



Time after Pentecost

OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, October 18, 2020



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
745 Front Street S., Issaquah, WA 98027
425-392-4169

SERVICE OF THE WORD

GATHERING: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

CALL TO WORSHIP *Take My Life, That I May Be* Jan Hazelton, Jiyoung Lee
Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.; Music: L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days; let them flow in cease-less praise.
Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;
take my intellect, and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

WELCOME

Pastor Jim Kruse

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

PM: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us confess our sin.

C: Gracious God, have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, know and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PM: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life.

C: Amen.

GREETING

PM: 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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Praise My Soul, the God of Heaven

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847; alt. Walter R. Bouman, 1927-2005; Music: John Goss, 1800-1880

Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet your tribute bring,
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing.
Alleluia! Alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Let us pray. Sovereign God,

C: 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 READING

Isaiah 45:1-7

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.

AM: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

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.

AM: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia,
Alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-22

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.

PM: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

What's Left for the Emperor?

Pastor Jim Kruse

"I am running out of words," my friend said to me. "What do you mean?" I said. And then he went on to explain.

It was part of a larger conversation that I was having with a fellow pastor a while ago who said he was going to retire soon. He talked about a group of Native Americans that had worked with early on in his ministry who believed that every person was given only so many words to speak over the course of a lifetime. The total number of words was not distributed evenly across the entire population. Some people were given more words; others were given less. But no one's reserve of words was endless. Eventually, if you had enough conversations in life, your words would run out. "I am retiring," my friend told me "because I am running out of words." It was his way of saying that it was time to stop talking about life and start living out the values he had talked about for so many years.

There comes a time in everyone's life, if we live long enough, when we need to spend time and effort bringing our values and actions together. The psychologist, Erik Erikson, who became famous for identifying the eight stages of psychosocial development, called the last stage, "Wisdom: Integrity vs. Despair." In this final stage of life a mature person works with energy and passion at building a unity or integrity between what is going on on the inside and what is going on on the outside. At this stage we feel the urgency to only be practicing what we have been preaching all of our lives. And when we are giving it our all, when we are really working at it, the inner, psychological struggle at this stage is between peace and depression, between integrity and despair.

"I am running out of words" was my friend's way of saying he was entering Erickson's eighth and last Stage of Development.

Both the Second Lesson and the Gospel for today are, in some way, about this issue of living life with an integrity between words and actions.

In First Thessalonians we have the opening words of a letter by St. Paul to a congregation he has established in the city of Thessalonica. These words are the very earliest, the very first words, written in the New Testament. And as such we have the words of the New Testament that were written closest to the actual experience of those who had met and known Jesus. In these words Paul is reminding the people how powerful their witness to

Christ had been in their early days of faith. Paul encourages the people to let their powerful past motivate them to act in the future. “Let your present life be consistent with your past words of witness,” he is saying. “They still have power.”

The Gospel makes the same point in recalling an encounter between Jesus and the religious leaders in the temple days before his death. Here, the Pharisees are trying to trick Jesus into confessing to a contradiction between what he believed and his action. Paying the Roman tax was tantamount to worship of the emperor in their eyes. And they are thinking that surely Jesus would oppose such emperor worship. “If you are going to talk the talk,” they are saying to Jesus, “are you willing to walk the walk?”

In order to understand what is going on in this exchange between the Pharisees and Jesus (and then perhaps understand what it has to do with our own lives and situations) we need to look more carefully at the issue of the Roman taxes in Jesus day. Taxes paid to Rome were hated by the Jewish people not just because taxes have always been met with a general sense of disdain. But the taxes paid to Rome were particularly distasteful to the Jews because the practice forced them into an allegiance with a power that was openly opposed to their allegiance to God.

And the people were not allowed to pay their taxes in the form of the material goods they produced, so many bushels of wheat or so many sheep or goats. They were required to use Roman coins. And to obtain such coinage, the people were forced into doing business within the Roman economic system. Also, coins at that time were not simply pieces of metal sanctioned for trading purposes. Coins were a sign of Kingship and they were the property of the one who issued them. To enter into the trading of someone's coinage in order to obtain the things of daily life was not a passive act of life. It was an act of allegiance to the one who owned those coins.

Jesus uses this reality of coin ownership to get out from the trap set for him about the competing loyalties inherent in paying the Roman tax. It is really a quite clever move that wins the admiration even of those who oppose him.

The question is, “What, if anything, does all of this have to do with us today?” The answer to that question lies in the many and various ways we split our allegiance between God and the other powers over us.

The reason that reaching personal integrity is the final stage of psychological maturity, is that we seem to be programmed to do just to opposite. We divide up our lives into little slices and work hard to keep one slice from spilling over into the other. For children, it is school vs. play, then it's friends vs. family. “Which do you like the best?” we ask. “And which do you listen to for advice.” When we grow into adulthood, the divisions become more complicated and the dividing lines more impenetrable. Work becomes more important than just work. Work is career. Work is identity—it is who you are. It gives you status and gobbles up most of your time. With successful allegiance to work-life comes access to money and what money can buy, clothes and cars and fun and adventures. And all of that takes time and focus and management and protection. The more you have, the more central to life it becomes. For many, allegiance to family becomes more and more central as we invest more and more hours into nurturing key relationships. Children to parents, parents to children. Brothers and

sisters and even our closest “besties.” And now, in these days, even your political allegiances and views are becoming more and more intractable. All of these separate compartments tug on our hearts and loyalty.

Ultimately, any and all things that pass through our hands, or our imaginations, have the power to draw our attention away from the giver of these good gifts. A pair of pants, a new sofa, a better car, a nice home; a prestigious job, a loving spouse, an accomplished child, a parent who is now gone; our political party, our club memberships, our credit status, our investment portfolio.

Managing life is difficult enough when it means simply managing the things of life. But it becomes impossible when the things of life become the meaning of life. Then life is not about managing our stuff, it is about holding on to them, acquiring more and better of them, and preserving them as best we can. When that happens, we are caught, as the Pharisees are caught, between two competing loyalties. We are caught between God and the emperor. We are caught between living our life, and the people and things of life. We are caught between The Giver and the gifts. We are caught between wanting what is good and wanting what we want when we want it.

When Jesus says, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s,” he is not really talking about something as insignificant as the paying taxes. And his clever response does not really get him off the hook with his adversaries. In the end, it is his loyalty to God alone that finally is his downfall. He angers the powers of this world so much by his disregard for their authority, that they hatch a plot against him to have him killed. He was put to death on the cross for his confrontational storytelling and slippery responses to them. Faithful only to God, loyal only to his Father, even in the middle of this painful death, he received the fullness of God’s wealth when he was raised from the grave to new life three days later.

The God of Jesus is our God as well. He is the author and giver of all of life, good and bad, helpful and destructive, expensive and free, cherished and worthy only to be thrown in the trash. Everything that we have. Every person we love. Every credential we hold. Every breath that we take. Everything, all of it, is God’s. And we are dependent only upon the good will of this God to get us through.

When we understand that all things belong to God and all things are due to God in return, there is no division of loyalty, no crisis of words and actions. They are one in the same. All of them are gifts from God. And when it all comes from God, there is nothing left for us to hold on to.

There is nothing left for the emperor.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Canticle of the Turning

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat; Music: Irish traditional

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
so from east to west shall your name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?

Refrain:

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.

This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.

OFFERING

As you consider how your life has been sustained emotionally, physically and financially, during the challenging events of 2020, please take this opportunity to give your gratitude to God through your generous financial support of the ongoing ministries of Our Savior Lutheran Church.

OFFERING PRAYER

PM: 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.

C: Amen.

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 PEOPLE

God of life and breath, you are our source of hope.

+ We give thanks for your precious gift of life; embrace us in your love; sustain us when we are feeling broken; and open our hearts to hear your call.

We give thanks for your creation.

+ Enable us to be educated to be better stewards of your world. We give thanks for our partners at Earth Ministry and Lutherans Restoring Creation.

We pray for our world, nation, and local communities.

+ We pray that, as Election Day grows closer, our decisions will be guided by the teachings of Jesus and our concern for justice, reconciliation, and the well-being of all people.

- + We lift up those who are hungry. Stir us to action to support our neighbors. We give thanks for our partnership with ELCA World Hunger - helping us find sustainable solutions.
- + We pray for all in our community who provide emergency services: medical workers, firefighters, and police. Grant them strength, endurance, and safety.
- + We lift up people for whom insecurity and violence are a daily experience. Help us to bring healing and safety to all.
- + We pray for families who are balancing working and helping children do their school work from home. Grant strength and grace in the midst of these challenges. May we find ways to give support, encouragement, and permission to make necessary shifts.

We pray for all who are in need of healing and strength:

- + We pray for those who are facing ongoing challenges and health concerns: Ron, Carol, JD, Marlene, Nancy, Carmen; Doyle and his family, Scott, Gwynn & Don, Jeremy, communities across the country, Dave, Guests of the Community Meals Program, Sonja, Nicole, Josee and Jeannie
- + We continue to pray for those affected by the COVID-19 crisis: grant peace to those who have lost loved ones; provide healing for those infected; protect and sustain care providers; guide the work to improve testing and develop a vaccine; sustain those who have lost their jobs and businesses; and help us to be wise when we go out in public.
- + We pray for our neighbors who are in danger in their relationships. We lift up the work of those who protect, support, and advocate for victims of domestic violence.
- + We lift up anyone experiencing anxiety and depression. Empower us to reach out to those who need care and support. For those who are in despair, remember you are never beyond God's mercy, grace and love.

We pray for those who are grieving:

- + Loving God, wrap your arms hope around all who are experiencing loss or disconnection. We lift up the family and friends of Talton, Jean, Dee, Marlene, Nikki, Dick, Germaine, and Bob.

We pray for your church:

- + We give thanks for the leaders and members of ministries of our congregation. Grant them creativity for their work, and grace to rest when needed.
- + We pray for the residents, staff, and families of nursing homes and care facilities, including those in our synod: Josephine Caring Community, Foss Home, Columbia Lutheran Home, Norse Home, Bethany of the Northwest, and Hearthstone Community.
- + We pray for congregations in the call process. Grant them wisdom and patience as they discern where you are leading them. We lift up transition teams, call committees, transition pastors, congregation staff and lay leaders, and synod staff.

For what and for whom else do the people of God pray this morning?

We place our prayers before you, God, united in your Spirit; through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE 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

BLESSING

PM: The blessing of almighty God, the Father of glory, Jesus Christ our peace, and the Spirit of truth, be upon you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

POSTLUDE

Canticle of the Turning

Jiyoung Lee

Commemorations for the Week

Luke, Evangelist, Sunday, October 18

Identified as the author of both Luke and Acts, Luke was careful to place the events of Jesus' life in their social and religious contexts. His gospel gives us some of the most beloved parables, as well as the songs of Zechariah, Mary, the angels, and Simeon.

James of Jerusalem, martyr, died around 62, Friday, October 23

One of three early-church leaders named James, this man is identified in the New Testament and by a historian of the time as a brother of Jesus. Scholars are uncertain whether this means a blood brother. He was a leader of the church in Jerusalem.

Serving in Worship:

Worship Leader:	Pastor Jim Kruse
Assisting Minister:	Connie Fletcher
Song Leaders:	David Hersey, Marc Montague, Pr. Jim Kruse
Music Director:	Jan Hazelton
Flute:	Jan Hazelton
Guitar:	Jeff Hazelton
Videographer:	Leslie Waltzer
Video Editor:	Dave Carlson
Banner:	Elaine Stamm
Bulletin Cover:	Craig Gillin

Readings for Next Sunday: Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8;
Matthew 22:34-46

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Our Savior Lutheran Church Staff

Rev. James R. Kruse, *Transition Pastor*
Shari Lundberg, *Parish Administrator*
Dr. Jiyoung Lee, *Parish Organist*

Scott Hafso (On Leave), *Director of
Worship & Music*
Kate Gagnon, *Lay Visitation Minister*



Additional worship resources:

Reading: Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

Suggested Hymn for Listening: *Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue*

Prayer is putting our faith into action. We invite you to include these people in your daily prayers. You can make prayer requests via email at office@oslcssaquah.org. All written requests will remain on this list for 4 weeks.

Ron Gerde healing for recent medical issues. (Brother to Bob Gerde)

Carol Johnson ongoing medical issues, and mourning the recent loss of her husband & her brothers. (Mary Fricke)

JD Golick diagnosed with stage 3 stomach cancer, completed one cycle of chemotherapy. (nephew to Patty Gerde)

Marlene Pickering discernment in medical decisions to alleviate pain. (Mary Fricke)

Nancy Cumming peace as she awaits an opportunity to move into Timber Ridge. (Mary Fricke)

Nancy Anderson comfort and healing. (Cheryl Neeb)

Carmen Saavedra hope with new medication. (Cheryl Neeb)

Washington, Oregon and California Wildfires fire-fighters and those affected. (Marilyn Carlson)

Doyle Watson his caregiver and their families, all positive for COVID 19. (Marilyn Carlson)

Scott safety, health and help. (Karen Hansen)

Gwynn and Don peace. (Karen Hansen)

Jeremy healing broken legs after a motorcycle accident. (brother to Diane Murff)

Safety and peace for communities being torn apart during these difficult times. (Karen Hansen)

Dave Carlson continued healing and following kidney transplant surgery.

Guests of the Community Meals Program safety, health and peace of mind. (Connie Fletcher)

Sonja 3 years old undergoing treatment for cancer. (granddaughter of Henrik & Patty Christopherson)

Nicole DeCamp healing and strength. (Ken DeCamp and Cheryl Leiter)

Josee Jordan peace of mind as she faces health challenges. (Dianne Tanner)

Jeannie Lindquist continued healing and strength.

Healing and peace of mind: Henrik & Patty Christopherson (Dianne Tanner); **Vern Lindquist**; **Mike Golick** (Patty Gerde); **Marian James**; **Gregory** (nephew of Joanne Suttmeier); **Doug Patur**; **Katie Moeller**; **Margot Inman**; **Ken Acker** (son of Lucy Acker); **Marilyn Carlson**; **Taufik Hidayut** (Ken Konigsmark); **Don Wilkinson** (husband of

Gwynn Wilkinson); **Rebecca Thomas**; **Tanisha Foote** (Marilyn Carlson); **Dorothy Soland**; **Randi Strom**; **Jeanne Kuipers**; **John Pass**; **Florence Kinnune**; **Carol Harbolt**; **Sandy Aldworth**; **Jen Winslow**; **Larry Pruitt**.

Undergoing cancer treatment: **Amy Aldworth** (daughter-in-law of Sandy Aldworth) **Les Carlson** (father of Dave Carlson); **Harold Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Chris Howe** (brother of Mark Howe); **Peggy Scalise** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Eileen Letts** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Keith DeCamp** (brother of Ken DeCamp); **Barbara Jones** (mother of Ron Sordahl); **Doug McVety** (Helen Nychay); **Al Batt** (Connie Fletcher); **Larry Harbolt** (Ray Harbolt); **Gerald Welch** (Vern and Jeannie Lindquist); **Joe Martin** (father of Stacy Smith); **Christy Williams** (Bill Bergsma); **Dana Mancini** (Jan Setterlund); **Greg Petersen** (Wes Collum); **Barry Donker** (Joan Parish); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Kathryn Aitcheson** (Gerrie Hendrickson); **Yuko Takiguchi** (Teiko Soland); **Barb** (Janette Singley)

Living with cancer: **Liz Kidd** (Bob Beck); **Duane Jacobson**; **Mary Lewis** (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Mark Becker** (uncle of Paula Seeger); **Barbara Krogh Jarvis** (sister of Steve Krogh); **Suzanne Lewis** (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Mira Bergsma**

Mourning the death of loved ones: For peace and comfort during this time of grieving for the family and friends of: **Talton Johnson** (husband of Carol Johnson); **Jean Stanley** (sister-in-law to Alice Lewis); **Delores "Dee" Bakamus** (Dar Boni); **Marlene Braun** (sister to Cheryl Neeb); **Nikki** (niece to Doug & Dianne Tanner); **Richard "Dick" Birdsall** (Dianne Tanner); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Bob Gray** (Doug & Dianne Tanner)

Members and friends serving in the military; fire & police departments, & emergency rooms: **Mike** special ops, unexpectedly called up. (nephew of Dave and Marilyn Carlson)

Global Missions and Missionaries: For peace in Hong Kong. (Global Missions). Congregations in Chiclayo, Peru: **Pepe** at Las Brisas, **Merci** in San Antonio and **Harold** at Las Lomas. **MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School** in Tanzania.