

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

- ¹ Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped,
to subdue nations before him
and to loose the belts of kings,
to open doors before him
that gates may not be closed:
- ² "I will go before you
and level the exalted places,
I will break in pieces the doors of
bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
- ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness
and the hoards in secret places,
that you may know that it is I, the
LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by
your name.
- ⁴ For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name,
I name you, though you do not
know me.
- ⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other,
besides me there is no God;
I equip you, though you do not
know me,
- ⁶ that people may know, from the rising
of the sun
and from the west, that there is
none besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
- ⁷ I form light and create darkness,
I make well-being and create
calamity,
I am the LORD, who does all these
things."

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

¹ Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in
God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

² We give thanks to God always for all
of you, constantly mentioning you in our

prayers, 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 loved by
God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our
gospel came to you not only in word, but
also in power and in the Holy Spirit and
with full conviction. You know what kind
of men we proved to be among you for
your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us
and of the Lord, for you received the word
in much affliction, with the joy of the
Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an exam-
ple to all the believers in Macedonia and
in Achaia. ⁸For not only has the word of
the Lord sounded forth from you in Mace-
donia and Achaia, but your faith in God
has gone forth everywhere, so that we need
not say anything. ⁹For they themselves
report concerning us the kind of reception
we had among you, and how you turned to
God from idols to serve the living and true
God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven,
whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who
delivers us from the wrath to come.

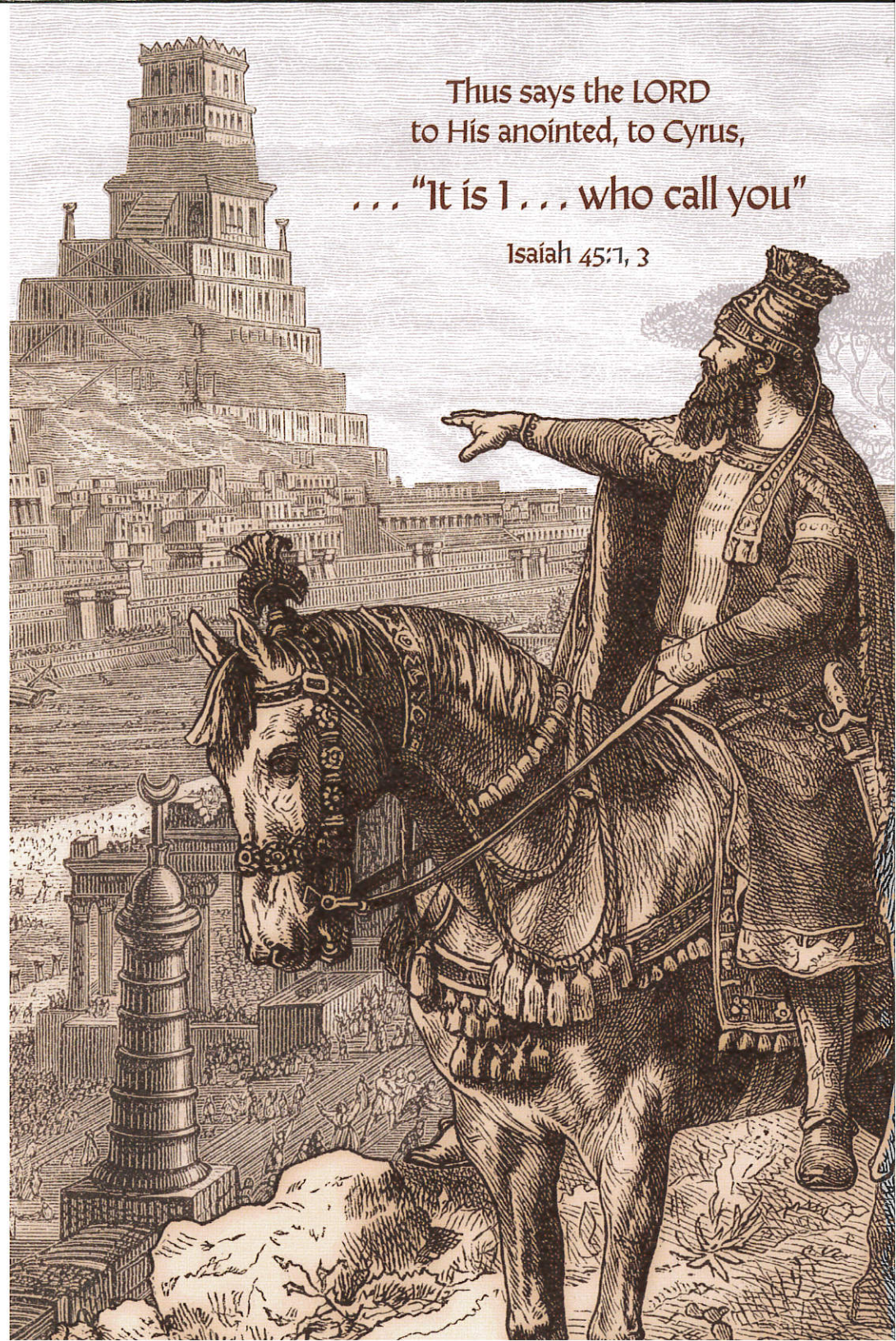
Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted
how to entangle [Jesus] in his talk. ¹⁶And
they sent their disciples to him, along with
the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know
that you are true and teach the way of
God truthfully, and you do not care about
anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed
by appearances. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you
think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar,
or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice,
said, "Why put me to the test, you hyp-
ocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin for the tax."
And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰And
Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and
inscription is this?" ²¹They said, "Caesar's."
Then he said to them, "Therefore render
to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and
to God the things that are God's." ²²When
they heard it, they marveled. And they left
him and went away.

About the Cover: Cyrus, king of Persia, entered through the gates of
Babylon as the Lord's anointed to set God's people free from their tyranny.
Despite all his worldly power, Cyrus did not know the Lord. The Lord still
used him as an instrument for the sake of His purposes. How much more
powerful it is that Jesus, the true Messiah and Son of God, has defeated
Satan's strongholds to save us from our captivity to sin through His cross.
Christ, the Anointed One, has set the prisoners free!

Thus says the LORD
to His anointed, to Cyrus,
... "It is I ... who call you"

Isaiah 45:1, 3



Pentecost

St. John's Lutheran Church (LCMS)
8948 N 1900 Ave Geneseo, IL 61254
309-949-2516

October 22, 2023 Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Office of Matins (Lutheran Service Book, pg. 219)

Hymn of Invocation 915 Today Your Mercy Calls Us

Opening Versicles (Common, p. 219)

***Venite* (p. 220)**

Psalm 96

¹Oh sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth!

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

³Declare his glory among the nations,
his marvelous works among all the peoples!

⁴**For great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;**
he is to be feared above all gods.

⁵For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols,
but the LORD made the heavens.

⁶**Splendor and majesty are before him;**
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary.

⁷Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength!

⁸**Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;**
bring an offering, and come into his courts!

⁹Worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness;
tremble before him, all the earth!

¹⁰**Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!**
Yes, the world is established; it shall never be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity."

¹¹Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice;
let the sea roar, and all that fills it;

¹²let the field exult, and everything in it!

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy
¹³**before the LORD, for he comes,**
for he comes to judge the earth.

He will judge the world in righteousness,
and the peoples in his faithfulness.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Office Hymn 562 All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall

Readings (on back of bulletin)

Responsory (Common, p. 221)

Sermon

***Te Deum* (p. 223)**

Prayer for Presenting the Offering

Kyrie (p. 227)

Collect of the Day

☞ O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☞ Amen.

Prayer of the Church

After each petition:

☞ let us pray to the Lord:

☞ Lord, have mercy.

The prayer concludes:

☞ ...one God, now and forever.

☞ Amen.

Benediction (p. 228)

Closing Hymn 660 Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus

Silent Prayer

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH-LCMS

churchoffice@stjohnsgeneseo.org
Website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org
<https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo>

**HEARING ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE
HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBLE**

Rev. Timothy Nerud **Pastor**
309-949-2516 (Office), 612-940-8138 (Cell), 309-949-2517 (Home)

Elder: Carl Freeman

Organist: Gail Tutt

Greeter: Janet Bertso

Videographers: Joel Werling, Nicole Nerud, or Heidi Nerud

WE PRAY: Eternal and sovereign Lord, whose ways and wonders are beyond understanding and past finding out, we say our thanks to You for the election to grace of all our fellow members in Christ and plead with You that many may yet be called into Your Kingdom with us; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God with dominion over us forever. Amen

WELCOME TO ALL!

We are anxious to share with you the Christ-centered ministry at St. John's. Our Liturgy follows closely the pattern of Word and Lord's Supper handed down from the ancient Church. It is our hope that you will make the Church's life of prayer your own. If you have difficulty following our order of service, please ask someone sitting near you for assistance. We pray that you will receive rich spiritual blessings from your presence here. May the peace and power of our risen Christ be yours always.

IF YOU DESIRE, a visit or call from Pastor Nerud, please contact the church office (309-949-2516).

OFFICE HOURS

Terri's hours (Monday—Friday) 8 am—12 pm
Pastor's hours (Monday, Pastor's day off)
(Tuesday—Friday) please call ahead

STREAM SERVICES <https://www.facebook.com/St.Johns.Geneseo/> and on the website: www.stjohnsgeneseo.org.

DAILY DEVOTIONS FROM LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES - use this website (www.lhm.org) to have daily devotions sent to your email or phone. You never have to be without God's word.

All bulletin announcements need to be in the Office by Wednesday mornings.

ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY

Sunday school—2 Adult Bible Class—10 Worship—41

OFFERING

Offering last Sunday	\$1,980.00
Weekly income needed per 2023 Budget	\$4,212.60
Dollar for Missions for September	\$ 93.00

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES AT ST JOHN'S

Today	8:45 am	SS, Adult/Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship
	11:00 am	Quarterly Voters' Assembly
Wednesday	5:00 pm	Confirmation class
Thursday	6:30 pm	SS Teachers' meeting
Next Sunday	8:45 am	SS, Adult/Youth Bible Study
	10:00 am	Divine Worship/Holy Communion
		Mission Sunday
	11:30 pm	Potluck Dinner

*I rejoiced with those who said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD."
Psalms 122:1*

MATTHEW 22:21 – "Then he said to them, 'Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.'" So what is Jesus saying? Doesn't everything belong to God? Yes — and God has a place for everything. Some of what He gives us goes to Caesar. Some must come back to the work of His church. And some goes to support the families He has given us. All belongs to God, and He has work for us to do with what He has given us in the home, in the church and in society.

ATTENDANCE BOOK—We ask everyone attending this morning to sign the red attendance book found at the end of each pew, then pass it back.

QUARTERLY VOTERS' ASSEMBLY - Please stay for this meeting after the worship service. New budget and Council will be voted on.

MISSION SUNDAY 2023— Mission Sunday will be next Sunday, October 29. Rev. Roger B. James, Assistant to the General Secretary of the International Lutheran Council will be our guest for the day. The International Lutheran Council is a world-wide association of over 50 confessional Lutheran church bodies, committed to Holy Scriptures as the inspired and infallible Word of God and to the Lutheran Confessions as the true exposition of those Scriptures. The ILC strives to strengthen Lutheran churches in their proclamation of the Gospel of salvation by grace through faith in our Lord Jesus Christ and in holding fast to the whole counsel of God given in the Bible.

Join us during the SS hour to hear of this world wide work connecting faithful Christians around the world. Rev James will also preach during the worship service and speak after a potluck dinner. *All are invited to the potluck*

dinner. Pulled pork, buns and drinks will be furnished. Please bring a side dish and/or dessert to share. Also bring your own table service.

A free-will collection is being taken the next few Sundays to aid in the work of ILC. Please plan on joining us the whole day.

THANKSGIVING BASKETS—It is time to think about who might use our help with a gift of food. If you know a family in need, please give that name to Terri Hock or Linda Aper.

CHRISTIAN LIVING—Matthew 22:15-22: As we worship today, we are reminded that we have very little trouble rendering to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, but we have some real trouble rendering unto God the things that are God's. God doesn't have the IRS working for Him to garnish our wages or throw us into jail for non-compliance. Everything we have, everything we are, and everything we hope to be for the rest of eternity is first and foremost a gift from God. The Lord never requires anything from us that He does not first give. We belong to Him. We live and move and have our very being in Him. We bear His image. Does the world around YOU have a clue that God alone is worthy of all your praise and that you will render unto HIM first before the world? Far too many times, we blend in with the ways of the world and our rendering looks just like the world's rendering, rather than ones who belong to God and those who bear His seal. Reach out to the world simply by being who YOU ARE first and foremost!

DOLLAR FOR MISSIONS: A Dollar for Missions gathers many small gifts – one dollar at a time! – to add up to a big impact for the spread of the saving Gospel of Christ. The current Dollars for Missions Project is to raise \$20k for stipends to pastors to begin visiting four new prisons or jails in 2024.

ALTAR FLOWERS—The **2023 Flower Chart is now on the bulletin board next to the restrooms.** Cost for weekly flowers are \$30 for two arrangements. We greatly appreciate those who help with providing flowers for Sunday worship services. **Please sign up for a Sunday.**

PRAYER MINISTRY

Remember God's gift of Baptism as you pray:

MISSION—*Pray for the unity of the Church*, that schisms might cease, and all might be united in the true faith.

ST JOHN'S—**Mr. David Schmedt**—We offer before You our common request for the well-being of Your church throughout the world that it may be so guided and governed by Your good Spirit that all who profess themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth and hold the faith in unity of spirit in the bond of peace, and the righteousness of life. Specifically, we pray for Dave and Denise and ask Your blessings upon them.

ST. JOHN'S FAMILY—O Lord, You are the great Physician of soul and body. We pray that You would show mercy to Your servants:
Elizabeth Bjork Betty Firch Wanda Rahn

Paula Chapa	Arlyn Helke	Drew Schillinger
Jim Dahl	Lynne Johnson	Marilyn Woods
Jessica Johnson	Aaron Raschke	Carolyn Werner

Anthony/Sami Sedotto (2022/2023 Adopted seminary student)
Don Eggers (son of friend of Marilyn Woods)
Jodi Martins (daughter of Gary & Darla Johns)
Jon/Anita Clausing (missionaries in Kenya)
Marilyn Potts (wife of Cal Potts, former St. John Laborer for Christ)
Bruce & Debbie Bley (sister & brother-in-law of Cathy Schillinger)
Laurie Sanford (sister of Jan Dahl)
Mike Erdman (nephew of Bob Erdman)
Kim Riedy (cousin of Mary Jo Gehn)
Shandel Loenser (wife of Gabe Loenser)
Paul Werner (brother of Dan Werner)
Jim DeFauw (son of Joyce DeFauw)
Nancy Rice (Aunt of Mike Dahl & Kindra Thompson)

MILITARY—We pray for those serving in our military and their families:

Mandy/Richard Davila (daughter/son-in-law of Linda Aper)
Luke/Nicole Thompson (son/daughter-in-law of John/Kindra Thompson)
Karl Flynn (son of Mr/Mrs Paul Flynn)
Casey Powers Jr. (step son of Lisa Powers)
Brittany Loenser (daughter of Gabe Loenser)
Rylie Hallendorff (grand-daughter of Carolyn & Dan Werner)

LUTHERANS FOR LIFE

“So no matter how offensive we find a neighbor, we do not regard her or him as enemy, adversary, or opponent. God has created, redeemed, and called each one as His own precious treasure, the same as us. We want to rejoice with them as brothers and sisters unto eternity in all the blessings our Savior Jesus has obtained for us.” *Pastor Michael Salemink, Lutherans For Life – A Life Quote from Lutherans For Life • lutheransforlife.org*

CAMP CILCA NEEDS YOUR HELP! The Act Like Men Work Day is Saturday, November 4 from 8am-12pm. The campground needs to be readied for the winter and many hands are needed to get things wrapped up. Lunch will be provided for all volunteers. Contact the camp office at 217-487-7497 or director@cilca.org to let us know you are coming so we have enough lunch for everyone. See you there!

UNITYPOINT HEALTH TRINITY RI welcomes back Befrienders. Are you a member of your faith community who is caring, dependable, and a good listener? Then you are a perfect person to become a Befriender.. You will be trained by UPH Chaplains to provide a compassionate, listening ear to patients and families who are experiencing the physical, emotional, and spiritual changes brought on by illness and other life crises. Classes will be held every Thursday Oct. 26—Nov. 16 @ 1pm at UPH Trinity RI. Please contact Chaplain Andy Busch 309-779-2110 for more information.

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 2023

Text: Matthew 22:15-22 (Gospel Reading)

Other Texts: Isaiah 45:1-7 (Old Testament Reading); 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (Epistle)

“Bearing God’s Image”

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen!

The Pharisees and the Herodians were on opposite ends of the spectrum; the Pharisees being nationalists who despised Rome and the Herodians being supporters of Herod’s dynasty which was in league with Rome. Yet such extreme differences could be temporarily ignored when it came to dealing with Jesus and so they worked together to trap Him. So after a little false flatter, they ask Jesus, “Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?”ⁱ

They figured they had Him no matter His answer, either discrediting Jesus before the Jews as a Roman sympathizer or as a seditionist against Rome. Of course, Jesus perceived their wicked intent and deals with them in an amazing manner. Asking for a coin used to pay the tax and then, after receiving it, He asked them whose inscription was on it, which they rightly answered as Caesar’s. And so Jesus gives them the answer that sends them away marveling, “Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”ⁱⁱ

Because the coin bore Caesar’s image, it was his and so was to be rendered to him, given back to him since he owned it. The implications are both present and obvious then when it comes to our own paying of taxes as the bills in our wallets do not have our names on them but instead say “The United States of America,” “Federal Reserve Note,” and “Treasury of the United States.” Thus St. Paul writes to every citizen of every land until Christ’s return, “For because of this you also pay taxes, for the authorities are ministers of God, attending to this very thing. Pay to all what is owed to them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.”ⁱⁱⁱ

This morning, however, while it is important that we hear and faithfully follow our Jesus’ teaching to give to Caesar, that is the governing authority, that which belongs to it, I want us to put our focus on the second half of our dear Lord’s statement, “Render to God the things that are God’s.” Certainly, Jesus’ teaching does help us to keep in mind the Biblical distinction between God’s rule through the Church and the State, reminding us that each serve its own divine purpose. However, such a distinction must never lead us to forget that while God rules differently through the Church and State, the first dealing primarily with the Gospel and eternal blessings, the second dealing with the Law and bodily good, it is still the Triune God who rules through both, ruling over everything that bears Him image.

We recognize that all things are God’s since He is the Creator. But just consider then *how much more* mankind is His own, each and every person, each one of us, since, “God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”^{iv} And so, to render to God the things that are God’s means to render, to give back unto Him, our entire being as a whole and every individual aspect thereof.

And so another way of considering sin is our attempt to deny God's image on us, to remove His inscription from us. Just as Adam and Eve desired to be like God, to be free from owing to Him that which is His, so our old Adam, the sinful nature, desires the same, to claim that we can think as we want, speak as we want, act as we want, and that God, if thought of at all, will just go along with it as if He bears our image instead of the other way around. As it has been said, mankind, originally made in God's image, has been since the Fall trying to make God in our own; the God who thinks what we think and approves of whatever we desire and do. But such just proves that the sinful nature is an idolater, seeking to be like God, our own master, just as our forefather and mother did once long ago in Eden.

The image of God was lost due to sin. But freedom from God wasn't what it was cut out to be. Instead of freedom, we become enslaved to sin, harmed in body and soul, relationships ruined by selfishness, that of our own as well as that of others; Satan is a ruthless, uncaring ruler, bringing suffering upon us as he leads us by the hooks into the "freedom" and "self-determination" that he falsely promised. Not wanting to bear God's image, not wanting to render ourselves, our whole being to Him, in other words, not wanting to be His, can only lead to His judgment. "You do not want My image, You don't want to be Mine. So be it. I do not claim you as My own." And so there is only separation from God in eternity. A separation known as hell.

But while such is just, God is also merciful so He sent His Son. But Jesus doesn't just bear God's image. St. Paul writes to the Colossians that "He *is* the image of the invisible God."^v And again, the letter to the Hebrews says of Jesus, "He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature."^{vi} Because of this, Jesus said to Philip, "Whoever has seen me has seen the Father."^{vii}

Of course, this is a truth that declares Jesus' divinity, since to be the image of the invisible God requires one to be true God as well. However, this one, the eternal only-begotten Son, became a true man, born of the Virgin Mary, becoming like us in all ways except without sin. And so, even as He is the very image of God according to His divine nature, so He bears God's image according to His human nature. Bearing that image which we lost so that He, the Godman, would restore God's image unto us once again.

And so He has! For the separation from God that our sins would surely bring upon us Jesus has endured on the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"^{viii} His resurrection is not just the promise of our own glorious resurrection on the Last Day, it is also the assurance, yes, the very source of being raised to a new life now. A life in which the image of God, once lost, is being restored within us for the Spirit of Christ Jesus lives within us.

Baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection, a great change has occurred. Concerning this Paul writes, "For those whom he foreknew he also predestined *to be conformed to the image of his Son*, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers."^{ix} And again, "And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, *are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another*. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit."^x

It is not merely by creation, but by redemption and sanctification that we are God's. Thus it is of *Christians* that Scripture says, "We are the Lord's."^{xi} We are His because we are a new creation,

having His image once more. And once again bearing God's image, we can now render, give back, unto God the things that are God's, our whole being. It begins with the new man battling the sin which has enslaved our corrupted nature. Instead of allowing God's image to be marred and defaced by sin, wickedness and evil, which will lead to losing His image once again, we instead have our minds transformed by the Word of God.

Bearing His image, having it increasingly rebuilt in us, we give back to God thoughts that are in agreement with His perfect Law. We give back to Him not covetousness for that which we do not have, but contentment with His blessings and desires for that which is good, holy, and virtuous. We give back to Him a tongue used not for cursing, filthy talk, gossip, and tearing others down, but for praising Him, speaking His Word, and building others up in faith, hope, and love. We give back to Him a body, used not for violence, sexual immorality, and other evils, but peace, purity, and works of love and humble service towards others, for such is the proper adornment of a temple of the Holy Spirit and reflective of His image which then makes us salt to the earth and lamps that shine brightly in witness to His glory, holiness, grace, love, and mercy.

The hymn "Take *my life* and let it be,"^{xii} well states the truth of bearing God's image and so giving back to Him what is His. For our whole being is His down to every detail and facet of our lives: our moments and days, the movements of our hands and feet, our lips and voice, our money and possessions, our intellect and will, our heart and love, yes our very self. His image is being restored in us. We *are* His, so let us render unto Him accordingly.

But what a joy it is to bear His image and be His own for Jesus' sake! For we live under Him now fully forgiven all our sins and, more, we have been given a new life of meaning, where God uses all things, even our suffering, for our good and sees and remembers every good work we do in faith. And because He is restoring His image in us here on earth, claiming us as His very own, this life will continue forever in the glories of heaven where His image will be perfectly restored!

May God make us faithful image bearers that we would rightly render to Him all that is His both now and in eternity. Amen!

ⁱ Matthew 22:17. All quotes are from *The Holy Bible, English Standard Version* (ESV) unless otherwise noted.

ⁱⁱ Matthew 22:21.

ⁱⁱⁱ Romans 13:6-7.

^{iv} Genesis 1:27.

^v Colossians 1:15 (*emphasis mine*).

^{vi} Hebrews 1:3.

^{vii} John 14:9.

^{viii} Matthew 27:46.

^{ix} Romans 8:29.

^x 2 Corinthians 3:18.

^{xi} Romans 14:8.

^{xii} "Take My Life and Let It Be," *Lutheran Service Book* 783.

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 24A)
22 October 2023

Presentation of the Offering

Dear God, how generous You are, providing us with all that we need for our souls and bodies. Instill in us a spirit of generosity and unselfishness that makes us willing to spend and be spent for You. Satisfy our personal needs and ever provide the means whereby we may help our neighbor and give rich offerings for work of the Church. May Christ, who place His very life in our service, dwell in us, causing us to live our lives and give ourselves for You. In His name. Amen.

Collect of the Day

O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Prayer of the Church—Ektene Form

For pastors, that by their proclamation, salvation may be delivered in power and in the Holy Spirit, and that faith and love would be increased in all who hear and hope would remain steadfast, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For fathers, mothers and their children, that the Lord who makes known His salvation from the rising of the sun to its setting may bless them in their stations and lead them to worship Him alone, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those in authority, that as God's instruments they may be upheld in wisdom and integrity, make salutary use of the taxes rendered to them, and be honored by all Christians for the sake of Christ, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For peace amongst the nations and peoples, that lives may be spared, suffering be minimized, and the Gospel of true peace with God may be freely proclaimed throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For Elizabeth, Bruce, Debbie, Paula, Jim, Jim, Don, Michael, Betty, Arlyn, Jessica, Lynne, Shandel, Jodi, Marilyn, Wanda, Aaron, Nancy, Kim, Laurie, Drew, Carolyn, Paul, Carolyn, Marilyn, and all who are afflicted, that the maker of heaven and earth would preserve their lives, keep them from all evil and shade them from all harm, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For David and Denise Schmedt, that our heavenly Father would bless them in body and soul with all things needful for this life and eternity. let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who travel, that God would keep their going out and their coming in, protecting them from every trouble, prospering their journey and making their homecomings joyful, let us pray to the Lord: **Lord, have mercy.**

Hear us, heavenly Father, for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Collect for Grace