



**The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, October 18, 2020**

The following worship service may be used on its own or along with the video found on the Swamp Lutheran YouTube page.

Thank you, Lord of life, for this beautiful fall day! May all who worship here know the warmth of your presence and the sunlight of your love.

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.

Hymn "We Give Thee But Thine Own" (Verses 1 & 4) ELW 686

- 1 We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee

- 4 And we believe thy word,
though dim our faith may be:
whate'er we do for thine, O Lord,
we do it unto thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

The Apostolic Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.

Let us pray:

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.

Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the LORD has anointed to end Israel's exile. The LORD makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this LORD as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the LORD claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second 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.

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.

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

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.

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

Homily The Rev. Kurt Strause

Prayers of Intercession

Each petition ends “Lord, in your mercy,” and the response is “**Hear our prayer.**”

Lord’s Prayer

Let us pray together

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as is 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

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace;

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Hymn “You Servants of God” (Verses 1 & 4) ELW 825

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!

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!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world bearing the Good News of Christ in word and deed.

Thanks be to God.

The Sanctuary Candle today is presented in loving memory of her husband, Emory and son, Kirk Gress by Pat Gress.

Calling all talent. Singers, musicians or any talent you want to share. We are putting together a Christmas Night of Music. This will be a virtual event. You can video yourself or arrange a time to come to church to have us video you. After we get all the videos together, we will post a link on YouTube. December 6,2020 is deadline for submissions.

Contact us at webmaster@swamplutheran.org with your ideas to let us know what you plan to do or if you need help.

Katie Houck
Sue Kittler
Shirley Achey – neighbor of Sue Kreitz
Jean Wolf
Don Risser
Susan Levan
Nancy Kulp
Mary Kring – Aunt of Linda Ream
Mary Jane Miller
Roger Gehman – father of Gaile Gehman



When someone is put on the prayer list, we will keep them on for four weeks. After that time, they will be taken off unless you make another request to have them put back on.



Michael Crowther
Clarice Haws
Betty Hornberger
Charles Moyer
Henry Rehlich
Ella Shirk
Alverta Showalter
Clyde Showalter
Mary Ann Weitzel
Mary Jane Miller

OPPORTUNITY - You can help those in need by contributing to the Action Fund. Christmas gifts for needy families and funds for emergencies such as heat, housing, food, or medicine are just some of the ways we help others. If you want to make a contribution to the Action Fund please make your check payable to "Swamp Lutheran Action Fund" and give it to Pastor Strause.

Card Shower – Mary Jane Miller was recently relocated to Stoneridge Towne Center in Meyerstown, PA. She will be 90 on October 23, 2020. Let us encourage her with our thoughts and prayers by sending her a birthday card and greetings to:

Mary Jane Miller
Stoneridge Towne Center
7 West Park Avenue #207
Myerstown, PA 17067

Online QUILT and CRAFT Auction: Lutheran Camping Corporation, Sunday, November 1 – Sunday, November 2020.

Join us for this year's Quilt and Craft Auction online. This fun-filled week of bidding raises money for the LCC Endowment Fund, which helps to financially sustain our fine ministry activities, including Camp Kirchenwald, Camp Nawakwa, and the Wittle Farm.

Preview items and register at <http://www.lutherancamping.org/quiltauction>. Items will be added through October, so check back often.

Register and preview items as they are added and begin bidding November 1, 2020. With questions, contact either the Camping office 717-677-8211, or Connie Taylor, 717 940-3953.

Poinsettias and Cyclamens – Orders are being taken for Poinsettias and Cyclamens; either red or white. Deadline to order is Sunday, November 29,2020. Pricing will not be available until the end of October. Please contact Jodi Showalter (717-413-7149) or the church office with questions. When ordering please provide the following information:

NAME _____	PHONE _____
Poinsettias RED _____	WHITE _____
Cyclamens RED _____	WHITE _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____