St. Paul’s Lutheran Church
20th Sunday after Pentecost
October 22, 2017

Rev. Arden Dorn, Transitional Minister
Rita Jordan, Organist
Mary Maddox, Lay Reader

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Gathering
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

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.

The assembly stands.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the ☩ holy Trinity, the one who fashions us, the one who heals us, the one who reforms us again and again. Amen.

Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

The assembly shall kneel as they are able.

Source of all life, we confess that we have not allowed your grace to set us free. We fear that we are not good enough. We hear your word of love freely given to us, yet we expect others to earn it. We turn the church inward, rather than moving it outward. Forgive us. Stir us. Reform us to be a church powered by love, willing to speak for what is right, act for what is just, and seek the healing of your whole creation. Amen.

God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to change us and to empower our lives in the world. Our sins are forgiven, ☩ God’s love is unconditional, and we are raised up as God’s people who will always be made new, in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen

The assembly stands.

GATHERING SONG  (ELW p. 522)  As We Gather at Your Table

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.
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.  Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.  Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.  Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are his.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

For the Lamb who has begun his reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God, Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
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.

Dios soberano, levanta tu trono en nuestros corazones. Creados por ti, déjanos vivir en tu imagen; creado para ti, déjanos actuar por tu gloria; redimido por ti, déjanos darte lo que es tuyo, a través de Jesucristo, nuestro Salvador y Señor. Amen.

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.

God’s Message to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he took by the hand To give the task of taming the nations, of terrifying their kings— He gave him free rein, no restrictions: “I’ll go ahead of you, clearing and paving the road. I’ll break down bronze city gates, smash padlocks, kick down barred entrances. I’ll lead you to buried treasures, secret caches of valuables— Confirmations that it is, in fact, I, God, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name. It’s because of my dear servant Jacob, Israel my chosen, That I’ve singled you out, called you by name, and given you this privileged work. And you don’t even know me! I am God, the only God there is. Besides me there are no real gods. I’m the one who armed you for this work, though you don’t even know me, So that everyone, from east to west, will know that I have no god-rivals. I am God, the only God there is. I form light and create darkness, I make harmonies and create discords. I, God, do all these things.

Word of God, word of Life. Thanks be to God.
RESPONSIVE PSALM: Psalm 96:1-13

R Ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

Sing God a brand-new song!
Earth and everyone in it, sing!
Sing to God—worship God!

Shout the news of his victory from sea to sea,
Take the news of his glory to the lost,
News of his wonders to one and all!

For God is great, and worth a thousand Hallelujahs.
His terrible beauty makes the gods look cheap;
Pagan gods are mere tatters and rags.

God made the heavens—
Royal splendor radiates from him,
A powerful beauty sets him apart.  R

Bravo, God, Bravo!
Everyone join in the great shout: Encore!
In awe before the beauty, in awe before the might.

Bring gifts and celebrate,
Bow before the beauty of God,
Then to your knees—everyone worship!

Get out the message—God Rules!
He put the world on a firm foundation;
He treats everyone fair and square.

Let’s hear it from Sky,
With Earth joining in,
And a huge round of applause from Sea.  R

Let Wilderness turn cartwheels,
Animals, come dance,
Put every tree of the forest in the choir—

An extravaganza before God as he comes,
As he comes to set everything right on earth,
Set everything right, treat everyone fair.  R

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul is giving pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic pagan environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.
I, Paul, together here with Silas and Timothy, send greetings to the church at Thessalonica, Christians assembled by God the Father and by the Master, Jesus Christ. God’s amazing grace be with you! God’s robust peace!

Every time we think of you, we thank God for you. Day and night you’re in our prayers as we call to mind your work of faith, your labor of love, and your patience of hope in following our Master, Jesus Christ, before God our Father. It is clear to us, friends, that God not only loves you very much but also has put his hand on you for something special. When the Message we preached came to you, it wasn’t just words. Something happened in you. The Holy Spirit put steel in your convictions.

You paid careful attention to the way we lived among you, and determined to live that way yourselves. In imitating us, you imitated the Master. Although great trouble accompanied the Word, you were able to take great joy from the Holy Spirit!—taking the trouble with the joy, the joy with the trouble.

Do you know that all over the provinces of both Macedonia and Achaia believers look up to you? The word has gotten around. Your lives are echoing the Master’s Word, not only in the provinces but all over the place. The news of your faith in God is out. We don’t even have to say anything anymore—you’re the message! People come up and tell us how you received us with open arms, how you deserted the dead idols of your old life so you could embrace and serve God, the true God. They marvel at how expectantly you await the arrival of his Son, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescued us from certain doom.

Word of God, word of Life.

Thanks be to God.
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.

That’s when the Pharisees plotted a way to trap him into saying something damaging. They sent their disciples, with a few of Herod’s followers mixed in, to ask, “Teacher, we know you have integrity, teach the way of God accurately, are indifferent to popular opinion, and don’t pander to your students. So tell us honestly: Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” Jesus knew they were up to no good. He said, “Why are you playing these games with me? Why are you trying to trap me? Do you have a coin? Let me see it.” They handed him a silver piece.

“This engraving—who does it look like? And whose name is on it?” They said, “Caesar.” “Then give Caesar what is his, and give God what is his.” The Pharisees were speechless. They went off shaking their heads.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ!

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

Rev. Arden Dorn

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY

(ELW p. 583)

Take My Life, That I May Be

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in God, we pray for the church. Fill all worshipers with your Holy Spirit. Grant them generous hearts to share God’s splendor revealed to them in Jesus Christ. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for creation: for the power of sun, wind, and water, for the riches buried in rock and soil, for the magnificence of life in forms too many to number. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations: for leaders of governments, for fair commerce between nations, for treasurers, boards of directors, and all who justly distribute monetary resources. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the poor and outcast, for those who cannot afford food, medicine, clothing, and shelter, for the communities and agencies who serve the needy and advocate on their behalf. Trusting in God’s healing power, we pray for this congregation: for the unemployed and overworked, for all who are burdened by debt, and for the ill or injured especially Lorain, Pauline, Shane, Linda, Norma, Ann, Lorene, Steve, Francis, Carol, Ella, Emil, Linda, Charles, Eli, Beth, Steve, Hope, Tom, Jackie, Yvonne, Lawrence, Mary Ruth, Kyle, Cody, and Norma. Comfort their hearts and ours with your healing presence. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for the saints of every time and place. By your Spirit, grant us sure confidence in the everlasting glory you promise. Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting the power of Christ and the gifts of the Spirit. Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

Peace is shared among the assembly, and then the assembly is seated.

Meal
God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

The assembly stands.
OFFERING PRAYER

God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Light. Amen.


GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ: our Good Samaritan, who tends the wounds of body and spirit with the oil of consolation and the wine of hope; the Sun of righteousness, who raises us to life on his healing wings. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:
THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

LORD’S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us: (The assembly joins hands 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION – All are WELCOME at the table of the Lord.

This meal gives you strength for your journey of faith & life. Go forward as the body of Christ in your family, community and the world. Children or anyone choosing not to commune, but wishing to be blessed, may indicate this by folding their arms across their chest. Anyone who is unable to come forward may indicate to an usher that you wish to receive communion where you are seated.
Following Communion, the assembly stands.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O God, our life, our strength, our food, we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit, enliven us to be his body in the world, that more and more we will give you praise and serve your earth and its many peoples, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

The assembly is seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sending

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

The assembly stands.

BLESSING

God, creator of all things, speaking reformation into being; Jesus Christ, savior of the world, raising the dead; Holy Spirit, living voice, calling and enlightening the church: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. Amen.

SENDING HYMN  (ELW p. 686)  We Give Thee but Thine Own

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. The Spirit sends us forth to serve.

Thanks be to God.

DOXOLOGY  (ELW p. 884)  Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Welcome!

We have all come to St. Paul’s by different paths, and from various walks of life. Through worship, study, prayer and fellowship we each seek to deepen our faith, comfort and encourage one another and dedicate our lives more fully to sharing Christ in our homes, our community and the world. All are welcome at St. Paul’s. We are eager to know you, and we invite you to get to know us.

A Nursery is located at the rear of the sanctuary in the overflow area.

If you are unable to hear, require a bulletin, or need any other assistance, please signal an usher.
For Prayerful Consideration

Il or Injured
Lorain Chandler, Pauline Davidson, Shane Edens, Linda Franke, Norma Foreman, Ann Gary, Lorene
Janek, Steve Kelly, Francis Kempe, Carol May Liberty, Ella Manka, Emil Manka, Linda Peterek,
Charles Pierce, Eli Rios, Beth Schultz, Steve Scotten, Hope Segura, Tom Shockome, Jackie
Tiemann, Yvonne Watkins, Lawrence Waltersdorf, Mary Ruth Witte, Kyle Worthy, Cody Zaiontz, and
Norma Zamzow.

For those in the military
Nick Adams, Allen Bowles, Justin Chandler, Justin Elkins, Rodney Foreman, Jamaica Goodhue,
Jacob Jones, Felipe Leal, Jr., Garrett Peterson, Michael Rosales, James Skinner, Chris Sustaita,
Kassie Thompson, John Vasquez, and Delmiro Villanueva.

Birthdays and Anniversaries
Marla Soliz and Danny Witte (Oct. 23), Robert & Barbara Jonas (Oct. 26)

VISITORS AND PEN PALS NEEDED!

As communities across the country continue to discuss how they can work together to end the isolation
of men and women in immigration detention, the idea of Detention Visitation and Pen Pals keeps
surfacing. The GEO facility on Hwy. 181 allows both Visitation and Pen Pal correspondence in an effort
to connect volunteers with people in immigration detention who do not have visitors. To become a
Volunteer Visitor or a Pen Pal, contact Rev. Dorn: (602) 565-9793 or Paul Pfeifer: (830) 534-4017

LAY READER FOR OCTOBER
October 29 - Randy Witte

ORGAN & PIANO DEDICATION, RECITAL AND RECEPTION: TODAY, 3:00 P.M.

OCTOBER 27: ST. PAUL’S WILL HOST 5TH 1/4: We need volunteers, monetary donations and
hand held sweets such as cookies, rice crisps and brownies! See Barb Jonas for more information.
NEWS FROM THE SWT SYNOD OFFICE:
Disaster Team Ready for November or December

There is a disaster relief team of 8 to 10 people from the Washington state area willing to go where needed most to help restore congregations and communities damaged by the hurricanes. They are a mix of highly skilled construction people, some midlevel and some willing to just work where they can. They will be ready by November or December. They have been told help is needed and volunteers coordinated in Dickinson and Rockport in Texas. If you’d like to help, please contact Chriss Brickert from Shelton Washington at bcbrickert@comcast.net 0r call 360-229-2242.

Opportunities for Commemorating Reformation 500

TLU Events
- Kathleen Norris Lecture Wed Oct 25 at Jackson Auditorium
- Reformation 500 Vespers: A Service of Word and Music Tuesday October 31 at 7 pm

Triumphant Love Lutheran Church
October 20, 21, 22
For more information, see tllc.org

Scholarships Available for 2018 Costa Rica Trip

Gethsemane, Austin is leading a trip to Costa Rica for language immersion next summer July 29-August 11. The cost of the trip is $1855, which includes 2 weeks of Spanish classes for 4 hours each weekday, home stays and activities (airfare not included). For more information contact Pastor Susan Schnelle at 512-836-8560 or email: pastorschnelle@gethsemaneaustin.org

There are $300 scholarships for active rostered persons (not retired) to attend (up to 5) as part of continuing ed. Contact Pastor Sue Briner for information about scholarships at sbriner@swtsynod.org or 830-379-9900.

City Of San Antonio - Interfaith Initiative

The new San Antonio Interfaith Initiative has created the "Urgent SA Response List," used to alert volunteers to urgent human needs or services that will benefit from a concerted and well-informed effort. Text Compassion to 55000 to sign up. Contact Pastor Ann Helmke for more information at 210 207-5036.