In the third year of the reign of Jehoiakim king of Judah, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. ² And the Lord delivered Jehoiakim king of Judah into his hand, along with some of the articles from the temple of God. These he carried off to the temple of his god in Babylonia and put in the treasure house of his god.

³ Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility — ⁴ young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. ⁵ The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

⁶ Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ⁷ The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

⁸ But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. ⁹ Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, ¹⁰ but the official told Daniel,

“I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you.”

¹¹ Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, ¹² “Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³ Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.” ¹⁴ So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

¹⁵ At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. ¹⁶ So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

¹⁷ To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

¹⁸ At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹ The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king’s service. ²⁰ In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

²¹ And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 13:1–7

When functioning as instruments of justice, we should respect secular authorities as servants of God to keep order in society.

¹ Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ² Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³ For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. ⁴ For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵ Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

⁶ This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. ⁷ Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN

Lord of Glory, Who Hast Bought Us | #459

SERMON

Matthew 22:15–22

The Jewish leaders pitted Jesus' claim to authority against the government, hoping to throw off both. Let us be people who actually give to both Caesar and God what is due them each.

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. ¹⁶ They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. ¹⁷ Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?"

¹⁸ But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? ¹⁹ Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, ²⁰ and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?"

²¹ "Caesar's," they replied.

Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

²² When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

What is there to praise and thank God for in this passage?

How does this passage correct our thinking about God, his nature or his plans?

What do we need to believe as a result of this passage?

Is there anything we should stop or start doing as a result of this passage?

Is there anything we need to say to someone as a result of this passage?

HYMN

Create in Me

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your
pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.
Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of five staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics are: "Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right". The second staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics are: "spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your". The third staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics are: "pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.". The fourth staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics are: "Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,". The fifth staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats. The notes are: C4, D4, E4, F4, G4, A4, B4, C5, B4, A4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4. The lyrics are: "and up - hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.".

Service of Thanksgiving

STATEMENT OF FAITH

P: Let us confess our holy faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed:

C: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from there he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

OFFERING

The teaching and evangelism work of King of Grace is supported entirely by donation. You can support this work by giving a gift in the offering plate or at www.kingofgracelutheran.com/give.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

PRAYER

P: We ask you, almighty God, that you give your church your Holy Spirit and the wisdom which comes down from above. We ask that your word may not be restrained but have freedom to be preached for the joy and learning of Christ's holy people. And we ask that in loyal faith we may serve you and live in the confession of your name until the end. We pray through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: A - men, a - men, a - men.

The musical notation is on a single staff with a treble clef. It consists of three measures. The first measure contains a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on A4 with a sharp sign, and a quarter note on B4. The second measure contains a quarter note on C5, a quarter note on B4, and a quarter note on A4. The third measure contains a quarter note on G4, a quarter note on F4 with a sharp sign, and a quarter note on E4. A slur is placed under the notes of the third measure.

Meditate on how Psalm 96 relates to today's theme at home throughout this week.

Preacher.....Pastor Aaron Ferkenstad | **Liturgist**.....Pastor Bernt Tweit
Organist (Sunday).....Karen Merseth | **Pianist (Monday)**..... Lynn Handberg



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