Give to God the things that are God's

MATTHEW 22:21

October 22, 2023 21st Sunday after Pentecost Bethany Lutheran Church (ELCA)

PRELUDE AND LIGHTING OF CANDLES RINGING OF BELL WELCOME

The people of God stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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.

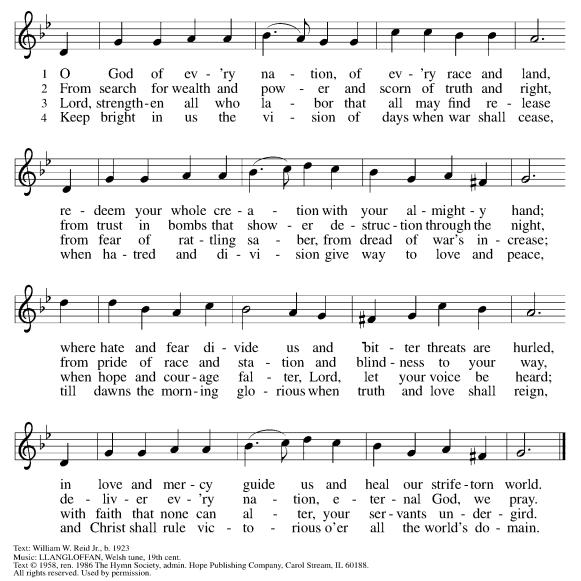
Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

HYMM O God of Every Nation (ELW 713) See next page.



GREETING (ELW p. 184)

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

Let us pray.

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 people of God are seated.

CHOIR ANTHEM "Seek the Lord"

WORD God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

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 Isaiah.

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; the LORD do all these things.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96:1-9

¹Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

²Sing 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.

⁴For 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.

⁶Majesty 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.

⁸Ascribe 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.

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 First Thessalonians.

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, ¹⁰ and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus. who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

The word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

The people of God stand.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Halle, Halle, Hallelujah (ELW 172)

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.

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.

The gospel of the Lord.

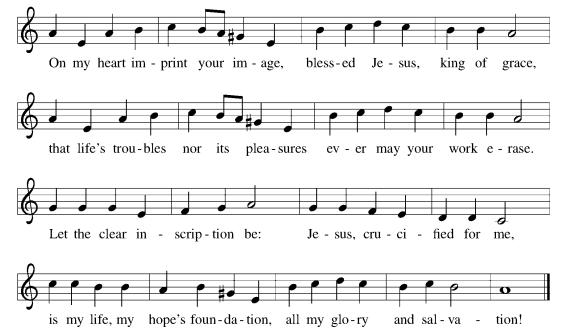
Praise to you, O Christ.

The people of God are seated.

SERMON

The people of God stand.

HYMN On My Heart Imprint Your Image (ELW 811)



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 Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to the dead.

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 INTERCESSION

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Each petition ends with, "Lord, in your mercy." Those worshipping respond with the hymn below "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying" (ELW 752)



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. And also with you.

The people of God are seated.

OFFERING

We are grateful for your gifts and they are needed to continue the work of the church. For those worshipping online, options on ways to give are found on our website (<u>www.wbbethany.org</u>). Thank you! After the offering is gathered, we sing the people of God stand and sign the hymn below as the gifts are brought forward.

OFFERTORY HYMN Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil (ELW 512)



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OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (*ELW p.191*). Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray

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.

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

HYMN You Are My All in All



BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

OUR WORSHIP ASSISTANTS		
Ministers of:	Today	October 29
Music	Jill Barnhart	Jill Barnhart
Proclamation (Lector)	Mike Fryauf	Lisa Zimmerman
Ministers of Hospitality	Anne & Jamie Fetzer	Wayne Frauenholtz
Minister of Technology	Jill Taylor	Cole Crosthwaite & Tate Frantz
Worship (Altar Care)	Kent & Beth Kaufman	Kent & Beth Kaufman



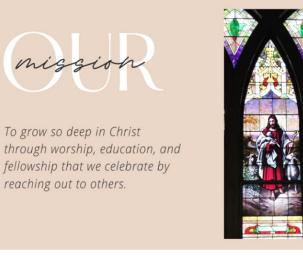
Thank you for worshipping with us today. Just as Jesus welcomed the stranger, we believe all are welcome here. Please join us again next week. For more information about our life together in Christ, visit: <u>www.wbbethany.org</u>

Ministry Opportunities This Week

Wednesday, October 25 7:00 AM — Men's Bible Study with Breakfast Thursday, October 26 6:00 AM — Women's Bible Study 1:00 PM — Quilting Group Sunday, October 29 9:30 AM — Affirmation of baptism Worship 10:30 AM — Fellowship 4:00 PM — AED Training

Land Acknowledgement

Bethany Lutheran is located in the original and ancestral homelands of the Iowa, Sauk, Fox, Kickapoo and Oceti Sakowin peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.



WWW.WBBETHANY.ORG



Next Sunday, October 29 during worship at 9:30 AM

Come and celebrate with Shelby, Alexa, and Brennan

This morning we take a special offering that will be directed to Lutheran Disaster Response and efforts to provide relief to the crisis in the Middle East. If unable to be with us in person, you may send a gift to Bethany Lutheran Church, PO Box 236, West Branch, IA 52358. Please make your check payable to "Bethany Lutheran Church" and designate it is for the Lutheran Disaster Response special offering. You may also donate directly to Lutheran Disaster Response via the QR code to the right or by visiting: https://tinyurl.com/snh9c787



Join us for the Community meal tonight. 5:00-6:00PM in the Great Hall! Everyone is welcome.

4th Sunday Community Meal October 22, 2023 **Bethany Lutheran Church** 5:00-6:00 PM

Join us for our annual licher loop



235 S. 2ND ST.

9:30 AM

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