

20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2020

Virtual Bulletin

Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church

Rev. Zachary W. Johnson, Pastor

Donna Menzies, Assistant to the Pastor, Visitation & Spiritual Care

Douglas Shabe, Director of Music

Grace Lee, Organist

Michelle Tune, Soprano

Order of the Liturgy

Prelude played by Grace Lee

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *(Brief silence is kept.)* Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN – ELW 526 *God Is Here!*

- 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.

- 3 Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;
 here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
 Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
 what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.
- 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

WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

Lector: Irene Amon

- 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.

Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13] *The congregation responds with the even-numbered verses.*

¹Sing to the LORD a new song;

sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
 proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

³Declare God's glory among the nations
 and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
 more to be feared than all gods.**

⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
 but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
 power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
 ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

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

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
 tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

[¹⁰**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."**

¹¹Let 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.

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

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness
 and the peoples with your truth.]

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Lector: Donna Menzies

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

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.

SERMON by Pastor Zachary Johnson

HYMN OF THE DAY – ELW 871 *Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good*

- 1 Sing praise to God, the highest good, the author of creation! O God of love, you understood our need for your salvation. With healing balm our souls you fill; all our lament with peace you still. To God all praise and glory!
- 2 What your almighty pow'r has made, in mercy you are keeping; by morning glow or evening shade, your eye is never sleeping; in the dominion of your might all things are just and good and right. To God all praise and glory!
- 3 We sought the Lord in our distress; O God, in mercy hear us. Our Savior saw our helplessness and came with peace to cheer us. For this we thank and praise the Lord, who is by one and all adored. To God all praise and glory!
- 4 All who confess Christ's holy name, give God the praise and glory! Let all God's saving pow'r proclaim; give God the praise and glory! Cast ev'ry idol from its throne; God is the Lord, and God alone. To God all praise and glory!

Text: Johann J. Schütz, 1640-1690; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812-1897, adapt.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assistant Karen DeGilio

Each petition ends with "Lord, in your mercy." The assembly responds with "Hear our prayer."

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us...

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN – ELW 843 *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;
praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word;
praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand;
from this well comes living water quenching thirst in ev'ry land.
- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude played by Grace Lee

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Join us this Sunday at 10am for our Virtual Worship via Zoom. Check in a few minutes early and hear the prelude by Grace! You may also join us on Facebook Live. We look forward to seeing your faces and worshipping together in this new format! We will continue after our service on the same link for our fellowship time!

Topic: Hill Avenue Grace Lutheran Church Worship

Time: Sundays at 10:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/95007590439?pwd=M2NmMUZCZzhMOUY0SG8xeHpzcU5RUT09>

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