

# THE NOON SERVICE

20th Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2020

Community responses are in bold

## WELCOME

### GATHERING SONG

*While we are waiting, come  
While we are waiting, come  
Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel  
While we are waiting, come*

*While we are praying, come  
While we are hoping, come  
While we're forgiving, come*

Blessed be the God of our salvation.  
**Who bears our burdens and  
forgives our sins.**

God be with you.  
**And also with you.**  
Let us pray.

### OPENING PRAYER

Almighty God, who inspired your servant Luke the physician to set forth in the Gospel the love and healing power of your Son: Graciously continue in your Church this love and power to heal, to the praise and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### THE LESSONS

A Reading from the book of Isaiah 45:1-7

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### A Reading from 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

## A Reading from the book of Matthew 22:15-22

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.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

**Thanks be to God.**

## COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

*All are welcome to share but please be respectful and appropriate. Please speak for yourself with awareness of the impact your words have on others. What is often shared in this community is vulnerable—we ask that you be respectful of not sharing other people's stories. Examine your own assumptions and perceptions. Be sensitive to differences in communication and cultural styles. And remember: listening is a spiritual act.*

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Officiant: Hear O my people, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.**

Officiant: This is the first and great commandment.

**The second is like it: love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.**

## THE PEACE

Officiant: The Peace of the risen Christ be always with you.

**And also with you.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Holy God, in this season we come before you mindful of your many servants surrounding us in heaven and on earth. Give us eyes to see your messengers in every place we go and every stranger we meet.

We ask your blessings upon the Church and upon all who serve you within the community of the faithful. Just as your angels proclaim your love and mercy in heaven, so give to the Church the courage to proclaim your kingdom here on earth.

**God of Saints & Angels, may we find your messengers at work within the Church.**

At the birth of Jesus, your angels proclaimed Peace on Earth. May our nation and all nations of the earth pursue the holy work of peacemaking. May those in authority lead as you would choose, establishing justice and always pursuing the common good of all those entrusted to their care.

**God of Saints & Angels, may we find your messengers at work in the nations.**

God of wild places, your messengers surround us in the wonders of Creation. May we learn to listen closely and cherish the voices of birds, rivers, mountains and trees. Give us enduring wisdom to care for the fragile wonders of the earth and may we always prove careful stewards of your handiwork.

**God of Saints & Angels, may we find your messengers at work in Creation.**

God who calls us all to live in community with those different from ourselves. Let us learn to see Christ in every person with whom we live and work. May we learn to truly live as your saints, loving our neighbors as ourselves.

**God of Saints & Angels, may we find your messengers at work in our neighbors.**

God of the wounded, the friendless, and the forgotten. Comfort all who feel alone and guide us to care for them with deeds and not words alone. May we take courage from the example of your saints who befriended the hurting and confronted the powers of injustice, violence, and oppression.

**God of Saints & Angels, may we find your messengers at work in those who suffer.**

We commend to your mercy all who have died. We remember especially the victims of injustice and the martyrs and prophets of every generation who have gone before us, laying down their lives for the proclamation of your Word.

**God of Saints & Angels, may we find your messengers at work in the communion of your saints.**

Almighty God, by your Holy Spirit you have made us one with your saints in heaven and on earth: Grant that in our earthly pilgrimage we may always be supported by this fellowship of love and prayer, and know ourselves to be surrounded by their witness to your power and mercy. We ask this for the sake of Jesus Christ, in whom all our intercessions are acceptable through the Spirit, and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

## BLESSING

Christ has no body now on earth but yours,

No hands but yours, no feet but yours.

Yours are the eyes with which Christ looks with compassion on the hurting world.

Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.

Yours are the hands with which he blesses all the world.

And the blessing of God—Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer—be with you today and always.

**Amen.**

*Blessing attributed to St. Teresa of Avila*

## CLOSING SONG

*While we are waiting, come*

*While we are waiting, come*

*Jesus our Lord, Emmanuel*

*While we are waiting, come*

*While we are praying, come*

*While we are hoping, come*

*While we're forgiving, come*

Officiant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**