October 22, 2023

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Our Savior's Lutheran Church
Virginia, MN
Pastor Liz Cheney

PRELUDE Kristen Weikum

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING SONG ***O God of Every Nation*** **ELW 713**

1 O God of ev'ry nation,
of ev'ry race and land,
redeem your whole creation
with your almighty hand;
where hate and fear divide us
and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us
and heal our strife-torn world.

2 From search for wealth and power
and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower
destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station
and blindness to your way,
deliver ev'ry nation,
eternal God, we pray.

3 Lord, strengthen all who labor
that all may find release
from fear of rattling saber,
from dread of war's increase;
when hope and courage falter,
Lord, let your voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter,
your servants undergird.

4 Keep bright in us the vision
of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division
give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious
when truth and love shall reign,
and Christ shall rule victorious
o'er all the world's domain.

Text: William W. Reid Jr., b. 1923 Text © 1958, ren. 1986 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

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.

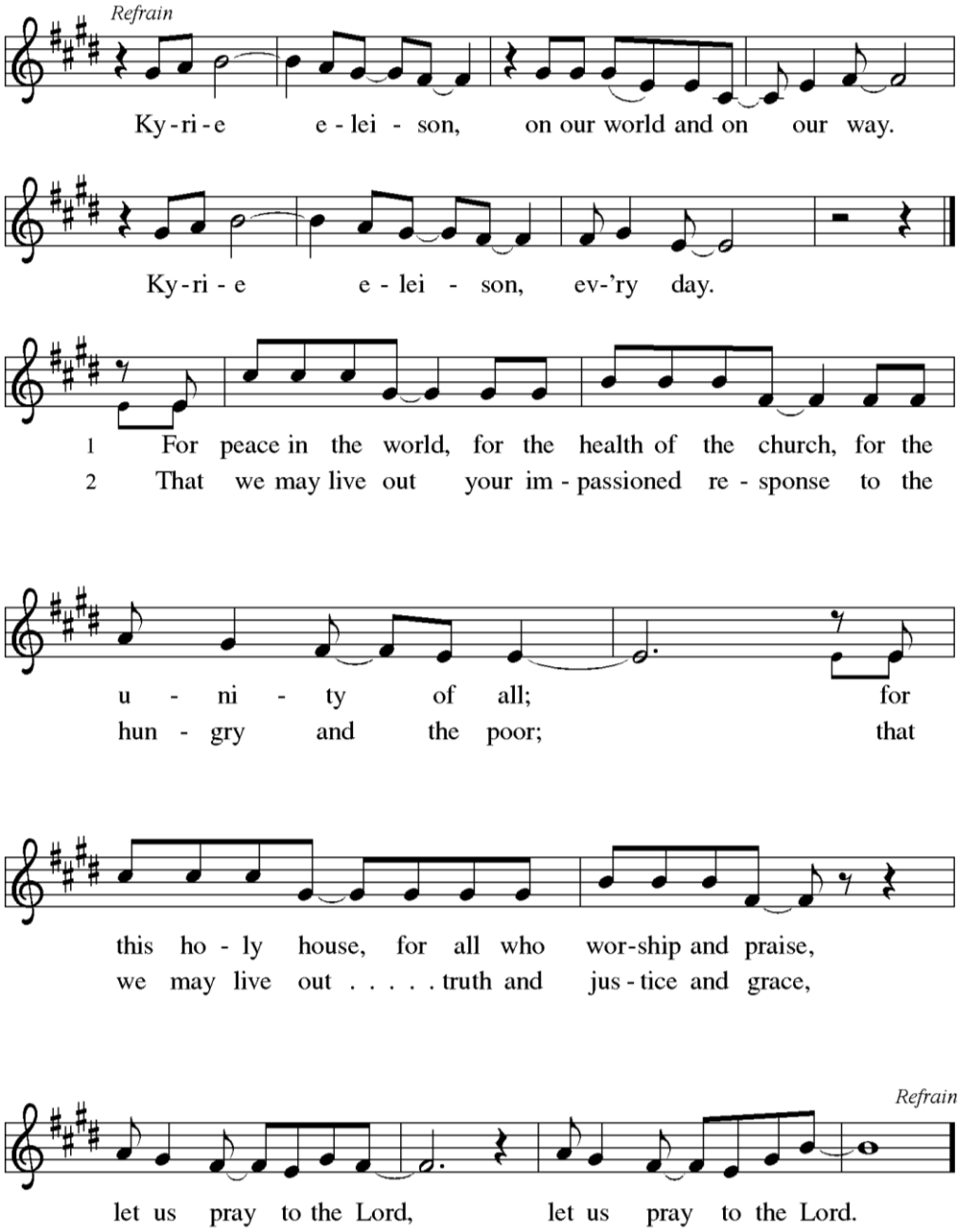
Beloved in Christ,

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)

SONG: ***This Is The Feast…***

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

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

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

PSALM 96:1-13

1Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.
2**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;**
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.
3Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.
4**For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,**
more to be feared than all gods.
5As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.
6**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;**
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.
7Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
8**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;**
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.
9Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.
10**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."
11Let 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.
12**Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD,**
for you come to judge the earth.
13You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

1Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.
2We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers,
constantly 3remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, 5because 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. 6And 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, 7so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8For 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. 9For 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, 10and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.
Word of God. 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 22:15-22

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.

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON Pastor Liz Cheney

HYMN OF THE DAY ***Lift Every Voice and Sing*** **ELW 841**

1 Lift ev'ry voice and sing till earth and heaven ring, ring with the harmonies of liberty. Let our rejoicing rise high as the list'ning skies, let it resound loud as the rolling sea. Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us; sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us; facing the rising sun of our new day begun, let us march on till victory is won.

2 **Stony the road we trod, bitter the chast'ning rod, felt in the days when hope unborn had died; yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet come to the place for which our parents sighed? We have come over a way that with tears has been watered; we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered, out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.**

3 **God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who hast brought us thus far on the way; thou who hast by thy might led us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee; lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee; shadowed beneath thy hand may we forever stand, true to our God, true to our native land.**

Text: James W. Johnson, 1871-1938

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

Rock of Ages ELW 623

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 ***God of Grace and God of Glory*** **ELW 705**

1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days,

3 Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

4 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969

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, Jesse, Tedd, Ed, Karen, Ralph, Diane, Chuck, Sue, Mike, Kate, Matt, Ken, Ruth T., Hermine, Deb L., Matt, 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 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.

CONTACT US

Church Office: 218-741-6207
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www.oslcmn.com
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

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 22, 2023

FAITH FORMATION There will be a brief meeting in the Fireside Room after worship today!

REFORMATION SUNDAY AND PASTOR LIZ'S INSTALLATION **Sunday, Oct. 29th** 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.

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. 29th 4pm – 6pm for our first "Trunk or Treat."** Come a little early if you're helping out! This is a fun event for all ages!

- 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.*

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. 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.

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 - THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE DONATED!

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.**

Lutheran Disaster Response

TAKE YOUR BULLETIN HOME FOR PRAYER, PERSONAL STUDY OF SCRIPTURES AND THE ANNOUNCEMENTS!

NEW TIME! The Finance Team will meet the 1st Wednesday of every month at 5pm for those attending.

NOV. WORSHIP ASSISTANTS The new sheet is on the clipboard in the narthex for signing up to serve.

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!

OSLC INFORMATION: *Thank you for being here today. Parents: As you enter the Sanctuary, to the left, there is an activity tree holding canvas bags with toys & books for your children to use during worship - feel free to use them! Bathrooms are located to the left and down the hall as you exit the sanctuary. During the week, Church Office hours are 10am – 5:00 Mon., Tues., Wed., and Friday. Lunches are usually taken by staff between 12-12:30/12:30-1:00. If you would like to know more about OSLC, call the church office at 218-741-6207 (if we do not answer, leave us a voice message so we can get back to you promptly).*

THIS WEEK @ OSLC - TAKE HOME FOR A REMINDER

FAITH FORMATION: **Today** after worship in the Fireside Room - Grab a coffee & join us!

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

FUN-DUH-MENTALS: **This Wednesday Oct. 25 @ 5:30PM** in the Fireside Room

LISTENING SESSIONS Available! **Call Pastor Liz** or the church office to sign up for a Listening Session if you haven't yet.

Lefse Making Event
Come find out how to make this favorite for the Holidays!
Here – Thurs. Nov. 16th @ 10am

GIVING IS EASY WITH OUR QR CODE
Just scan it with your phone's camera to learn more about contributing to OSLC's Ministries!

God Pause for Friday, October 20, 2023

Matthew 22:15-22 (NRSV)

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

Devotion

“Show me the coin. Whose image is on it?” What a brilliant question our Lord gave in response to those who tried to trick and trap him about paying taxes! On the coin appeared the image of a temporary, earthly emperor. He was powerful, but only for a time. There is another, enduring, eternal image upon and within us, baptized and joined to the crucified and risen Jesus Christ forever. It is this: “Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.” You are held daily by the One who forgives your every sin, who gives you daily sufficient grace and will bring you to the full joy and peace of the heavenly home. So, pay your fair share of taxes, be a good neighbor, and carry out the gift of life in Jesus’ name. “Whose image is upon and within you?” Thanks be to God, it is Jesus Christ, our Savior!

Prayer

Heavenly Father, embrace our lives securely and give us grace to live fully as citizens of this world as well as of your eternal kingdom. In Jesus Name. Amen.

Phil Larson '83 M.Div.