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FM 99.1**

**THE TWENTIETH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, October 18, 2020  
Our Ultimate Allegiance in Life is to God**

(P: pastor; C: congregation)

**P:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

**P:** Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C: Amen**

**P:** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination*

**P:** Most merciful God,

**C:** we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. **Amen**

**P:** Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen**

**P:** We will praise you, our God and King, **C: And bless your name forever and ever.**

**HYMN: "Holy God, We Praise Your Name" LBW 535** *(Text and tune: Public Domain)*

**Holy God, we praise your name; Lord of all, we bow before you.  
All on earth your scepter claim, All in heav'n above adore you.  
Infinite your vast domain, Everlasting is your reign.**

**Hark! The glad celestial hymn Angel choirs above are raising;  
Cherubim and seraphim, In unceasing chorus praising,  
Fill the heav'ns with sweet accord: "Holy, holy, holy Lord!"**

**Lo, the apostolic train Join your sacred name to hallow;  
Prophets swell the glad refrain, And the white-robed martyrs follow;  
And from morn to set of sun Through the Church the song goes on.**

**Holy Father, holy Son, Holy Spirit, three we name you,  
Though in essence only one; Undivided God we claim you  
And, adoring, bend the knee While we own the mystery.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray. 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. **C: Amen**

**FIRST LESSON:** Isaiah 45:1-7, *An earthly ruler works God's will*

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: <sup>2</sup>“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, <sup>3</sup>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.

<sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>I am the LORD, and there is no other, besides me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know me, <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, I am the LORD, who does all these things.

**P:** The word of the Lord.      **C: Thanks be to God!**

**SECOND LESSON:** 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, *Thanksgiving for the church in Thessalonica*

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 give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, <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 loved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>because 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. <sup>6</sup>And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of 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 not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. <sup>9</sup>For 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, <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

**P:** The word of the Lord.      **C: Thanks be to God!**

**GOSPEL:** Matthew 22:15-22, *A teaching about the emperor and God*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.      **C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. <sup>16</sup>And 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. <sup>17</sup>Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” <sup>18</sup>But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup>And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” <sup>21</sup>They 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.” <sup>22</sup>When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord.      **C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

**SERMON**

**HYMN: “Take My Life, that I May Be” LBW 406**

*(Text and tune: Public domain)*

Take my life, that I may be Consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
Take my moments and my days; Let them flow in ceaseless praise.  
Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of thy love;  
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for thee.  
Take my voice and let me sing Always, only, for my King;  
Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from thee.  
Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold;  
Take my intellect, and use Ev’ry pow’r as thou shalt choose.  
Take my will and make it thine; It shall be no longer mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own; It shall be thy royal throne.  
Take my love; my Lord, I pour At thy feet its treasure store;  
Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for thee.

**PRAYERS**

*Prayers and intercessions are said by the pastor. In concluding the prayers the pastor says:*

**P:** Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

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

**BENEDICTION**

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

**DISMISSAL HYMN: “We Give Thee but Thine Own” LBW 410**

*(Text and tune: Public domain)*

We give thee but thine own; What e’re the gift may be;  
All that we have is thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from thee.  
May we thy bounties thus As stewards true receive,  
And gladly, as thou blessest us, To thee our first-fruits give.  
Hearts still are bruised and dead, And homes are bare and cold,  
And lambs for whom the Shepherd bled Are straying from the fold.  
To comfort and to bless, To find a balm for woe,  
To tend those lost in loneliness, Is angels’ work below.  
The captive to release, The lost to God to bring,  
To teach the way of life and peace –It is a Christ-like thing.  
And we believe thy word, Though dim our faith may be:  
Whate’er we do for thine, O Lord, We do it unto thee.

We strive to use our gifts and the best resources available to support people in their faith. To inquire about our sermons and/or the resources used to produce them please contact us through our church office. To God be the glory!

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