

## Taking the Next Faithful Step

**Joshua 1:9** - Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.



**Our Savior Lutheran Church  
Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost - October 22, 2023  
9:00 a.m. Worship Service**

## **Prelude**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

### **Prayer Concerns**

### **Sharing of the Peace**

### **Call to Worship (from Psalm 99)**

A: The LORD is king; let the people tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake!

**C: The LORD is great; he is exalted over all the people. Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he!**

A: Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness. Extol the LORD our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he!

**C: O LORD our God, you were a forgiving God. Extol the LORD our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the LORD our God is holy.**

**Stewardship Hymn – O Master, Let Me Walk with You - ELW #818**

### **Invocation**

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

### **Prayer of Confession and Pardon**

L: Acknowledging that in our sin we have neglected and rejected gifts that have been provided by God, let us confess our sins together.

*A time of silence for reflection*

L: God of grace, you have called us to walk with you in our living. Yet, we often change directions following our own desires.

**C: Lord, in your mercy. Forgive us.**

L: You have given us the gift of time. You give us time to serve, time to learn, time to grow, time to follow and share. We often forget that God has made everything beautiful in its time.

**C: Lord, in your mercy. Forgive us.**

L: You provide us with opportunity to serve in numerous ways using our talents and abilities we have been given. We hesitate to follow where we have been called.

**C: Lord, in your mercy. Forgive us.**

L: You have provided even the least among us with more financial resources than most of the world. Let us walk boldly knowing we are never alone.

**C: Lord in your mercy. Forgive us.**

L: You have provided us with a beautiful creation to enjoy. Let us walk with eyes open in how we might care for what you have given.

**C: Lord, in your mercy, forgive us.**

### **Assurance of Pardon**

L: While God knows our sin, God also hears our cries. In our sin, God still reaches out to forgive and restore us.

**C: “Let us ever walk with Jesus” thanks be to God and Amen.**

### **Greeting**

L: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

### **Hymn of Praise – For the Fruit of All Creation – ELW #679**

## Prayer of the Day

A: Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts.

**C: 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,**

A: through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## The Word

### Stewardship Reading Taking the Next Faithful Step - Philippians 4.10-13

<sup>10</sup>I rejoice in the Lord greatly that now at last you have revived your concern for me; indeed, you were concerned for me, but had no opportunity to show it. <sup>11</sup>Not that I am referring to being in need; for I have learned to be content with whatever I have. <sup>12</sup>I know what it is to have little, and I know what it is to have plenty. In any and all circumstances I have learned the secret of being well-fed and of going hungry, of having plenty and of being in need. <sup>13</sup>I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

### First Reading: 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: <sup>2</sup>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, <sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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.

<sup>5</sup>I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 96:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**<sup>2</sup>Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

<sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

**<sup>4</sup>For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.**

<sup>5</sup>For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

**<sup>6</sup>Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**<sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts. <sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in holy splendor; tremble before him, all the earth.**

## Second Reading: 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.

<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>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.

<sup>6</sup>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, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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, <sup>10</sup>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.**

## Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

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

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?” <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their

malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?” <sup>21</sup>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.” <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

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

### **Message – Tim Leitner, SAM**

<https://youtu.be/-xU63fyuFLU?si=fm26b8PLiD4vVN6Z>

**Hymn of the Day – Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring – ELW # 691**

### **The 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**

L: Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith, and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Creating God, the sea roars, the earth rejoices, and the heavens are glad at the wonder of all you have made. Bless the work of ecologists and conservationists and all those who safeguard the riches of creation. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Sovereign God, your rule and authority is over the cosmos. As you once worked through the ruler Cyrus for the good of your people, accomplish your purposes through the work of elected leaders and public servants. Guide them with your wisdom and compassion. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Caring God, your arms enfold all who are lonely, oppressed, despairing, sick and suffering (especially). Pour out your abundant mercy on all whom this world has neglected, abandoned, and forgotten, that they may know your joy. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Almighty God, all our life belongs to you. When earthly idols threaten to lead your church astray, remind us that you alone are the source of our eternal hope. Direct the work of church treasurers, councils and all who manage financial matters. God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

A: Everlasting God, the saints of every age have sung your praise and shared your word. We give you thanks for their witness and pray that we may join them as citizens of your unending kingdom. God of grace,



**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## **Offering**

**Offertory Hymn – Change My Heart, O God - ELW #801**

### **Offertory Prayer**

A: God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you.

**C: We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed.**

A: Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **Words of Institution**

### **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.

### **Communion Distribution**

### **Post Communion Blessing**

L: Now may the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

**C: Amen.**

### **Post Communion Prayer**

A: Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts.

**C: Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied.**

A: In Jesus' name we pray.

**C: Amen.**

### **Benediction**

L: The God of glory, + Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Holy Spirit who lives in us, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

*(Please stand as you are able for the sending hymn)*

**Sending Hymn – Sing to the Lord of Harvest – ELW #694**

### **Dismissal**

A: Go in peace. God is at work in us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Postlude**