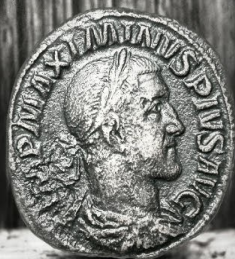


# First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2020 ~ 11:00 AM

Render to Caesar  
the things that are Caesar's,



Matthew 22:21

And to God  
the things that are God's.

## *Our Identity*

- ◆ We are a diverse, welcoming, loving, grace-filled community.
- ◆ We are a safe place of acceptance and forgiveness.
- ◆ It feels good to be here.

**The Rev. Matthew L. Miller, Pastor**

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# Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE!

## ✠ ✠ GATHERING ✠ ✠

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

### PRELUDE

### CONFESSION AND 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.

*(We pause 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.

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ 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**

<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.

**P** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 96:1-9** (*read responsively*)

<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**

<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.

**P** The word of the Lord.

**G** **Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22**

**P** The holy gospel according to St. Matthew the twenty-second chapter.

**G** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<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.

**G** **Praise to you, O Christ!**

**SERMON**

**The Rev. Matthew L. Miller**

## APOSTLES' CREED

**P** Together, living in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C** 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 power of 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

**P** With confidence in God's grace and mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

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.

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.

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.

God of light, we pray for those living with pain, illness, isolation, grief, anger, or doubt especially those on our prayer list and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts: \_\_\_\_\_. Join their voices in a new song, assuring them that you call them each by name. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** hear our prayer.

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.

Living God, as you raised Jesus from the dead, so raise up those who have died in you. We give thanks for their witness, confident of your rescuing welcome for all. Lord, in your mercy,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

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.**

**OFFERING—** *Please place your offering in the basket as you exit.*

### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**P** Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things.

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

### **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

**P** O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**C** **Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**P** Lord remember us in your Kingdom, and teach us to pray,

**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.**

**BENEDICTION**

☞ Mothering God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. Now and always.

☛ Amen.

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING RECONVENES**

**DISMISSAL**

☞ Go in peace to serve the Lord,

☛ Thanks be to God!



*Let us remember in prayer:*

**CHURCH FAMILY:**

Bill and Patsie Baker  
Cody Carlson  
Tom Carlson  
Amy Hollar Cormier  
Jean Conrad Darstein  
Beth Huber  
Mary Huneycutt  
Katie Lemly  
Jon Lough  
Ronnie Moretz  
Willie Ruth Pless  
Gracie Shepherd  
Jody Shepherd  
Ron Sink  
Sylvia Sink  
April Thompson  
Terry Triplett  
Deborah Wertman  
Earl and Jan Willette

**LOVED ONES, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS:**

Tonya Adams (*Friend of David Smith*)  
Connie Albertson (*Friend of Bleasha Carroll*)  
Susan Avery and Family (*Friends of Christi Nebrich*)  
Charles Baker (*Bill Baker's father*)  
Jim Bailey (*Carol Leonard's brother*)  
Nancy Beck (*Judy Conrad's sister*)  
Jesse Both (*Laura Tanley's nephew*)  
Mary Brink (*Niece of Pauletta Conrad*)  
Gene Bullock (*Tracy Miller's uncle*)  
Anne Burkhart (*friend of Pam Mabry*)  
Tessa Burns (*Bob Redwine's niece*)  
Mike Byrd (*Friend of Bob Sink*)  
Johnsie Canny (*Emma Apple's sister*)  
Jim Carrier (*Tracy Miller's dad*)  
Rita Caudle (*friend of Sabrina Conrad*)  
Adam Cheely (*Michelle Eppinga's son*)  
Edward Clancy (*friend of Bing Sudarmono*)  
Jessica Crabb  
Don and Jackie Craft (*Rebecca Moretz's parents*)  
Amy and Wes Cups  
Maureen Darcy (*friend of Connie Beck McMillan*)  
Robert Dasch (*Father of Keith Dasch*)  
Paul DeLaney (*Friend of Laura Tanley*)  
Marina Dunaway and family (*friends of Karen Riggs*)  
Debbie Sheppard Everette  
Delores Farrell (*Dalane Kitzman's sister*)  
Danny Fine (*Lynn Smith's brother*)  
Patrick Foley (*Bleasha Carroll's brother-in-law*)  
Debra Gainey (*The Kitzman's neighbor*)  
Marlon Gaskins (*Friend of Scott and Deb Wertman*)  
Rick Gransee  
Ross Gray (*Friend of Dany and Carol Leonard*)  
The Greer Family (*Friends of Karen Riggs*)  
Kathy Harwood (*Beth Lemly's sister-in-law*)  
Ronald Hensley (*friend of Mary Huneycutt*)  
Angelica Hernandez (*coworker of Bill Nebrich*)  
Barbara Sue Herring (*Friend of FLC*)  
James Hewett (*friends of Bill and Christi Nebrich*)  
Reuben Hufham (*Emma Apple's brother-in-law*)  
Bob Hughart (*Bryan Hughart's father*)

Jeff Hutcherson (*Husband of Karen Rigg's coworker, Jill*)  
Caleb Hutcherson (*Son of Karen Rigg's coworker, Jill*)  
Damon Jones (*brother of clothing closet volunteer, Teresa Smith*)  
Betty Jordan (*friend of the Carlsons*)  
Steve and Fern Kennedy (*friends of Pam Mabry*)  
Karen Kernstine (*friend of Sabrina Conrad*)  
John Kleine (*Nancy Carlson's brother-in-law*)  
Terry Kohler (*Wertman family member*)  
Jack Kunz (*Nancy Carlson's father*)  
Mary and Charles Lee (*friends of FLC*)  
Nichole Leonard (*friend of Patti Grant*)  
Aleigha Lockhart and Family (*Neighbors of the Nebrichs*)  
Hazel Lovelace (*Jim Lovelace's mother*)  
Maria (*Abbi Thompson's friend*)  
Mandy Marshall (*Debbie Triplett's daughter*)  
Miranda and Children (*Friends of Sabrina Conrad*)  
Deb McGraw (*friend of Patrick Harris*)  
Joetta McQueen  
Larry Michaels  
Claire Murphy (*Rebecca Moretz's cousin*)  
Robert Phelps (*friend of FLC*)  
Libby Puckett (*friend of Connie Beck McMillan*)  
Craig and Lisa Royal (*friends of FLC*)  
Lynn Scoggins (*brother-in-law of Beth and Katie Lemly*)  
Lank and Audrey Sechrest (*Judy Conrad's sister and brother-in-law*)  
Angie Shaw (*friend of April Thompson*)  
Aurelia Smith (*neighbor of Greg and Laura Turlington*)  
David Smith (*Nephew of Bob Sink*)  
Jimmy Steele (*friend of Mary Huneycutt*)  
Marilee Strasser (*friend of Bill and Patsie Baker*)  
Denny Swimley (*brother-in-law of Scott and Deborah Wertman*)  
Jackie Taylor (*Lorraine Carlson's sister*)  
Sherry Taylor (*Dan Smith's cousin*)  
Marie Thomason (*Sarah Whitaker's grandmother*)  
Sarah Vestal (*friend of Beth Huber*)  
Glenn Visbeen (*friend of John Leonard*)  
Mary Louise Wilkerson (*Friend of FLC*)  
Devone Wohl (*Dalane Kitzman's sister*)  
Nathan Wohl (*Dalane Kitzman's nephew*)  
Kara Wood (*Mary Nebrich's teacher*)  
Rick Yokeley (*friend of Bleasha Carroll*)

**The families of those who have passed to life eternal:**

**Expectant Parents:**

Dyllan and Anna (Deyton) Rankin

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