

# Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

## October 18, 2020 (RCV)



### Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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!**

A: Let us pray together,

C: **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.**

### O God of Every Nation

#### Verse 1

O God of ev'ry nation, of ev'ry race and land, redeem your whole creation with your almighty hand; where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled, in love and mercy guide us and heal our strife-torn world.

#### Verse 2

From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right, from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night, from pride of race and station and blindness to your way, deliver ev'ry nation, eternal God, we pray.

#### Verse 3

Lord, strengthen all who labor that all may find release from fear of rattling saber, from dread of war's increase; when hope and courage falter, Lord, let your voice be heard; with faith that none can alter, your servants undergird.

#### Verse 4

Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease, when hatred and division give way to love and peace, till dawns the morning glorious when truth and love shall reign, and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.

### Children's Message

#### 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.*

<sup>1</sup>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.

L: The Word of the Lord **C: Thanks be to God**

### **Psalm 96: 1-13**

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.

### **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.*

P: A reading from... **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus 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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **Sermon – Pastor Paul**

### **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 the Church / Sign of the Peace / Interlude

### Lord's Prayer

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.

### Final Blessing / Dismissal

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

C: Amen.

A: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C: Thanks be to God.

### I Surrender

#### Verse 1

Here I am, down on my knees again. Surrendering all. Surrendering all.

#### Verse 2

Find me here. Lord as You draw me near. Desperate for You. Desperate for You. I surrender.

#### Verse 3

Drench my soul, as mercy and grace unfold. I hunger and thirst. I hunger and thirst.

#### Verse 4

With arms stretched wide, I know You hear my cry. Speak to me now. Speak to me now.

#### Chorus

I surrender. I surrender. I want to know You more. I want to know You more. *(Sing twice)*

#### Bridge (next page)

Like a rushing wind, Jesus breathe within. Lord have Your way. Lord have Your way in me.

Like a mighty storm, stir within my soul. Lord have Your way. Lord have Your way in me. *(Sing twice)*

#### Ending

Lord have Your way. Lord have Your way in me. I surrender. I surrender. I want to know You more. I want to know You more.

#### Chorus

I surrender. I surrender. I want to know You more. I want to know You more. *(Sing twice)*



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*October 18, 2020*

**Stewardship Encouragement 2021 is On the Way!** Greetings Fellow Bethlehemites! We are in the fall season again, and it is time for us to look forward to Bethlehem's ministry in the coming year. We thank you for the way you have given your support to Bethlehem with your time, your talents and your treasure in 2020. It has been a very difficult year for many. However, we hope and pray that you will find many new blessings in 2021. Our emphasis on financial stewardship will be rolled out very soon. Please be mindful of all the ways you can contribute in ways big and small (including automatic giving), as we invite you to start now to pray and think about how you can generously support your church and its ministry as it does the will of our Lord Jesus. *Your BLC Stewardship Committee*

**"2.0" is here!** We are excited to announce that a new experience is now here for our online worship, and we're calling it "2.0"! On **Wednesday Nights**, join Pastor Paul and others for an online **Holden Evening Prayer or Taize service**, as we begin melding some of our typical "Celebrate!" content, along with footage from outdoor communion and other gatherings into a new Wednesday experience. We may also look to YOU for help with readings if you are willing/able!

**The OCTOBER issue of the STAR is ready!** The STAR is no longer being subsidized by anonymous donors. We thank them for the generosity for 3 months and their hard work in preparing it for mailing. (There is even a rolling pin involved!!!) They are continuing to complete the lion's share of the work after it is printed, collated, and stapled, but now the cost of postage is being taken from the membership budget. If you read the STAR on line and have not told us, please make certain you contact the office or tell the Sunday greeter or hospitality team so we are not sending out copies needlessly. Printed STARS will also be available in the "Shooting Star box" outside the church entry later this week. Feel free to check online at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org) < About Us > "The Online Bethlehem Star" or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>

The outdoor **"Shooting STAR Dispenser"** at BLC is **now full** with several paper publications, including the September STAR. If you would like a copy of a DVD, please contact the church and one will be produced for you.

**Christ in Our Home Devotionals for Oct, Nov, Dec have arrived.** They can be picked up at the name tag table on Sunday mornings, from the STAR box below the outside mailbox, or during parking lot communion. The newest *Living Lutheran* magazine is also available in the same locations.

**Your individual giving statements are now available in your mailbox in the Narthex.** The statement covers giving from January through September 2020. Please pick them up at your convenience. To save on postage, I will mail out the ones not picked up by the end of October. Thank you for your generous support for the programs and ministries of your church even during these uncertain times. *Your Bookkeeper*

**Altar flowers have returned to our worship services.** If you would like to sign up for a particular weekend, you can call Sharon at 231-947-9880 or email her at [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) – the cost is \$40 per week.

**Today's altar flowers are donated by:** *by Nancy Ammann, in praise of prayers answered.*

**The daughter of one of our members, Kathi Ivany-Mort, is in need of a vehicle.** She is a single parent of three children, two of which have special needs. She has limited funds but would be open to a fair price and/or payment plan if desired. If you have a vehicle that would seat five people and possibly AWD or 4WD, please contact Kathi on her cell at 231-313-1647 or Kathi's husband, Jef Mort, at their home phone 231-929-4911.

**"Help the Children School Supplies Project"**: So far, we have been able to send school supplies to Traverse City High School and Blair Elementary. We were also able to provide gift cards to two families at Silver Lake Elementary so they could purchase fall/winter clothing for their children. Pr. Paul has received a phone call from one of those moms who gave her sincere thanks for this assistance. We thank our Bethlehem family for the support of this important project.

**Share your name please!** It can be hard to think of someone's name when you do not see the entire face because of a mask and when someone is wearing glasses. Please retrieve your name tag from your mailbox. Even though we are mainly at a distance of 6 feet, it is still nice to hear you own name especially when you come forward for communion.

**The BLC book club** will be meeting by ZOOM on Thursday Oct 27 at 5:30. We will discuss *The Giver of Stars* by Jojo Moyes which is fiction based on the real women who rode horseback to deliver library books in a program developed by Eleanor Roosevelt. If you are not already on the list to receive the ZOOM link just send an email to Cindy Monroe at [cmonroe@chartermi.net](mailto:cmonroe@chartermi.net).

**Keep "Hope Spreading":** Don't forget our blog "Hope Spreads Further" is still going strong! We've had many very inspiring entries and hope to read more. We invite you to help us build this blog or just read current entries at <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/hope-spreads-further>. Reach out to *Pastor Paul* at [paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org) or *Sharon* at [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) if you'd like to contribute to the blog!

**Pecans are ordered but are still available** The Worship and Music committee, with the help of Thrivent, are still selling the popular Schermer pecans again this Fall. Instead of having a table set up inside the church, we will take orders for *Dark Chocolate Pecans, Caramel Cluster Pecans and Cinnamon Glazed Pecans*. The \$12 bags are perfect for holiday or hostess gifts or just plain munching. So far there are orders into the second case for all three flavors which means we will have some that will be available without pre-ordering. Please contact Barbara Oster (231-668-7038 or [beo6475@yahoo.com](mailto:beo6475@yahoo.com)) if you still want to order.

**Christ in Our Home Interesting Fact:** If you have a Kindle, Amazon has *Christ in Our Home* available at \$2.99 per quarter – if you are interested in having a digital copy, search for [Augsburg Fortress Christ in Our Home](#).

**The Annual Chili Cook Off** has been postponed to a later date. Please stay on the lookout for more updates, and we can't wait to see you and share some chili with you all when we can (likely in the spring!)

**Online Fellowship Time on ZOOM continues and will start as soon as worship is over, or approximately 7:30pm on Wednesdays with a crossover to WBLC on Facebook around 7:45pm.** We will **not** be sharing the Zoom information publicly on Facebook or our website, so we can avoid hacking. An email will be sent out the day before either the Fellowship or the Bible Study. If someone you trust wants to join our Zoom Fellowship time or the Wednesday Bible Study, feel free to share this information with them privately.

**"Zoom Bible Study", gathering via Zoom is going strong each Wednesday from noon until about 1:15pm, and each week we are having great conversation and fellowship.** Pastor Paul and Annie co-lead this study. The group will finish the **Paul: A Novel** book this week and then transition into an Augsburg Fortress study of two of Paul's letters: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians.