

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,  
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 22, 2023

10:30 A.M.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

901 EAST STROOP ROAD

KETTERING, OH 45429-4688

(937) 298-0136

# TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## *Introduction*

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.

## *Coins and Foreheads*

It sure would be nice if Jesus had said his followers don't have to pay taxes. It would be wonderful to be able to say when taxes come due, "Gosh, I wanted to pay my taxes, but Jesus said I don't have to, so . . ." Of course, Jesus didn't say that, so we're not off the hook!

But Jesus says a lot more here than just "Pay your taxes." He encourages people to rethink their relationship with money and government in light of their relationship with God. He uses a coin of the Roman Empire to make a point. The coin bears the image of the emperor. So, if the emperor wants his coins back, go ahead and give them to him.

But then Jesus puts a limit on how much allegiance and loyalty to pay to the emperor: "Give . . . to God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21). Like so many coins that bear the images of great leaders, we are told in Genesis that we each bear the image of God. Give to God what is God's! Give yourself, your heart, your soul, your mind, your will to God! Don't give any of that to those who demand you pay taxes. God has a claim on you, not those in power.

At times we might feel a dilemma when it comes to balancing our loyalties among our government and civil obligations, and our loyalty to God. But the message is clear: We belong to God. God claims each of us as beloved, as valuable, as worth more than coins or gold or dollars.

In baptism we are marked with the cross of Christ on our foreheads. We bear the image of the Crucified One who claims us by grace. At the table we are fed and nourished, welcomed and loved, because of the one who tells us our lives have great worth.

## **PRELUDE**

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## **WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Pastor Jamie Vannoy*

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Sanctuary*

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary:  
Pure and holy, tried and true.  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.

## **OPENING LITANY**

We have gathered in this place to worship,  
**because Jesus invites us to come!**  
We come as we are,  
with our faith and our doubts,  
with our successes and our failures,  
**because Jesus invites us to come!**  
We come with what we have,  
bringing with us the events and experiences of this past week,  
**because Jesus invites us to come.**

## **GATHERING SONGS**

*Rising*

(Music Ministers)

From the rising of the sun 'til the sun goes down,  
Let the name of the Lord be praised;  
From the rising of the sun 'til the sun goes down,  
Let the name of the Lord be praised.

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

We've gathered to worship,  
Becoming a choir to sing your praise;  
Lifting our voices,  
Joining our hearts in this house today,  
People of God,  
In the power of God,  
For the kingdom of God, we sing:

**(Refrain - All)**

**From the rising of the sun 'til the sun goes down,  
Let the name of the Lord be praised;  
From the rising of the sun 'til the sun goes down,  
Let the name of the Lord be praised;  
From the sky to the depths,  
From the east to the west,  
We give you praise.**

**(Verse 2 - All)**

**We're gathered to go out  
To cities and towns; We'll take your name  
Into the nations,  
Shining your light in the darkest place;  
People of God,  
In the power of God,  
For the kingdom of God we live!**

**(Refrain - All / Music Ministers)**

**From the rising of the sun 'til the sun goes down,  
Let the name of the Lord be praised;  
From the rising of the sun 'til the sun goes down,  
Let the name of the Lord be praised;  
From the sky to the depths,  
From the east to the west,  
We give you praise. We give you praise.**

*Instrumental*

**From the rising of the sun 'til the sun goes down,  
Let the name of the Lord be praised;  
From the rising of the sun 'til the sun goes down,  
Let the name of the Lord be praised;  
From the sky to the depths,  
From the east to the west,  
We give you praise. We give you praise.  
Lord, we give you praise; We give you praise.**

**From the rising of the sun 'til the sun goes down,  
Let the name of the Lord be praised!**

Glory and Praise to Our God (W&P 43)

*Refrain*

Glo - ry and praise to our God, who a - lone gives

light to our days. Man - y are the

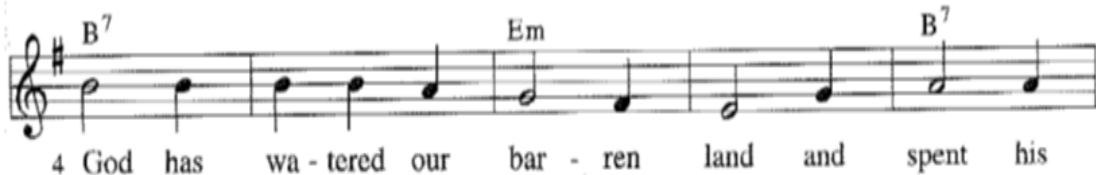
bles - sings he bears to those who trust in his ways.

1 We, the daugh - ters and sons of him who built the  
 2 In his wis - dom he strength - ens us, like gold that's  
 3 Ev - 'ry mo - ment of ev - 'ry day our God is

val - leys and plains, praise the won - ders our God has  
 test - ed in fire. Though the pow - er of sin pre -  
 wait - ing to save, al - ways read - y to seek the

done in ev - 'ry heart that sings.  
 vails, our God is there to save.  
 lost, to an - swer those who pray.

*Refrain*



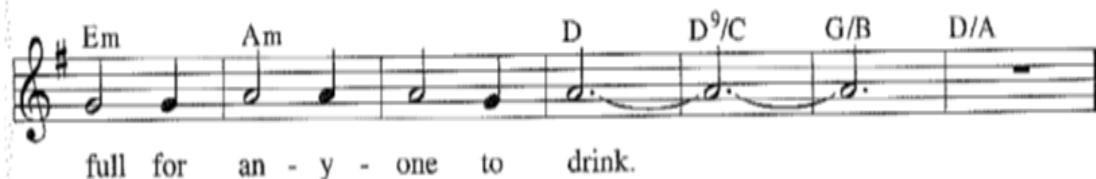
B<sup>7</sup> Em B<sup>7</sup>

4 God has wa-tered our bar-ren land and spent his



Em C G

mer-ci-ful rain. Now the riv-ers of life run



Em Am D D<sup>9</sup>/C G/B D/A

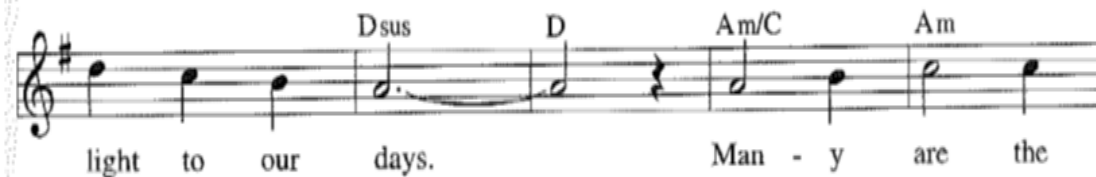
full for an-y-one to drink.

*Final refrain*



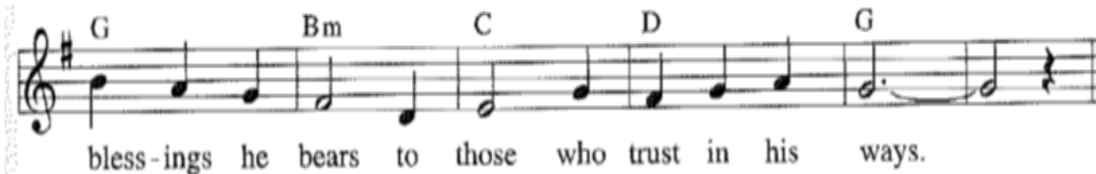
G D Em G

Glo-ry and praise to our God, who a-lone gives



Dsus D Am/C Am

light to our days. Man-y are the



G Bm C D G

bless-ings he bears to those who trust in his ways.

*Lord, I Need You*

(Verse 1 - Music Ministers)

Lord, I come, I confess.  
Bowing here, I find my rest.  
And without you, I fall apart.  
You're the one that guides my heart.

**(Refrain - All)**

**Lord, I need you, oh, I need you.  
Every hour I need you.  
My one defense, my righteousness;  
O God, how I need you.**

(Verse 2 - Music Ministers)

Where sin runs deep, your grace is more.  
Where grace is found is where you are.  
And where you are, Lord, I am free.  
Holiness is Christ in me.  
Where you are, Lord, I am free.  
Holiness is Christ in me.

**(Refrain - All)**

**Lord, I need you, oh, I need you.  
Every hour I need you.  
My one defense, my righteousness;  
O God, how I need you.**

(Music Ministers)

Teach my song to rise to you  
When temptation comes my way.  
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on you.  
Jesus, you're my hope and stay.  
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on you.  
Jesus, you're my hope and stay.

**(Refrain - All/ Music Ministers)**

**Lord, I need you, oh, I need you.  
Every hour I need you.  
My one defense, my righteousness;  
O God, how I need you.**

**Lord, I need you, oh, I need you.  
Every hour I need you.  
My one defense, my righteousness;  
O God, how I need you.**

My one defense, my righteousness;  
O God, how I need you.

## **CONFESSION**

God of all mercy, we confess that we have wandered from your side.  
Show us your love once more, and bring us back to you.

### **We confess to the sin of pride:**

We have been sure of our own goodness and importance  
and have looked down on others.  
Help us to honor the dignity of all.

### **We confess to the sin of envy:**

We have been displeased when others have been more successful  
or sought-after than we have been.  
Give us glad hearts to rejoice genuinely in the blessings of others.

### **We confess to the sin of self-indulgence:**

We have had enough and more.  
Yet we have neglected the needs of others.  
Help us to deny ourselves so that others may not be in want.

### **We confess to the sin of self-will:**

We have worried about many things.  
Help us to trust you to see us through.

### **We confess to the sin of laziness:**

We have been prone to half-measures and have let our faith grow feeble.  
Make us eager to do your will.

We confess to you our sins,  
and we ask for your forgiveness.  
In the name of Christ we pray. **Amen.**

## **FORGIVENESS**

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. **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.**

## **THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**



# WORD

*Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,  
Jesus interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.*

## 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.*

A reading from the book of Isaiah.

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: 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, 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. 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. I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, 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. 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

**Psalms 96:1-9 [10-13]**

*Ascribe to the LORD honor and power. (Ps. 96:7)*

Sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**[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.”**

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.

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

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.*

A reading from Paul's letter to the Thessalonians.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace. We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, 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. 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, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 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. 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, 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 READING**

**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.*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**YOUTH MESSAGE**

**MESSAGE**

*Pastor Jamie Vannoy*

**\*\* 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 power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
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,  
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.**

## PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

### GATHERING OF GIFTS

### OFFERTORY

### OFFERING PRAYER

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. **Amen.**

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

Lift up your heads; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your voices; **we lift them up to God.**

Lift up your hearts; **we lift them up to God.**

### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

And so we gather at the table. We come from many different places in life. And as we come together around the table we discover that our differences are not something we just tolerate, but that our differences are indeed a blessing. So come, children of God, just as you are. Wherever you are on this journey of life and faith, you are welcome here - here in this place, here in this community, here at this table. Come, children of God, come and remember. Remember the stories that Jesus' friends tell: Stories of bread broken and shared to feed a multitude; stories of gathering both enemy and friend together around a common table; stories of unlikely guests revealing the face of the sacred.

On a night of both celebration and betrayal Jesus took bread, blessed it and broke it; gave it to his disciples and said, "Take and eat, this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Then Jesus took the cup, blessed it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so we pray: Lord, bless this bread and bless this fruit of the vine. Bless all of us in our eating and drinking that our eyes might be open, and that we might recognize the risen Christ in our midst, indeed in one another.

**\*\* LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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**

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

**HOLY COMMUNION - *Receiving the Lord's tangible presence.***

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Each person may respond: **Amen.**

***Communion Statement*** ~ *If you believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is your Savior and Redeemer and would like to receive Holy Communion, then come forward to receive the elements. If you would just like to come forward and receive a blessing, then you may do that also.*

*NOTE: We invite everyone to come forward for Holy Communion. If you have a gluten allergy, gluten-free wafers are available upon request when receiving Communion. Also, if you prefer not to receive wine at Communion, apple juice is available upon request.*

**REFLECTION DURING COMMUNION**

*As we prepare to receive the sacrament today, may we quietly take this time to center ourselves on Christ, and the amazing gifts of grace and forgiveness that we have been given. As we receive the body and the blood of our Lord, let us reflect upon His sacrifice. Finally, may we take this time to ask the Holy Spirit to enter our hearts, and then to work **in** us and **through** us in the coming days.*

**\*\* TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and always keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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. **Amen.**

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## \*\* BLESSING

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

## SENDING SONG

*Everlasting God*

(Verse)

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,  
We will wait upon the Lord,  
We will wait upon the Lord.  
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,  
We will wait upon the Lord,  
We will wait upon the Lord  
Our God, You pp forever,  
Our Hope, our strong Deliverer.

(Chorus)

You are the everlasting God,  
The everlasting God.  
You do not faint,  
You won't grow weary.  
You're the defender of the weak.  
You comfort those in need.  
You lift us up on wings like eagles.

(Verse)

Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,  
We will wait upon the Lord,  
We will wait upon the Lord.  
Strength will rise as we wait upon the Lord,  
We will wait upon the Lord,  
We will wait upon the Lord  
Our God, You reign forever,  
Our Hope, our strong Deliverer.

(Final Chorus)

You are the everlasting God,  
The everlasting God.  
You do not faint,  
You won't grow weary.  
You're the defender of the weak.

You comfort those in need.  
You lift us up on wings like eagles.

*Interlude*

Our God, You reign forever,  
Our Hope, our strong Deliverer.

You are the everlasting God,  
The everlasting God.  
You do not faint,  
You won't grow weary.  
You're the defender of the weak.  
You comfort those in need.  
You lift us up on wings like eagles.

**\*\* DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Created, saved and gifted by God, we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ.  
Hallelujah! Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

**“W + 2” = Worship Plus Two**

**Make a commitment to not only worship each week  
but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation  
and seek out a way to serve our community.**

**YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD**

## Upcoming Commemorations

### **James of Jerusalem, martyr, died around 62 Monday, October 23, 2023**

One of three early-church leaders named James, this man is identified in the New Testament and by a historian of the time as a brother of Jesus. Scholars are uncertain whether this means a blood brother. He was a leader of the church in Jerusalem.

### **Philipp Nicolai, died 1608; Johann Heermann, died 1647; Paul Gerhardt, died 1676; hymnwriters Thursday, October 26, 2023**

These great hymnwriters all worked in seventeenth-century Germany in times of war and plague. Nicolai, a pastor, lost 1,300 parishioners to plague, 170 in one week. He wrote “O Morning Star, how fair and bright” and “Wake, awake, for night is flying.” Heermann’s hymns, including “Ah, holy Jesus,” often express the emotions of faith. Gerhardt, perhaps the greatest Lutheran hymnwriter, was a pastor in Berlin.

### **Simon and Jude, Apostles Saturday, October 28, 2023**

We know little about these apostles. Simon is listed as “the zealot” or Cananean in New Testament lists. Jude, also called Thaddeus, asked Jesus at the last supper why he had revealed himself to the disciples but not to the world.

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