



**Worship Plan for Sunday, October 18, 2020 - 20th Sunday after Pentecost**  
**St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church**  
**Greendale, WI [www.ssmelca.org](http://www.ssmelca.org)**

***Introduction to the day***

*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.*

**POSTLUDE - Berceuse by Louis Vierne**

**TEMPLE TALK - Kipp Zimmermann**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**C: Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Faithful God,

**C: 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.**

P: 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.

**C: Amen.**

## GREETING

P: 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.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE - "As the Grains of Wheat"

*Refrain*



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were  
gath-cred in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-cred in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,  
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when

*Refrain*

may we share the pres - ence of your love.  
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: **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 (Reader: Julie Starks)

*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.*

<sup>1</sup>Thus 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:  
<sup>2</sup>I will go before you  
and level the mountains,  
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze  
and cut through the bars of iron,  
<sup>3</sup>I 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.  
<sup>4</sup>For 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.  
<sup>5</sup>I am the LORD, and there is no other;  
besides me there is no god.  
I arm you, though you do not know me,  
<sup>6</sup>so 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.  
<sup>7</sup>I form light and create darkness,  
I make weal and create woe;  
I the LORD do all these things.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

*(Reader: Julie Starks)*

*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.*

<sup>1</sup>Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:  
Grace to you and peace.

<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly  
<sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness  
of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has  
chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because 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. <sup>6</sup>And 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, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an  
example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>For 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. <sup>9</sup>For 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, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - Celtic Alleluia



*Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.*

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker

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### GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C: **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.*

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. <sup>16</sup>So 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. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" <sup>21</sup>They 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." <sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

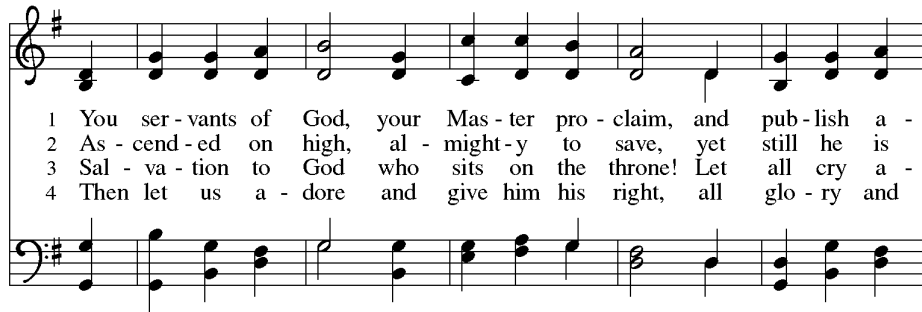
P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

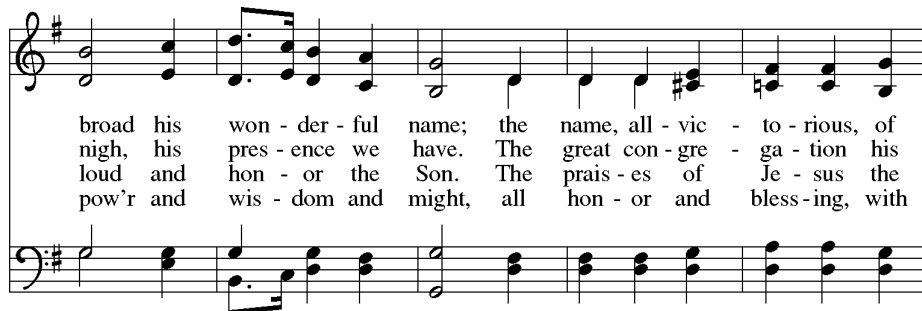
### MESSAGE - "What Truly Matters"

*Rev. Brian Hooper*

## HYMN OF THE DAY - "You Servants of God"



1 You ser - vants of God, your Mas - ter pro - claim, and pub - lish a -  
2 As - cend - ed on high, al - might - y to save, yet still he is  
3 Sal - va - tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a -  
4 Then let us a - dore and give him his right, all glo - ry and



broad his won - der - ful name; the name, all - vic - to - rious, of  
nigh, his pres - ence we have. The great con - gre - ga - tion his  
loud and hon - or the Son. The prais - es of Je - sus the  
pow'r and wis - dom and might, all hon - or and bless - ing, with



Je - sus ex - tol; his king - dom is glo - rious and rules o - ver all!  
tri - umph shall sing, as - crib - ing sal - va - tion to Je - sus, our king!  
an - gels pro - claim, fall down on their fac - es, and wor - ship the Lamb.  
an - gels a - bove, and thanks nev - er ceas - ing, and in - fin - ite love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.  
Music: LYONS, attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737–1806

## AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in a great God who created the world  
out of power and love God's creative love  
is reflected in all creation.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, truly God and truly human.  
His life, his teaching, his miracles, his death  
and his resurrection provide true forgiveness  
of sin and life for all eternity.  
His strength bolsters my weakness.  
His love conquers my failures.  
His sacrifice forgives my sins.  
I trust him as a friend and brother.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
God at work in and among us.  
I believe God is present and active**

**in today's world and I can know  
some of the joy of heaven right now.  
I believe the church of Christ is the people of God,  
and I experience true meaning and  
everlasting love in my life through prayer. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need, responding to each petition with the words "In mercy, receive our prayers."

*A brief silence.*

We pray for the church around the world. We pray for the earth, the lands, the waters, the animals: that what has been destroyed or harmed be renewed; that the wildness of both storms and viruses be tamed; and that all people become faithful stewards of your good creation. You are great, O God, our Creator:

**in mercy, receive our prayers.**

We pray for the nations of the world: that violence between and within nations cease; the ELCA World Hunger, the World Food Program of the United Nations, and other relief agencies be enabled to feed those who face starvation; that elections in the world's democracies be conducted fairly; and that the people of our country shun acts of hostility. You are great, O God, our Sovereign:

**in mercy, receive our prayers.**

On this day commemorating St. Luke, we pray for all ministries of healing: that hospitals and clinics receive adequate resources; that medical care be improved in neighborhoods of poverty, in prisons, and in refugee camps; that physicians and nurses be upheld; and that kindly hospice care be available to the dying. You are great, O God, our Healer:

**in mercy, receive our prayers.**

We pray for all in need: for all who suffer from the coronavirus; for all who are living with high anxiety; for those who are unemployed; for those evicted from their housing; for all who experience prejudice based on skin color, ethnicity, or economic status; for those we name here before you... You are great, O God, our Comforter:

**in mercy, receive our prayers.**

We praise you for the centuries of the faithful who have died in the faith, and for those we remember in our hearts... That at the end you will welcome us all into your presence, we pray.

You are great, O God, our Hope:

**in mercy, receive our prayers.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Hear us when we call upon you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: 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.**

### **SHARING THE PEACE**

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C:** **And also with you.**

**OFFERTORY** *(Thanks for sharing your gifts. Offering envelopes can still be mailed to the church, you can use the GIVE + app found on the resource tab at ssmelca.org or you may wish to sign up for Simply Giving to have your offering scheduled on an automatic basis.)*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

**L:** Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C:** **Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

**P:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**C:** **Amen.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Remember the poor.

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**

### **POSTLUDE - Tuba Tune in D Major by C. S. Lang**

*From sundaysandseasons.com.*

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### **SSM GRATEFUL STATEMENTS**

- *I believe the community engagement providing food and clothing is admirable, as well as the education efforts provided to Tanzania.*
- *I am grateful for my faith family: the abundance of children and people joining together to contribute their talents to the wonderful congregation of SSM.*
- *I am grateful for the way the Lord works thru our members to give to charity and food pantries. Our congregation at SSM is so generous. I am so grateful to be a part of this church family.*
- *I enjoy being able to join my sister for worship via Zoom, where I can hear good music and the gospel preached.*

- *I am grateful for the many ways that SSM provides for me to express my faith through music.*
- *I am grateful for John Rech Sr. who made me feel so welcomed when I first attended St. Stephen.*

### ***Temple Talk***

*Mark 10:45, "For the Son of Humanity came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."*

*I Peter 4:10, "Life good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received."*

These are hard words to live up to. Every fiber of our American DNA and rearing rebels against these words of Jesus because not only does his teaching swim against our national DNA, but his teaching swims against our biological DNA for self-preservation, self-centeredness and self-protection fit like a glove.

At St. Stephan our pastoral and lay leadership alike have striven to take the servant role in the matters and consequences of these times. They have taken the road safest for those in our fellowship and ultimately those who surround us in our lives. They have sought to emphasize the importance of masks around us when we are together. They have, perhaps I should say we have, sought to care for the physical needs of those around us with food, and contact, and care in whatever ways have been possible. These are the ways of servanthood as disciples of Jesus Christ.

We are to be commended for the approach to this pandemic and needs and consequences of the lives in and around our body. That has come to be a defining characteristic of the body of Christ at St. Stephen the Martyr. Well done servants of the Lord.

Christ is calling us to continue. Continue to serve with whatever means with which we have been blessed. Many have served with teaching, with service to our food ministry, with service to our worship ministry, with quilts for Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Social Services, with service to the needs of those are around who need a kind word, with tithes and offerings that enable us to continue to work in the kingdom of God.

We're asking for your service in giving. Take the time to evaluate what blessings God has given, and return your thanks in the Estimate of Giving card and the contributions that have been so generously given. I've been grateful for Give + which has made it easy for me to keep up our family giving.

God Bless  
Kipp



## **KEEP THESE SSM MEMBERS IN PRAYER**

Melissa Cooper, Joyce Gagliano, Sue Herman, Sue Jarchow, Lynda Johnson, Ken & Carolyn Kahl,  
Vic & Sandy Peterson, Teri Peterson, Patrick Rafalski, John Rech, Joan Retzlaff, Rob Rutzen,  
Karl Simley, Richard Sontvedt, John Winter.

## **PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY**

Roberta Henrichs, sister-in-law of Joan Retzlaff	Dawn Salopek, sister of Karen Miller
Laurence Freemont, friend of SSM	Janet Heino, great aunt of Stephanie Falksen
Katie Stull, granddaughter of Phil & LaVerne Morgan	Tinsley Marie, great granddaughter of Sue Herman
Jane Janicki, sister of the Winter Family	Cameo Abifarin, friend of Julie Herman
Jerelie Caston, daughter of Joan Retzlaff	Cathy & Mark Kossow, friends of Lynda Johnson
Nancy & Mike Andritsch, sister/brother in law of Barbara & Dan Davies	Tippecanoe's "Larry under the bridge", friend of the Homeless
Josh Knapp, friend of Amy Billman	Katie Manzeck, friend of Carol Manning
Linda Radike, friend of Julie Herman	Susan White, sister of Sally Kowalewski
Karen Stolz, neighbor of Julie Herman	Jon Kowalewski, husband of Susan Kowalewski
Roger & Kathy Blanchard, cousin of Bob Lieske	Lauryn Ramintho, great-granddaughter of Karen Miller
Billy Waters, husband of Darlene Waters & Stepdad of Lori Salas	Lucy Copeland, granddaughter of Dianne Niese
Mike Derrick, nephew of Ron & Carole Ropel	Liane Guthrie, daughter of Dianne Niese
Daniel Kilimann, son of Joy Kilimann	Leroy Robinson, father of Linda Schmidt
Carson Wudtke, grandson of Dan & Barb Davies	Maria Hill, friend of Lynda Johnson
Sharon West, friend of Lynda Johnson	Steve, son of Louise Becker
Ted P., brother-in-law of Gail Jakus	Ann Scorzynski, friend of LaVerne Morgan
Jay Lessing, friend of LaVerne Morgan	Kristin White, daughter of Sue Herman
Jeanne Jimenez, daughter of Shirley Rau	Laura Sussman, mother of Kimberly Carroll
Cindy Molter, mother of Fred Ankebrant	Diane Schauer, friend of Carol Manning
Mark Molter, uncle of Fred Ankebrant	Louie Baumgartner, son-in-law of Bob Lieske
Ashton Miller, nephew of Jenny & Kurt Koeff	Richard Kurcharski, father of Jenny Resterhouse
Terry Betchner, friend of Dianne Niese	Robert Goist, friend of Denise Sanders
Beth Klosinski, daughter of Linda Schmidt	Sharon Maschke, sister in law of Pam Maschke
Tom Ervin, former father-in-law of Shelly Rosenstock	Finn Morgan, great-grandson of Shirley & Bob Lieske
The Lynn Gillen Family, granddaughter to Fred & Carol Mueller	