**Grace Lutheran Church**

493 Forest Avenue, Glen Ellyn IL 630.469.1555

[www.graceglenellyn.org](http://www.graceglenellyn.org)

**20th Sunday after Pentecost October 18, 2020**

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***+ Proclaim Christ + Build Community +***

***+ Serve Our Neighbors +***

**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.*

**Gathering**

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

**Prelude**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,*

*as the worship leader 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:

Our sins are forgiven in the name of **☩** Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, let us live in freedom and

newness to do God’s work in the world. **Amen.**

**Opening Hymn *(Please mute your mic)*** ELW#713 O God of Every Nation

 sts. 1, 2, 4

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***(You may unmute your mic)***

**Greeting**

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**

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**

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

**First Lesson 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.*

 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; I the Lord do all these things.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**The Psalm** *Read responsively by verse* **Psalm 96:1-13**

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

 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.
 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.”**
 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.
 12**Then 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.

**Second Lesson 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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

 **Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

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

**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.*

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.**

***(Please mute your mic)***

**Sermon**  The Rev. Melody Eastman

***(You may unmute your mic)***

**Apostles’ Creed**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 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 Marilyn, Sigrid, AnnMarie, Chris, Dorothy, Anita, Evelyn, Carol, Norma, Dorothy, and those we name before you now. . . 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. 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.**

 *(If your House Church is celebrating Communion, refer to that liturgy here.)*

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**Blessing**

Mothering God, Father, **☩** Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and lead us into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn *(Please mute your mic)*** ELW #741 Your Will Be Done

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**Sent to the World**

Go in peace. Remember the poor. **Thanks be to God.**

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**Current Prayer Requests**

**Name Relation to Grace Prayers For**

Marilyn Goodrich Member Healing & Strength

AnnMarie McFarland Friend of Grace Healing & Strength

Chris Danly Son of Mark & Pat Danly Healing & Strength

Sigrid Elliott Friend of Grace Healing & Strength

Dorothy Tracy Member Healing & Strength

**Prayers for our homebound Members**

Anita Blakemore, Evelyn Elson, Carol Petersen, Norma Petersen, Dorothy Stein

**Weekly Announcements**

**November 1 is All Saints Day!** Join your House Church to give thanks to God for your loved ones who rest in Christ. Have a candle ready and take part in the special All Saints Day liturgy to lift up the names of those who have gone before us into God’s glory. We remember all the saints with thanksgiving—especially because their witness gives us strength in challenging times like these.

**Commitment Cards for 2020** have been mailed. Please return yours to the office, or you can submit your commitment on Grace’s website. Your support remains critical; thank you for your prayerful response!

**House Church Worship via phone or internet every Sunday morning at 9:30am!** We will have 4-5 “House Churches” of worshipping members (each House Church consisting of 6-8 members/families meeting via Zoom or calling in by phone.) Those of us that have experienced House Church have found this to be a very sacred experience. Pastor Melody will join one House Church each week on a rotating basis to celebrate communion. If you are unsure how to sign on, go ahead and register and let us know you need some help; we’ll walk you through it! We would be so blessed to have you join us. And the best part!? Inviting friends to join us is always welcomed!

Register online for a House Church at [graceglenellyn.org](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fgraceglenellyn.org%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR0Hfv_r7Lkk0l-PSfwxo5IuvGdumHQ3QCEP7v4ZvaR0WOJKVA5hbrjxKAE&h=AT1soNxFTUJFeYviMArEGKelFeVj5prKjMKXk0UJTSFn5xaDSLNHlHWl9jolaFvljgE6OlBV9vpq3vIE5HfsX4lEUbwYpfdYpMW57h6Tyc58-9jrGuramUJOJJ1Qd_RvJw&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT2EpYQU1esaMoWfP5JtqUBhBqXEjGx5atvDW6kLdBJviMugmDClI27DYHudyuPviP9Hv6sjAHveGxQGTojgtZKHh3Ar39pGN4cSEtsbiD_E96uHBoM53nY40A4mpgsxH7Ee_La5kZ5CLFMRaCbeBMrb7-BmRa8JDzOlS6vBJ2YxwbmuqBlPHi9nylzaWrSwmlhCSx9Ig0m3keY) (on the main page Announcements) or contact Becky Ficarella directly at 847-347-0928 or bficarella@graceglenellyn.org.

**Women of Grace Virtual Zoom, 7:00pm Thursday, October 22:** We will meet via Zoom for fun and fellowship! Pull up a chair with your favorite beverage and snack and join the other Women of Grace for online fun. The Zoom link will be posted in the *Facebook Women of Grace* group and will be sent out in an e-blast as well. Hope to see you there!

**Men of Grace:** We are planning on the next Grace Men’s event for **Thursday, October 22**, at the Top Golf location in Naperville. Time is 7:00pm. Contact Jeff Nelson at 630-538-6004 or jnelson@ercmidwest.com to register.

**PADS - Public Action to Deliver Shelter:** PADS has come up with a plan to feed the people who have been housed in hotels.  Grace has been asked to supply 110 adult meals and 40 child meals and deliver them to three hotel locations (50 meals for each location) at 4:00pm. (Meals must be store bought or restaurant bought, no home cooking at this time. Individual frozen meals such as Stoffers, Marie Callender’s, etc.)  Fruits, individual vegetables and individual desserts are also appreciated.  Joe and I have an extra-large freezer so we can store meals if people want to purchase them ahead of time. Meals can also be brought to Grace left in the upstairs gym kitchen freezer.  There will also be a box at Grace for the fruits, veggies, and desserts. Joe Jacobo will pick them up from Grace on the Tuesday afternoon of our PADS date.

1)   First Tuesday of each month we provide 50 meals to each of three locations.  Please let me know how many meals you can provide each month.

2)   We need three volunteer groups to deliver the meals to the hotels at 4:00pm.  Hotels are: Red Roof Inn, 1113 Butterfield Road, Downers Grove; Extended Stay, 3150 Finley Road, Downers Grove; Red Roof Inn, 1698 W Diehl Road, Naperville.

Thank you for all of your support of the PADS program.

Donna Jacobo, Grace PADS On-site Food Coordinator

(630) 740-4527, donnahjacobo@yahoo.com

**Sign up for AmazonSmile and pick Grace Lutheran Church as your Charity of Choice:** Remember to shop at AmazonSmile when making purchases online. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. Here is the link for Grace Lutheran:

**http://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2496438**

When you sign on, you will see **“Supporting Grace Lutheran Church”** in the upper left hand corner. Then just shop as you normally do. There is no cost to Grace or to you, the customer. The shopping experience is identical to Amazon.com with the added benefit that the Amazon-Smile Foundation will donate a percentage of your purchase amount to Grace.

**Food Pantry Drive-Thru Food Drive: Held on the first Friday of every month at Grace Lutheran from 9am-Noon.** Most urgently needed items this week include:Chicken/Beef Broth, Shampoo/Toothpaste/Deodorant, Paper Towels, Pickles/Relish, Jelly, Sugar/Flour, Apple Juice, Flavored Rice-A-Roni, Boxed Baked Goods.

**The Glen Ellyn Food Pantry Presents a Fundraising Telethon:** Join the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry for an online variety show benefitting the capital campaign Building Fund. Viewers will enjoy an old-fashioned telethon featuring acts by local entertainers on **Sunday, Nov. 1 starting at 6:30pm**. A link to the event is free, and during the show, the Pantry will share news about their capital campaign which will expand hunger relief efforts in the community. The goal is for viewers to be inspired to donate by calling phone lines staffed by volunteers, or online, to help reach their campaign goal of $900,000 needed to renovate their new, larger home.

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**Every Member a Minister and Missionary!**

**Phone: 630-469-1555 Emergency Pastoral Contact: 630-674-2887**

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**Pastor**

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