



October 15, 2023

## 20th Sunday after Pentecost



**Our Savior's Lutheran Church**

Virginia, MN

Pastor Liz Cheney

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## GATHERING SONG

*Now the Feast and Celebration*

ELW 167

*Refrain*

*Now the feast and celebration,  
all of creation sings for joy  
to the God of life and love and  
freedom; praise and glory  
forevermore!*

**1** *Now is the feast of the Lamb  
once slain,  
whose blood has freed and  
united us*

**2****3**

*to be one great people of God.  
Refrain*

*Power and riches, wisdom and  
might,  
all honor and glory to Christ  
forever. Refrain*

*For God has come to dwell with  
us, to make us people of God;  
to make all things new. Refrain*

*Text: Marty Haugen b. 1950 Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com).*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be God, the one who forms us, † Jesus who bears the cross, the Spirit who makes our joy complete. **Amen.**

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Steadfast and faithful God,

**you have revealed the ways of justice, yet we fail to follow you.**

**We are overwhelmed by the world's violence and suffering.**

**We are afraid to risk what we have for the sake of others.**

**For the harm we have caused, known and unknown, forgive us.**

**For the unjust demands we place on others and your creation, forgive us.**

**For the ways we turn away from you and our neighbor, forgive us.**

**Lead us back to you and set us on the right path;**

**in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,

God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.

God's compassion is beyond compare.

In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.


In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven.

**Amen.**

# KYRIE & THIS IS THE FEAST (Found here or on page 184 & 187 in the ELW)

Sing Verses 3 & 4 of the Kyrie.

*Refrain*



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.



3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for

4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the




friends and fam - i - ly; for  
wa - ter and the word; that you



life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

*Refrain*



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

*Refrain*

This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the  
Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be

peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and

*Refrain*

hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of

vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -

le - lu - ia. 2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,

glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*

This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the

Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Isaiah 25:1-9

<sup>1</sup>O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you, I will praise your name;  
for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.

<sup>2</sup>For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin;  
the palace of aliens is a city no more, it will never be rebuilt.

<sup>3</sup>Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you.

<sup>4</sup>For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress,  
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.

When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,

<sup>5</sup>the noise of aliens like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat  
with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

<sup>6</sup>On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples  
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,  
of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.

<sup>7</sup>And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples,  
the sheet that is spread over all nations;

<sup>8</sup>he will swallow up death forever.

Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces,

and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken.

<sup>9</sup>It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.  
This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 23

<sup>1</sup>The LORD is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 4:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

<sup>2</sup>I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

<sup>4</sup>Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. <sup>5</sup>Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. <sup>6</sup>Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. <sup>7</sup>And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

<sup>8</sup>Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. <sup>9</sup>Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.*

*Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.*

## **GOSPEL: MATTHEW 22:1-14**

*Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.*

<sup>1</sup>Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: <sup>2</sup>"The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. <sup>3</sup>He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. <sup>4</sup>Again he sent other slaves, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." <sup>5</sup>But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, <sup>6</sup>while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. <sup>7</sup>The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. <sup>8</sup>Then he said to his slaves, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. <sup>9</sup>Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet." <sup>10</sup>Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

<sup>11</sup>"But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, <sup>12</sup>and he said to him, "Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?" And he was speechless. <sup>13</sup>Then the king said to the attendants, "Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." <sup>14</sup>For many are called, but few are chosen."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN'S TIME**

## **SERMON**

Pastor Liz Cheney

**Refrain**

*Let us go now to the banquet,  
to the feast of the universe.  
The table's set and a place is waiting;  
come, ev'ryone, with your gifts to share.*

**1** *I will rise in the early morning;  
the community's waiting for me.  
With a spring in my step I'm walking  
with my friends and my family. Refrain*

**2** *God invites all the poor and hungry  
to the banquet of justice and good  
where the harvest will not be hoarded  
so that no one will lack for food. Refrain*

**3** *May we build such a place among us  
where all people are equal in love.  
God has called us to work together  
and to share ev'rything we have.  
Refrain*

*Text: Guillermo Cuéllar, b. 1955, Misa popular salvadoreña; tr. Bret Hesla, b. 1957, and William Dexheimer Pharris, b. 1956. Text © 1988, 1996 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638*

**APOSTLES CREED**

pg. 105

**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 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** Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*Merciful God, receive our prayer.*

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**SHARING THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*Please share a sign of God's peace with one another.*

**OFFERING****OFFERING PRAYER**

**God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you.**

**We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed.**

**Form us into the body of your Beloved, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, full of your glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.***

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

pg. 191

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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**

### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live. All are welcome!

### **LAMB OF GOD**

pg. 191

***Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.***

***Lamb of God you take away the sin of the world. Grant us peace, grant us peace.***

***Lamb of God.***

### **COMMUNION HYMNS**

*Come, Let Us Eat*

ELW 491

*Come to the Table*

ELW 481

### **TABLE BLESSING**

#### **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

**Blessed be your name, O God, for we have feasted on your Word, Christ Jesus, the joy and delight of our hearts. Strengthened by this food, send us to gather the world to your banquet, where none are left out and all are satisfied. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

The God of glory, † Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG**

***O God, Our Help in Ages Past***

**ELW 632**

**1** *O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
our shelter from the stormy blast,  
and our eternal home:*

**2** *Under the shadow of your throne  
your saints have dwelt secure;  
sufficient is your arm alone,  
and our defense is sure.*

**3** *Before the hills in order stood  
or earth received its frame,  
from everlasting you are God,  
to endless years the same.*

**4** *A thousand ages in your sight  
are like an evening gone,  
short as the watch that ends the night  
before the rising sun.*

**5** *Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
bears all our years away;  
they fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the op'ning day.*

**6** *O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last  
and our eternal home.*

*Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.*

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

Kristen Weikum

**We hold in our prayers**

Please pray for people in need of comfort, hope, healing, or safe transition: Adeline, Tedd, Diane, Adam, Chuck, Sue, Mike, Avery, Kate, Matt, Ken, Ruth T., Hermine, Deb L., Matt, Ethan, Ross- (needs transplant of kidneys & pancreas), Brandon, Jessica, Breanna, Jeremy, Richard, Shari, Rodney, Lee, Kathy, Mary, Wally C., Marlene, Bonnie M.(MS), Victoria. *Please pray for Theodore's family at his passing. Please pray for Karen McCue and family at the passing of her son, Fred.* Call Ginny Ahrlin, prayer leader for this month, at 218-749-0056 for prayer needs.

**If you are in need of any pastoral care or if you or someone you know would like a visit, please call Pastor Liz Cheney at 218-780-8907 or the church office at 218-741-6207.**

### Visitors and Friends

We at Our Savior's practice open communion during Sunday Worship. Our Lord invites us to share a holy meal at His altar, and we understand that invitation to be open to all who wish to commune with us. You are therefore welcome to join us in our Lord's Supper. If you prefer a Gluten Free wafer or juice, please let the Pastor/server know.

***A warm welcome to all visitors who are worshipping with us this morning! Please join us for coffee fellowship following the service.***

### CONTACT US

Church Office: 218-741-6207

[office@oslcmn.com](mailto:office@oslcmn.com)

[www.oslcmn.com](http://www.oslcmn.com)

[www.facebook.com/oslcmn](http://www.facebook.com/oslcmn)

YouTube Page ~ Our Savior's Lutheran Church Virginia MN Office

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 10:00 - 5:00

### PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Variable for now - please make an appointment and office hours will be posted once Pastor Liz is settled in. Friday is her day off.

Pastor Liz - 218-780-8907 or [lizcheney44@gmail.com](mailto:lizcheney44@gmail.com)

### STAFF

**Pastor:** Rev. Liz Cheney

**Church Secretary:** Colleen Brown Jacobson

**Bookkeeper:** Carole Rutka

**Musicians:** Kristen Weikum, Mark Ongalo, Ginny Ahrlin

**Custodian:** Steve Gagnon



## ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR October 15, 2023

**Farewell:** Join us next Wednesday, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> at 3pm to wish Diane Vandervort a farewell – She will be moving to her daughter’s house in Hastings then into an apartment. She has been so integral to OSLC’s LWR Quilting ministry, we wish to send her off with lots of love and thankfulness!

**THANK YOU!** WELCA would like to thank everyone who helped make our first Annual Fall Festival a success. We would also like to thank those who donated household items, baked goods, and volunteered their time.

**REFORMATION SUNDAY AND PASTOR LIZ’S INSTALLATION** Sunday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> is Reformation Sunday so remember to wear red to worship! Making it a very special day for us is the formal Installation of Pastor Liz, with Deacon Colleen Bernu from the SYNOD joining us. Be sure to stay after worship for the Ham Diner that will be served in the Fellowship Hall.



**DEDICATION OF THE ZIMBELSTERN** The Moberg family desired to gift the church funds toward the new Zimbelstern installed on our Jaekel Organ. The Zimbelstern instrument is part of an organ that rings bells as an accompaniment to the organ music being played. The word means “cymbal star” as the original instrument had a bell on each point of the star and would ring as it rotated. This chiming instrument has been utilized in worship and devotional music for many centuries, originating in Northern Europe. Not many organs have a Zimbelstern today - we are blessed to have one applied to our organ, and we thank the Moberg family for their gift toward the instrument.

**TRUNK OR TREAT HERE THIS YEAR!** After the celebration of Pastor Liz’s Installation during worship & the following meal, Join us later in the afternoon Sunday, Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> for our first “Trunk or Treat.” This is a fun event for all ages! Help us with the fun:



- Setting up games
- Decorate your car trunk/hatch
- Donate a bag or two of candy
- Be present to say hello to our neighbors in the community

There will be a prize for the best decorated vehicle! Games & prizes for kids will be on our covered sidewalk. And the Virginia Fire & Ambulance Dept. & County Sheriff K-9 unit will be present to interact with the kids! *Talk to Tamera & Anastacia if you have questions or would like to volunteer.*

**LITTLE PANTRY** We are collecting food & other items in the narthex shopping cart for the outside pantry. This month the National & Global Health observances we are highlighting are: *Dental Hygiene Month, and World Sight Day (Oct. 12)*. Keep these topics in mind as we collect shelf-stable food and dental products & reading glasses. Below are sample items you could donate:

**Cereal boxes - Pancake/waffle mixes - Granola/Breakfast bars - Peanut butter - Dried fruit  
Applesauce & fruit cups - Soups cups - Tunafish & jerky sticks - Water & Gatorade  
Toothpaste, brushes & mouthwash - Reading glasses, any strength**

**LUTHERAN DISASTER RESPONSE** shares God's hope, healing & renewal with people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the US and around the world. When the dust settles and the headlines change, we stay to provide ongoing assistance to those in need. Every dollar donated goes to the actual disaster response. The new *Thrive* magazine is in the narthex highlighting projects.

**How to give: Send \$ to ELCA Disaster Response, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009, or visit “community.elca.org/lutherandisasterresponse” online.**

**RADIO SPONSORSHIP** If you are interested in sponsoring a Sunday worship in honor of someone or a special event (wedding anniversary, birth of children, baptism date) or in memory of a loved one who has passed, you may do so in full for \$90 or shared/partial at \$45. Just call the church office, **and/or sign up on the sheet provided on the bulletin board by the fountain**. Many people in our community thank you!

### **THIS WEEK:**

**WELCA: Tuesday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> @ 1pm**, WELCA Bible Study in the Fireside Room

**QUILTING: Wednesdays, 9:30am – 2 or 3pm** in the Fellowship Hall

**COUNCIL MEETING: Wednesday, Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, 5:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall

**LISTENING SESSIONS Available!** Call Pastor Liz or the church office for a time – and if you would like it to be a phone call or for her to visit you!

*As we begin our ministry together, I would love the opportunity to gather with as many of you as possible for listening sessions. What is a listening session? This will be an opportunity for you to come together with me so that I can listen to your hopes and dreams and visions for the future of Our Savior’s. Also, a chance for you to lament any past hurts or losses and express to me, your new pastor, how I can help move us forward as a congregation.*

*I will be scheduling some sessions with specific groups, and will also have dates available for you to sign up to host a listening session at your home with other people or here at the church even. We can even meet one-on-one. This will be a helpful time for me, but you as well, as we share with one another our stories – past, present, and future!*



## Devotional for the week of October 8-14, 2023



People face rejection for all kinds of reasons: race, nationality, gender, native language, political beliefs. Rejection is a painful experience that can wound the soul and crush the ego. Anyone who has faced it for one reason or another knows the deep hurt of rejection.

Jesus faced rejection. He faced people with power who rejected his teachings, his ministry, his identity, and ultimately, his whole self. Even many of his followers had a hard time accepting his teaching and walked away. Matthew tells us Jesus understood his

rejection in a significant way: “Have you never read in the scriptures: ‘The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone; this was the Lord’s doing, and it is amazing in our eyes?’” (Matthew 21:42).

Jesus saw that his rejection could be used for God’s purposes, shocking as it sounds. The Rejected One becomes God’s means of transformation by turning that rejection into an offer of mercy for all, even for those who rejected him. His rejection shows all who face similar fates that even when all others abandon them, God claims them as beloved. Jesus’ rejection becomes the opposite: God’s acceptance of us.

All who face rejection in this life can trust that Jesus lives in solidarity with them. They can even come to see that God can use their pain and hurt to create something new. Baptized, we live in an unbreakable covenant of acceptance. We are invited to the table of inclusion. This doesn’t eliminate the pain or justify the rejection, but it does open up new possibilities for healing and empowerment. Living as siblings of Christ the rejected one, we come to have such bold faith, and it is amazing in our eyes.

JOIN US FOR  
**TRUNK  
OR  
TREAT**



CANDY, GAMES & PRIZES!  
Sunday, October 29th  
AT 4:00PM-6:00PM

Our Savior's Lutheran  
Church Parking Lot

1111 8th Street S.  
Virginia, MN



Call 218 741-6207 for more information.  
If inclement weather it will be inside the church.

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