

# *Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost*



## *The Lihue Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hawaii*

*Ka Hale Pule 'O Na Lahui Apau . . .*

*Church Of All Peoples . . .*

*. . . Hele Pu Makou me Iesu Kristo*

*. . . Walking Together With Christ*

**October 18, 2020**

*The Lihue Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hawaii*

*4602 Ho'omana Road, Lihue, HI 96766*

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# Welcome to the Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost!

## **Introduction**

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.

## **Overview**

### **What's in Your Wallet? Not Enough.**

Say the word stewardship in some congregations and people are protectively guarding their wallets faster than you can say "pledge card!" Unfortunately, too often we associate stewardship exclusively with issues of money. The good news is that God has little interest in our wallets. God wants our whole lives, wallets and all! Nevertheless, this week is prime time for stewardship campaigns in congregations around the country. The stewardship theme is reflected in our announcements, our prayers, our songs, and our readings. Today's gospel provides an ideal time to reflect on stewardship of all sorts—time, talent, and financial treasures.

The Pharisees approach Jesus in a thinly veiled attempt to trap him on issues of financial obligations to the Roman government. Their question of Jesus, simplified to the extreme, is "who gets your wallet?" If Jesus answered one way, he would be guilty of treason. If he answered the other way, he would have been considered guilty of heresy in the eyes of the religious leaders. Jesus responds by issuing a challenge of his own—give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and give to God what belongs to God. This statement challenges us to ponder: if God created the world and everything in it, what doesn't belong to God? God wants a whole lot more than just your wallet. God wants your life, wallet and all!

## *Announcements*

1. Reformation Day – October 31 – TBD?
2. All Saint's Day – November 1 – Wear red and send Noreen names for the list of all saints!
3. ALL CHURCH WORK DAY and Garden Ministry Launch – November 7 @ 8am
4. Food distribution (LCC + LLC + LMC) – update and date (Nov 14 @ Vet's Center)
5. Food Bank distribution help – Thursday, November 19!
6. Youth Group – parent volunteers for weekly meals + sanitization assistance

## *Weekly Events*

1. Hybrid – Virtual + Local Youth Group
  - a. **Sunday, October 18**, 5:30-7:00pm, @ Fellowship Hall
  - b. **Zoom Link** - <https://zoom.us/j/92234312100>
2. College and Young Adults Ministry
  - a. **Tuesday, October 20**, 5:30-7:00pm @ Fellowship hall
3. Women's Book Study – Molokai'i
  - a. **Wednesday, October 21**, @ 7:30-8:30pm via zoom <https://zoom.us/j/96513446272>
4. Bible Study – “The Twelve” - Zephaniah
  - a. **Thursday, October 22**, @ 5:00-6:30pm @ Fellowship hall + Pupus and BYOB!
5. Centering Prayer with Liedeke Bulder
  - a. **Saturday, October 24**, @ 9-10am via zoom <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/9079773456>

## *Prayer Concerns*

Please remember these people in your prayers during the week: Jake Whisenhunt, Rick Rentz, Stan Weeks, Judy Hoffman, Norman Dibble, Marie Johnson, Minora Higa, Kazue Zaima, Virginia Hines-Aflague, John Mattek, Gerald II (Bobby Girald's son), Kristie Schmid (Tony's sister), Lolli Hagen, Abraham Torres, Sr., Kristy Kahananui, Sonny Koerte, Joan Duarte Ebesu, Mallory Rodriguez, Steve Schantz, Leonarda Cadiz, Peter Alisna, Lea Cadiz, Tirzah Pope, John McIntyre, Pastor Matthew Weber, Joyce Anglemyer, Stephen Shioi, Peggy Hood, Jason Shimono, Richard Rasay, Nancy Nelson (formely Mandell), Karen & Patrick Pavao, Edward Rasay, Richard Duarte (Friend of Kurt Javinar), Karen Richards (friend of Nancy Mandell), Marcos Larson (Liedeke's son), Dora Jane Rowell, Franklin Parraga, Penny Parraga, Leticia Ancog (Kurt Javinar's sister), Yvonne Shinseki, Al Dressler (Larry's Father), Shirley Hallman (Denese Alcott's Mother), Mercy Ballesteros, Mike LaBerge, Anna Marie & Phil Croghan, Judy Carlson, Caroline Johnson, Sheila Belarmino, Ray Roderick, The Church Council, and leaders in the ELCA. If you have additional prayer requests, please let the church office know. “*Ask it in my name . . .*” Mahalo for your love.

## *Remembering our Military*

As we gather for worship, please remember those serving us in the military, and the families of our Hawai'i National Guard. These names have been given by loved ones and family members: Navy – TJ, Javinar, Kristian Matsumoto, Coast Guard - Brian Rodriguez, Navy - Kiana Alisna, Coast Guard - Ke'ale Renta Army - Jason Lumacad, Levi Fajardo: Air Force - Steven Javinar, Ikaika Fajardo, Army - Brandon Perkinson, Drew Cox, Tony Garton: National Guard - Benji MacKenzie, Eddie Resinto, Fred Casticimo, Philip Kamakea, Anthony Y. Torres, Master Sgt. If you know of someone you would like added to our prayer list, please advise the church office.

## *Join in the Worship!*

The Psalm has an interesting use of nature to indicate to the reader that God's majesty and greatness are so profound that the heavens and the earth, the sea and everything under the sea, leaving no area of creation out, will worship and praise of God. Who then, will but worship? Read more and join in on the worship!

## Welcome, Check-In, and Announcements

Type into the Facebook chatbox and respond to one, or more, of the following four check-in prompts

## Moment of Mindfulness

Take a few moments to center your spirit and prepare for worship

## \*Order for Confession and Forgiveness

P We are gathered in the name of the Father, Makua, and of the + Son, Keiki Kane, and of the Holy Spirit, Uhane Hemolele.

**C Amen**

P Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

*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 gifts 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 the freedom and newness to do God's work in the world.

## Gathering Song

*LBW 242*

### Let the Whole Creation Cry

The musical score is written for a piano and voice. It features a treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature. The melody is simple and repetitive, consisting of a series of quarter notes and half notes. The lyrics are written below the treble clef staff. The bass clef staff provides a simple harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes.

1 Let the whole cre - a - tion cry, "Glo - ry to the Lord on high!"  
2 War-riors fight - ing for the Lord, proph-ets burn - ing with his word,  
3 Men and wom - en, young and old, raise the an - them loud and bold,

Heav'n and earth, a - wake and sing, "Praise him, our al - might - y king!"  
 those to whom the arts be - long add their voic - es to the song.  
 and let chil - dren's hap - py hearts in this wor - ship take their parts;

Praise him, an - gel hosts a - bove, ev - er bright and fair in love;  
 Kings of knowl - edge and of law, to the glo - rious cir - cle draw;  
 from the north to south - ern pole let the might - y cho - rus roll:

sun and moon, lift up your voice; night and stars, in God re - joice.  
 all who work and all who wait, sing, "The Lord is good and great!"  
 "Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly One; glo - ry be to God a - lone!"

Text: Stopford A. Brooke, 1832–1916, alt.  
 Music: SALZBURG. Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702, adapt.; arr. J. S. Bach, 1685–1750

**\*Apostolic 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.

**\*Prayer of the Day**

**P** 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.

**C** 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.*

<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.

A      The Word of the Lord C      Thanks be to God.

*Psalm (to be read responsively)*

Ascribe to the LORD honor and power. (Ps. 96:7)

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.  
<sup>2</sup>**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;  
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**  
<sup>3</sup>Declare God's glory among the nations  
and God's wonders among all peoples.  
<sup>4</sup>**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,  
more to be feared than all gods.**  
<sup>5</sup>As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;  
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.  
<sup>6</sup>**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;  
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**  
<sup>7</sup>Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,

*Psalm 96:1-13*

ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

**<sup>8</sup>Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;  
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

<sup>9</sup>Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;  
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

**<sup>10</sup>Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king!**

**The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples  
with equity."**

<sup>11</sup>Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;  
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

**<sup>12</sup>Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,  
for you come to judge the earth.**

<sup>13</sup>You will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with your truth.

## Second Reading

## 1 Thessalonian 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.*

<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.

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

## Gospel Acclamation

*Refrain*

Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, give thanks to the ris-en Lord;

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give praise to his name.

## \*The Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:15-22

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.

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.



<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.



## Children's Sermon

## Sermon

Song of the Day (first 4 verses only)

ELW 842

## Oh, Worship the King

1 Oh, wor - ship the King, all - glo - rious a - bove.  
2 The earth with its store of won - ders un - told,  
3 Your boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite?  
4 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,  
5 O mea - sure - less might, in - ef - fa - ble love,





Oh, grate - ful - ly sing God's pow - er and love;  
 Al - might - y, your pow'r has found - ed of old;  
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light,  
 in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;  
 while an - gels de - light to hymn you a - bove,

our shield and de - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,  
 es - tab - lished it fast by a change - less de - cree,  
 it streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,  
 your mer - cies, how ten - der, how firm to the end,  
 the hum - bler cre - a - tion, though fee - ble their lays,

pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.  
 and round it has cast, like a man - tle, the sea.  
 and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.  
 our mak - er, de - fend - er, re - deem - er, and friend.  
 with true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to your praise.

Text: Robert Grant, 1779–1838, alt.  
 Music: HANOVER, William Croft, 1678–1727

### *\*Apostles' Creed*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 Church*

**P** Drawn together in the compassion of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

- A Gracious God, you call us by name and invite us to share your good news. Send your Holy Spirit among preachers, missionaries, and evangelists. We give thanks for the witness of your servant Luke, the evangelist, whom the church commemorates today. Lord, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- A God of praise, the heavens and all creation declare your salvation. From the rising of the sun to its setting, may the whole universe show forth your goodness. Raise up devoted stewards of all that you have made. Lord, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- A God of all, may your word of justice sound forth in every place. Restore divided nations and communities with reconciling truth. Lord, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- A God of light, we pray for those living with pain, illness, isolation, grief, anger, or doubt (*especially*). Join their voices in a new song, assuring them that you call them each by name. Lord, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- A God of truth, you show no partiality. May your spirit guide the work of justices, magistrates, court officials, and all vocations of the law, that your promise of restoration may be known. Lord, in your mercy,
- C hear our prayer.**
- A** Be with our Ohana off island. As places around our nation re-open and re-close, be with them. Place hedges of protection around them as they go about their daily activities. Hold them in your love until they are able to come be with us again. God of our salvation,
- C hear our prayer.**
- P** Listen as we call on you, O God, and enfold in your loving arms all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen**

## Queen's Prayer

The musical score is for the Queen's Prayer. It consists of two systems of music. The first system is labeled 'Piano' and the second is labeled 'Pno'. Both systems are in 4/4 time. The lyrics are written below the notes in both Hawaiian and English. The Hawaiian lyrics are: 'O kou a-lo-ha no A i-a i ka La-ni, A No-lai-la e ka-Haku Ma-la-lo kou e-he-u, Ko o kou oi-a i-o, He he-mo-le-le hoi ma-kou ma-lu-hi-a, A mau loa a-ku no. A-me-ne.' The English lyrics are: '1. O Lord thy Loving Mercy, Is high as the Heavens. It tells us of thy truth. And 'tis filled with holiness 2. For thy grace I beseech thee. Bring us 'neath thy protection. And peace will be thy portion Now and forever more. Amen'.

### English Translation

- |  |    |  |
|--|----|--|
| 1. O Lord thy Loving Mercy,<br>Is high as the Heavens.<br>It tells us of thy truth.<br>And 'tis filled with holiness | 10 | 2. For thy grace I beseech thee.<br>Bring us 'neath thy protection.<br>And peace will be thy portion<br>Now and forever more. Amen |
|--|----|--|

## Sharing of the Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C And also with you.**

P Let us share peace in the Facebook live chatbox with one another.

## \*Offering Prayer

P Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. You have set before us these gifts of your good creation. Prepare us for your heavenly banquet, nourish us with this rich food and drink, and send us forth to set tables in the midst of a suffering world, through the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C Amen.**

## Offertory

Pastoral ministry might seem like something that *one person* does: the pastor. In our tradition, we are all pastors. This is the doctrine of the priesthood of *all* believers. While you may not be an ordained pastor, you are still a leader in ministry, called and baptized and sent to do great things. Your first vocational ministry is where God has called you to work. And sometimes, work becomes so fulfilling (or just time filling) that we aren't always able to get involved in the church in the ways we would like. Here is where you can partner with us in the ministries we support, so that, even though you're not carrying out the ministry, you support our work in your way.

Dear friends, in the times of COVID we invite those who are financially stable and able to move into a greater partnership with us in this season do so through the giving of gifts, tithes, and offerings. This work *is not possible without your support!* We invite you to pray in this season and discern how God might be inviting you to grow in your giving and support to Lihue Lutheran.

If, in this discernment, God puts it on your heart to give, donations can be made online, mailed in, or given on our website [here](#) or you can copy and paste the weblink below @

[https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-](https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=tYgT1GfNxRUIiimjHMvORYXmm3bazY6GfrmTtVDZydsksODEa-Up5lt373GHnco2evTpo0mld6BrVzd2nG0p8xSFKZ9u6c4AzLo4CjNx7k=&ver=3)

[bin/Vanco\\_ver3.vps?appver3=tYgT1GfNxRUIiimjHMvORYXmm3bazY6GfrmTtVDZydsksODEa-Up5lt373GHnco2evTpo0mld6BrVzd2nG0p8xSFKZ9u6c4AzLo4CjNx7k=&ver=3](https://www.eservicepayments.com/cgi-bin/Vanco_ver3.vps?appver3=tYgT1GfNxRUIiimjHMvORYXmm3bazY6GfrmTtVDZydsksODEa-Up5lt373GHnco2evTpo0mld6BrVzd2nG0p8xSFKZ9u6c4AzLo4CjNx7k=&ver=3)

## Offertory Song

## Lord of Aloha

God of the is - lands, Lord of the seas, Ma - ker of beau - ty and source of the breeze,  
5 King of Cre - a - tion, an - cient and new, Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.  
9 Auth - or of mer - cy, Giv - er of grace, Bles - sed Re - deem - er who died in our place, Fath - er of one O  
14 ha - na are you, Lift - ing our voic - es we sing "Al - le - lu" Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.

19  
  
 God of the is - lands, Lord of the seas, Ma-ker of beau-ty and source of the breeze,

23  
  
 King of Cre - a - tion, an cient and new, Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.

27  
  
 Lord of A - lo - ha we wor - ship you.

## Sacramental Remembrance of Communion

### \**Lord's Prayer* (spoken in unison)

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.

### \**Blessing*

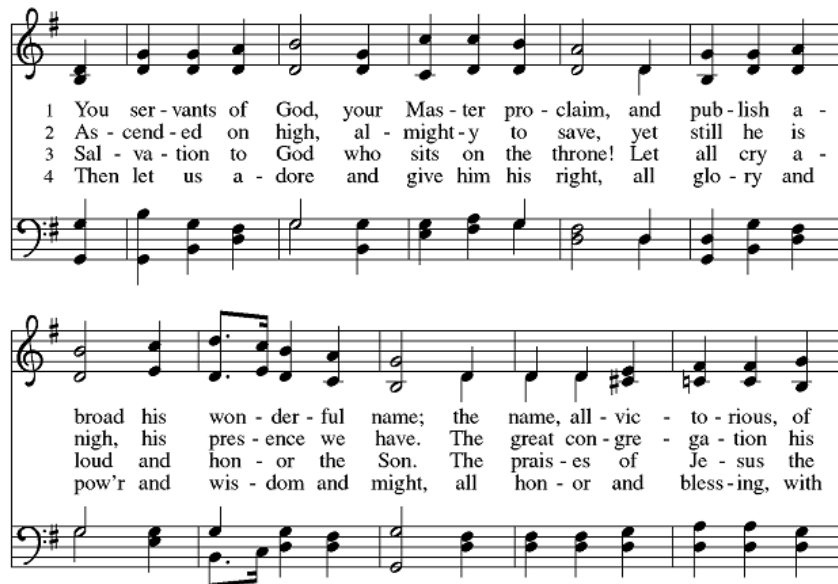
P Mothering God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life.

C Amen

## Sending Song

ELW 825

### 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

## *Dismissal*

A Go in peace! Serve the poor!      C Thanks be to God

## Upcoming Commemorations

Luke, Evangelist

Sunday, October 18, 2020

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, 2020

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.

# JOIN IN THE WORSHIP!

I remember when I went to Germany in 2016. I went with a pastor who, in trying to convince me to pursue the ministry, said I needed to go to the *motherland* and see the origins of our Lutheran faith.

While we were there, we visited many historic sites, many of which were Lutheran. During our time, especially in Heidelberg, we went to many cathedrals; breathtaking, beautiful cathedrals. I remember one in Hamburg that had a choir present. The space was so grand and the sound was so majestic it echoed through the massive cathedral, encompassing and encasing your very being. The music made it as if time itself stood still as the music and mellifluous voices rang out in worship and praise to God. What a sight to behold and experience to be felt.

Our Psalm produces a similar experience. If you shut your eyes and listen to the Psalm, it might be able to take you to a similar space and place where the worship encompasses and encases your spirit so that time itself will be shut out and you will be caught in a moment of pure bliss.

The Psalmist begins with the command *to sing*. This turns to the command to *declare*; and this becomes *ascribe* until we are left with a *worship* that rings out to the nations, proclaiming that Jesus is Lord. At this declaration, the entirety of all creation rings out in praise. The Psalmist is intentional to contrast heaven and earth, the sea and all that is in it, and below it. This indicates that there is no part of creation that is left out from this cry of worship.

In the same way that all of creation is included in this magnificent song, so too we are invited to sing that song to God with the song that is our life. Join in the worship!