



ST. ANDREW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Guided by the Spirit, we share the love of Jesus
and walk with our community.

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, October 18, 2020

Jesus is again confronted by the rulers of the day trying to entrap him in how he responds to a question about taxes. They ask "Is it lawful to pay taxes to the Emperor?" Jesus knew their hearts and answered that, indeed, we should pay taxes and also give to God what belongs to God. Whenever we come to God with questions, God knows our hearts as well and we can take joy in that knowledge.

First Thessalonians introduces us to another of Paul's letters to churches he founded. This one invites us to remember God who is steadfast, and put all of our hope in Jesus. Paul references that we are all called, called to share the Good News, called to love one another and more.

All around us, friends, life is chaotic and a whirlwind of information impacts our daily living. Let the information of the Gospel impact at a deeper level. Jesus knows your heart and it is good. Let's stay "steadfast" in our hope in Jesus!!

Pastor Doug



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.

Prelude

God Is Here!



1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
here the cross has cen - tral place. Here in hon - es -
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

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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 creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways. We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves. We place our own needs before those of our neighbors. We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves. Make us humble, cast away our transgressions, and turn us again to life in you through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need, and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own. Hear the truth that God proclaims: Your sins are forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ. Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness to do God's work in the world. **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.

Word

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.

- 1 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:
- 2 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,
- 3 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.
- 4 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.

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

Psalm: Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

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

- 1 Sing 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.
3 Declare 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.
5 As 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.
7 Ascribe 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.
9 Worship 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."
11 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.
12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord,
for you come to judge the earth.
13 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.

1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

2 We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4 For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 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. 6 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, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8 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. 9 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, 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.

Gospel: 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.

15 Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. 16 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. 17 Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" 18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20 Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" 21 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." 22 When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.



Sermon

TikTok is a social media platform where someone can post short videos of conversation, singing, lip synching, dancing or a number of other possibilities. There are several social media platforms that are popular all around the world!!!. The top ones according to an online survey is: Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, Twitter and TikTok among others.

As of this month, TikTok has had 2 billion people download the app on their phones. Billions of people visit these social media platforms daily. They inundate our lives, primarily for the "younger" generation, but all ages are familiar. The impact these platforms have had on our culture and country are phenomenal. I don't want to be political, but our president uses Twitter all the time to communicate his thoughts and there are millions of followers.

These platforms started as ways to keep in touch with family and friends all around the world! According to an online resource I found a survey that asks why people use social media and the majority said "to pass on valuable information." This information impacts the way we shop and the products we chose to purchase. The second major reason Social Media is used is to support a cause or issue someone feels strongly about. Others like to nurture personal relationships using social sharing to build an image and demonstrate who they are and what they stand for. Lastly, to participate and feel involved in things happening in the world.

A simple definition of the word "platform" (from [dictionary.com](https://www.dictionary.com)) means "a horizontal structure." We are familiar with this from everyday life. We have a spiritual platform on which to build our lives...it is where we stand as Christians. We stand right in the center of the Cross as the horizontal platform intersects with the vertical platform! We live in that space at the center focused on and in love with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Our Spiritual Platform is a place where we are loved, and graced where we can serve others. It's a place Isaiah describes in our first lesson where "gates will not be closed, the Lord will go before you to level the mountains....so we will know God is the God of Israel, who calls you by name!" Psalm 96 today invites us to stand tall on our Spiritual Platform and "sing to the Lord a new song" (verse 1), and "declare His glory among the nations." The Psalmist encourages us to be glad, sing for joy, for the Lord is coming to judge us in truth (Jesus).

In the Gospel today Jesus is hit again with one of those tricky questions trying to get the Lord to answer it correctly, or get trapped by the tangled words. Jesus amazes them when asked about the taxes. He says, essentially, "give taxes as a citizen of the country, and give to God as citizens of God's kingdom.

Friends, I don't do a whole lot of social media but I am generally familiar with these sites. Each one of the social media platforms has the ability to take an awful lot of your time, to stir up anger or issues of all types. Each one has their particular niche with YouTube being videos, Facebook friends and family, Instagram is pictures typically, Tik Tok about people recording a message, performance or skit or dance. Each one is different but all have a large audience every day.

Jesus has a large audience today all around the world, He stepped off the platform of Heaven to go to the platform of earth to change the earth. To bring love, hope and joy.....and it's for us and we don't even have to download the app!!

See you Sunday,
Pr. Doug

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

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, you call us by name and invite us to share your good news. Send your Holy Spirit among preachers, missionaries, and evangelists. We give thanks for the witness of your servant Luke, the evangelist, whom the church commemorates today. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of praise, the heavens and all creation declare your salvation. From the rising of the sun to its setting, may the whole universe show forth your goodness. Raise up devoted stewards of all that you have made. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of all, may your word of justice sound forth in every place. Restore divided nations and communities with reconciling truth. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of light, we pray for those living with pain, illness, isolation, grief, anger, or doubt (especially). Join their voices in a new song, assuring them that you call them each by name. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

God of truth, you show no partiality. May your spirit guide the work of justices, magistrates, court officials, and all vocations of the law, that your promise of restoration may be known. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Living God, as you raised Jesus from the dead, so raise up those who have died in you (especially). We give thanks for their witness, confident of your rescuing welcome for all. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Peace

Sharing of the Peace - "Namaste"

Offering Prayer

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

Holy Communion

(Please wait to partake of the elements until the Invitation to Communion after the Lord's Prayer)

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

"Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, 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."

The Lord's Prayer

Joined together by the Holy Spirit, let us pray the prayer that Jesus taught:

**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

Come to the banquet table where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks, gracious God, that you have once again fed us with food beyond compare, the body and blood of Christ. Lead us from this place, nourished and forgiven, into your beloved vineyard to wipe away the tears of all who hunger and thirst, guided by the example of the same Jesus Christ and led by the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

Mothering God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.



Postlude

All My Hope on God Is Founded



1 All my hope on God is found - ed who will all my
2 Mor - tal pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown be -
3 Great thy good-ness, e'er en - dur - ing; deep thy wis - dom,
4 Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of



trust re - new, who through change and chance will guide me,
tray our trust; what with care and toil we fash - ion,
pass - ing thought; splen - dor, light, and life at - tend thee,
praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es prais - ing



on - ly good and on - ly true. God un - known, God a -
tow'r and tem - ple, fall to dust. But thy pow'r, hour by
beau - ty spring - ing out of naught. Ev - er - more from thy
for the gift of God's own Son. Christ doth call one and



lone, call my heart to be thine own.
hour, is my tem - ple and my tow'r.
store new - born worlds rise and a - dore.
all: ye who fol - low shall not fall.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799-1859, alt. Music: *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615.

Families on the Prayer List

Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Mislán (Alexandra), Ezekiel and Samantha
Ms. Bobbie Moore
Mr. Robert Moore
Rev. & Mrs. Rudy Mueller (Nancy)

Additional Prayers for Recent, Current, or Upcoming Medical Care:

Gil Mascher, brother of Jeanette Burbrink
David Tryon, son of Mary

Those with Ongoing Special Need of Prayer:

Jerid Edwards, great nephew of MJ Lynch
Ruth Tingle

Remember to Pray for Nursing Home Residents and Shut-Ins:

Lynn Bigelow Alton Dahl Thelma Jones Penny Kalk Martha Larson
Norma Petraits David Royer David Schmalz The Harrison

Remember to Pray for those Serving in our Armed Forces:

Michael Joseph Jerry Shake

Calendar

- **Sunday, October 18** Worship 9am
- **Sunday, October 18** Zoom Holy Communion and Adult Faith Formation 7pm
- **Monday, October 19** Zoom Staff Meeting 10am
- **Tuesday, October 20** Zoom FBS 7-8:30pm
- **Wednesday, October 21** Laundry & Friends 4:30-6:30pm
- **Saturday, October 24** FBS Trick or Treat Drive Through 6:00-6:30pm
- **Sunday, October 25** Reformation Sunday Wear Red Worship 9am
- **Sunday, October 25** Zoom Holy Communion and Adult Faith Formation 7pm
- **Monday, October 26** Zoom Staff Meeting 10am
- **Tuesday, October 27** Zoom FBS 7-8:30pm
- **Sunday, November 15** Newsletter Items due to Kelli Steurer

Announcements

Remember:

- While the weather permits, we will have outdoor services each Sunday at 9am.
- Laundry and Friends are seeking volunteers. Please call MaryLee.
- Reach out if you are interested in the digital service on DVD.
- Prayer Chain requests now go to Joyce Yockey.
- The Storehouse continues to accept donations.
- Rotary Club is collecting books for prisoners - see Phil and your email for more info!
- FBS Tuesdays at 7:00pm via Zoom

FBS HALLOWEEN FUN!

Please Note: We have changed the date for this fun event to Saturday, October 24 from 6:00 to 6:30 pm, so please be sure you use this one!

Once again, we will have a drive through event for our special friends. Please join us! Due to Covid19 and current guidelines for Halloween we have modified our original plan. Volunteers will not hand out treats to our friends as previously planned. Now we will fill plastic pumpkins prior to the drive through and give them out at the end of the line, much like what we did for our first drive through.



But, we still need volunteers to form a line on our sidewalk in front of the church and hold up signs and yell and wave to them as they come by.

Can you help us?

- Please provide treats for 16 friends.
- Please arrive at 5:30 so that we are ready to go at 6.
- Please, **NO HOMEMADE GOODIES, ALL PRE-PACKAGED TREATS!**
- Costumes are optional for both the friends and volunteers.
- And bring a sign to wave at them if you would like.
- Masks (for Covid) are required and we will maintain proper social distancing.

This will make it a safe event for all! Pretty simple volunteer gig, right?

Please contact Suzy Henschen or Paula Cardoza-Jones with any questions.
And thank you for your help!