

praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death; And by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:  
**“Holy, Holy” (music on screen)**

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

L: Holy, living and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: Carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.  
**A: Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever. Amen.**

## LORD’S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us,  
**A: 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

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

**Communion Music Video “Love Moved First” by Casting Crowns**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: 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.  
**A: Amen.**

## BLANKET BLESSING

## SENT FOR WORK AND WITNESS BLESSING

L: The God of glory, ✝ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.  
**A: Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN- “Blest Are They”, ELW 728 Verses 4 & 5

## DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. God is at work in you!  
**A: Thanks be to God!**

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**Worship Steward:** Mark Mackinson  
**SS Teacher:** Blayne Dixon  
**Greeters:** Marty & Shelly Heller  
**Musician:** Julie Mehlberg  
**Lector:** Dawn Boitnott  
**Ushers:** Gail & Carl Thorson  
**Communion Prep:** Ginger Bauknecht  
**Comm. Asst:** Mark Mackinson & Doug Oliver  
**Counters:** Jean Harrison & Marvin Miller  
**Hospitality:** Kris Lambert, Emma Rapp & Amanda Schumm  
**Livestream:** Louis Kehinde



**St. Paul Lutheran Church**

**October 22, 2023**

**21st Sunday after Pentecost**

**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.

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Flowers this week were donated by Marian Brown in memory of Ben Brown.**

## GATHERING HYMNS

**“Here I Am to Worship” - words on screen**

**“Kyrie” - words on screen**

## THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and salvation.

**A:Amen.**

L: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

*Water may be poured into the font.*

**A: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.**

L: Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

**A: We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace and love.**

L: To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord In the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**A: Amen.**

## GREETING

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

**A: And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: 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.

**A: Amen.**

## Children’s Message—Dismissal to Children’s Chapel

## HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

### First Reading- Isaiah 45:1-7

L: A reading from Isaiah

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 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.

L: Word of God, Word of life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 96:1-13

L: A reading from Psalm 96

1Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

**2Sing 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.

**4For 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.

**6Majesty 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.

**8Ascribe 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

L: Holy Wisdom; Holy Word.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

### Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

L: A reading from 1 Thessalonians

Paul, 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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

**A: Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise, as you are able, for the reading of the Holy Gospel.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (music available ELW 171)

**“Hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah.**

**“Hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah.**

### Gospel - Matthew 22:15-22

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**A: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then 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 accord 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.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### Sermon

**SAM Marcia Buchs**

### HYMN OF THE DAY “Lift Every Voice and Sing” ELW 841

## APOSTLE’S CREED

L: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle’s Creed.

**A: 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

Each petition will end “God of Grace,” and the congregation will respond “**Hear our prayer.**”

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**A: And also with you.**

*You are invited to share a sign of God’s peace with your neighbors by turning to the people near you saying, “Peace be with you.”*

## OFFERING

*Offerings can also be sent by mail or given online. You can send a check to St. Paul Lutheran Church 210 Deerfield Rd Pontiac, IL 61764 or give online at [stpaulpontiac.org](http://stpaulpontiac.org)*

### Offering Prayer

L: 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.

**A: Amen.**

## MEAL

*All are welcome at Christ’s table. Communion is distributed in front of the altar by intinction. Please dip the wafer into the lighter colored liquid which is grape juice or the darker liquid which is wine. If you prefer not to receive communion you may come forward with your hands crossed over your chest to receive a blessing or you may remain in your seat.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.

**A: And also with you.**

L: Lift up your hearts.

**A: We lift them to the Lord.**

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

**A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. But chiefly we are bound to