

*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.*

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*St. James Lutheran Church*  
*Gettysburg, PA*

## **Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

October 18, 2020

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### *Gathering*

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

#### Welcome and Announcements

Prelude: *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*

Adelaide/Bish

#### Confession and Forgiveness

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**C** **Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.*

**P** Faithful God,

**C** **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 judgement 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.**

**P** God hears the cries of all who are 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.

**C** **Amen.**

## Pastoral Greeting

**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.**

## 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.**

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## *Word*

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

### 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.

### Holy 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.*

<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.

Sermon, followed by a time of silent reflection

Hymn of the Day, *Take My Life, That I May Be*

ELW 685



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;  
 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;  
 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;  
 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.  
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.  
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.  
 take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;  
 it shall be no longer mine.  
 Take my heart, it is thine own;  
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour  
 at thy feet its treasure store;  
 take myself, and I will be  
 ever, only, all for thee.

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

Petitions conclude: "God of mercy," our response: "hear our prayer."

Lord's Prayer

**☪ Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

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# Sending

*God blesses us in mission to the world*

## Blessing

**P** The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

## Dismissal

**P** Go in peace. Remember and care for the poor.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Organ Suite: In a Medieval Monastery

Baylor

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## Lift up in prayers

Harry	Marc	Jean	Jennifer
Shirley	Fred	Lou	Tina
John Michael	Laura	Nicholas	Tommy
Courtney	Ed	Sam	
Greg	Linda	Sean	

*We celebrate the birth of Brant Thomas Eberhart, son of Abby and Bryan Eberhart, June 9, 2020.*

*We celebrate the birth of Maeve Lisbeth Re, daughter of Austin and Ashley Re, October 1, 2020.*

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## Flowers

Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Mary Leedy, by her husband, Bob.

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## Participating in Worship

Presider: The Rev. Michael E. Allwein

Reader: Lily Crowner

Preacher: The Rev. Andrew R. Geib

Organist: Becky Wareham

Assisting Minister: Anne Young

Choir: Kay MacDowell and Wayne Hill

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## Acknowledgements

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*Have Thine Own Way, Lord, The Joy of Music* vol. #1, arr. by Diane Bish; Fred Bock Music Company; ©1993 Tarzana Music Company.

*Take My Life, That I May Be*, Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879, alt. Music: William H. Havergal, 1793-1870; Public Domain.

*Emily's Hair*, Emily donates something she has an abundance of for children who have less. FlyPress 2014; <https://youtu.be/iwQZggdZrOo>.

*Organ Suite: In a Medieval Monastery, Organ Album Vol. 59*, arr. ©Lorenz Publishing Co. 1972