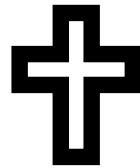


Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 22nd, 2023

9:00 am / 10:30 am

Communion



*280 Years of
"Joyously proclaiming the good news of God's love"*

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

SPRING CITY, PENNSYLVANIA

Founded in 1743

Sunday, October 22nd, 2023 – services led by Rev. Mike Poteet

Please take a moment to fill out a yellow card and add it to the plate.

INTRODUCTION

When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to the emperor 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.

PRELUDES

9:00 am

On Tannenberg - "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

Welsh Melody, Arr. by Richard Unfried

On Piano - "Day by Day and with Each Passing Moment"

Oscar Ahnfelt, Arr. by Lloyd Larson

On Allen - "The Light of the World is Jesus"

Philip P. Biiss, Arr. by Richard Miles

10:30 am

On Piano - "Day by Day and with Each Passing Moment"

Oscar Ahnfelt, Arr. by Lloyd Larson

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREETING

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

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

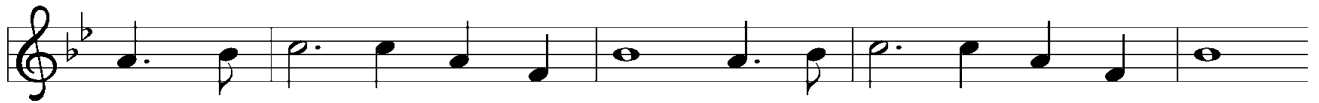
C: And also with you.

HYMN

“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” – ELW 623, vs. 1, 2 & 4



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who greets us in this and every season, whose word never fails, whose promise is sure.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of our neighbors.

Merciful God,

C: we confess that we have sinned.

We have hurt our community. We have squandered your blessings.

We have hoarded your bounty. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Righteous God,
C: we confess that we have sinned.
We have failed to be honest. We have lacked the courage to speak.
We have spoken falsely. In the name of Jesus, forgive us and grant us your mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God is a cup of cold water when we thirst. God offers boundless grace when we fail. Claim the gift of God's mercy: you are freed and forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.
C: Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

Assisting minister
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All
Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.
Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;
you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.
For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,
in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

Please be seated

FIRST 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.

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

Psalm 96

¹Sing 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.**

³Declare 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.**

⁵As 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.**

⁷Ascribe 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.**

⁹Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;

tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

¹⁰Tell 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."

¹¹Let 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.

¹²Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.

¹³You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.

Please stand

ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

You can add names to the prayer list by contacting the church office. After three weeks names will be removed from the prayer of intercession unless resubmitted. These people will still be in our private prayers.

A: 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 **Barbara Winter, Dave Grubb, Brian Mickiewicz, Matt Beam, Kurt Angstadt, David Tyson, Eric Harter, Rick Munz, Greg Wicker, Jeanette Kaufmann, Ashley Bazzley, Liam Martin, Carol Walt, Don Walt, Rottman Family and Bill Hilbert.** Pour out your abundant mercy on all whom this world has neglected, abandoned, and forgotten, so 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.

P: 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.

P: 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.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.

Let us share the peace with one another

SPECIAL MUSIC

"Open My Eyes with Hosanna, You Are My King"

Words and Music by Clara H. Scott, Joel Shoemake and Barry French,
Arranged by Kris Crunk

Zion Choir

OFFERING PRAYER

A: 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.
C: Amen.

Please stand



SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION



Believing in the real presence of Christ, this church practices communion hospitality. All baptized persons are welcome to participate in the Lord's Supper. Parent(s)/Grandparent(s) will place their hands on untutored young people for a blessing given by the Pastor. The response when receiving the bread and wine could be: "Amen" or "I believe." (Grape juice and Gluten Free wafers are available)

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: Holy God, we praise you. Let the heavens be joyful, and the earth be glad. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: 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 in 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 in remembrance of me.

P: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: Empower our celebration with your Holy Spirit, feed us with your life, fire us with your love, confront us with your justice, and make us one in the body of Christ.

C: Amen.

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C: 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

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

C: Amen.

SHARING IN COMMUNION

P: This is the Body of Christ given for you

C: I believe or Amen (Congregation will eat the wafer)

P: This is the Blood of Christ given for you

C: I believe or Amen (Congregation will drink the wine)

COMMUNION HYMNS

#1 – "Let us Break Bread Together" – ELW #471

Text and Music: African American Spiritual

#2 – "We Come to the Hungry Feast" – ELW #479- All verses

Text and Music: Ray Makeever

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in His grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: 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,

C: Amen.

BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"God of Grace, and God of Glory"- ELW 705, All Verses



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. God is at work in you.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDES

9:00

"To God Be the Glory"

William H. Doone, Arr. by Peter Burkhardt

10:30

"Everlasting God"

Words and Music by Brenton Brown and Ken Riley, Arr. by Carol Tornquist

Bible Readings for the Week

Monday	Daniel 3:1-30	Three men disobey Nebuchadnezzar
Tuesday	Daniel 6:1-28	Daniel disobeys King Darius
Wednesday	Matthew 19:16-22	Keeping the commandments
Thursday	Deuteronomy 17:14-20	The limitations on royal authority
Friday	Revelation 18:1-10, 19-20	The fall of Babylon
Saturday	Psalms 98	God reigns

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The Rev. Michael S. Poteet is an ordained Minister of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). A member of the Presbytery of Philadelphia, Mike served as a church pastor in Clifton Heights, PA for seven years. He currently serves the larger church as a Christian education writer for Abingdon Press, and as a biblical storyteller and guest preacher. Mike invites your feedback at bibliomike.com/contact.

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