

“Give therefore to  
the EMPEROR the  
things that are the  
EMPEROR’S,  
and to GOD  
the things  
that are  
GOD’S.”



Matthew 22:21, NRSV

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## St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran – Oct. 18, 2020

120 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Upper Sandusky, Ohio 43351

Office Hours: Tuesday, Thursday, & Friday 8am-12pm, 1-5pm

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Listen live on WYNT 95.9 FM or on demand at [www.stpaulupper.org](http://www.stpaulupper.org)

*\*\*\*Please note that there will be no congregational singing. The congregation WILL respond to the Confession and Forgiveness, Responsive Reading, recite the Apostles' Creed, and respond to the prayers. Please follow all directions of the ushers and keep your masks on at all times while in the building. If you would like to bring your hymnal from home, we encourage you to do so. Please take everything with you from your pew and dispose of it at home.*

## **+ GATHERING +**

PRELUDE      *"Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" Bish*

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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: 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. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG: "*God Is Here!*" (sung by cantors)

1 God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer, may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

2 Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace; here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place. Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech, here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

3 Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold; here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old. Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

4 Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt, keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out. Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive; we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!

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.**

KYRIE & CANTICLE OF PRAISE (sung by cantors)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

SPECIAL MUSIC BY LYDIA SCHNEIDER

**+ WORD +**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

...The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSIVE READING: Psalm 96:1-13

<sup>1</sup>O sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.

<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.**

<sup>3</sup>Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples.

**<sup>4</sup>For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised; he is to be revered above all gods.**

<sup>5</sup>For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

**<sup>6</sup>Honor and majesty are before him; strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.**

<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

**<sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name; bring an offering, and come into his courts.**

<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in holy splendor;  
**tremble before him, all the earth.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

...The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (sung by cantors)

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22<sup>nd</sup> chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

...This is the Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Barry Halter, Jr.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "*Lift Every Voice and Sing*"

1 Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty. Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us; sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us; facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.

2 Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died; yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our parents sighed? We have come over a way that with tears has been watered; we have come, treading our path through the blood of

the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

3 God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee; lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee; shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.

#### THE 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

*Following each petition: ...Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.***

#### SHARING OF THE PEACE WITH NO CONTACT

## **+ THANKSGIVING +**

#### OFFERING ANNOUNCEMENT

OFFERING MUSIC by Katie Clark

#### OFFERING PRAYER

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING (sung by cantors)

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

FINAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

## + SENDING +

SENDING/BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. May the Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: "*You Servants of God*"

- 1 You servants of God, your Master proclaim, and publish abroad his wonderful name; the name, all-victorious, of Jesus extol; his kingdom is glorious and rules over all!
- 2 Ascended on high, almighty to save, yet still he is nigh, his presence we have. The great congregation his triumph shall sing, ascribing salvation to Jesus, our king!
- 3 Salvation to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry aloud and honor the Son. The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim, fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.
- 4 Then let us adore and give him his right, all glory and pow'r and wisdom and might, all honor and blessing, with angels above, and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*"Allegro" from organ concerto No. 13 Handel*

PRAYER CONCERNS: Shannyn Swinehart, Ellie Swinehart, Paul Baum, Joyce Koehler, Jim Pfeifer, Mary Orwick, Tim & Karen Koehler, John Foster, Pastor John Kerr, Wyandot Cares

BELL GROUP 1 will practice at 6pm on Wednesday, Bell Group 2 will practice at 6:45pm on Wednesday, and Solo Bell practice will take place at 7:30pm on Wednesday.

BOOKS & BARRY continues this Thursday at 6pm at Carol & Darlene's studio. The book being studied is Rob Bell's *Love Wins*. All are welcome!

PB&J will not take place this week because Upper does not have school. For future reference: if Upper is on a delay or does not have school (scheduled or weather related) there will be no PB&J.

NEXT SUNDAY is Reformation! Wear something red!

THE MISSION OUTREACH line on your offering envelope for October will go to help buy gifts for the families we will be adopting this Christmas.

CHRISTIAN FOOD CENTER: We are collecting canned meats during October. Please put your donations on the table in the vestibule.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HELPING with our Radio Ministry??? Bob is in need of (hopefully) several people to help out with the sound board on Sunday mornings and to eventually take over for him. No prior knowledge is needed, just a willingness to learn! Let Pastor, Bob, or Beth know if you are willing or if you have any questions!

# The Image of God

The Pharisees and Herodians come to Jesus with a seemingly simple question: “Is it lawful to pay taxes or not?” In a deft move characteristic of his ministry, Jesus refuses to pick a side. He doesn’t debate them, but reframes the whole question. In doing so, he creates space in which they are open to hear a new possibility and be amazed.

The imperial coin bears the image of the emperor, just as our currency bears the image of our nation’s favored leaders. What bears God’s image? You! In the first chapter of Genesis we learn that all of humankind is created in the image of God, blessed, and entrusted with caring for every living creature.

When Jesus says, “Give . . . to God the things that are God’s” (Matt. 22:21), we are reminded that there is nothing in this world and nothing in ourselves that is beyond the scope of God’s care. Like the money stamped with the ruler’s image, we see what God treasures in the face of every person on the planet: ourselves and our neighbors, those we love and those we fear. God’s own image is in every race, every age, every gender identity, every ability. Each of us shines forth a unique facet of who God is. All that we have and all that we are is from God and for the sake of the whole world.

The sacred image in us is reinforced every week when we take part in the celebration of Holy Communion. As we are fed with the body of Christ, we pray that we too might “give ourselves away as bread for the hungry” (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, p. 114). Nothing is ours to keep. All is gift from God, freely given and constantly renewed. Set free by the promises of God’s steadfast presence and generosity, we may live with open hands and open hearts.