

**October 18, 2020**  
**Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost**

“Why are  
you putting me  
to the test?”



MATTHEW 22:18, NRSV

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## **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.

## **WELCOME**

### **Confession and Forgiveness**

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

## Come Thou Almighty King Elw 408

Come, thou almighty King,  
help us thy name to sing;  
help us to praise;  
Father all-glorious,  
o'er all victorious,  
come and reign over us,  
Ancient of Days.

Come, thou incarnate Word,  
merciful, mighty Lord;  
our prayer attend.  
Come and thy people bless,  
and give thy word success,

and let thy righteousness  
on us descend.

Come, holy Comforter,  
thy sacred witness bear  
in this glad hour!  
Thou who almighty art,  
rule now in ev'ry heart,  
and ne'er from us depart,  
Spirit of pow'r.  
...and ne'er from us depart,  
Spirit of pow'r.

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 96:1-9**

<sup>1</sup>Sing to the LORD a new song;  
sing to the LORD, all the earth.  
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,  
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.

### **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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### **GOSPEL: MATTHEW 22:15-22**

The holy gospel according Matthew. **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.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

### **HOMILY**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

## Something About That Name

**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus**  
**There's just something about**  
**that name**  
**Master, Savior, Jesus**  
**Like the fragrance after the rain.**  
**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus**  
**Let all heaven and Earth**  
**proclaim.**  
**Kings and kingdoms will all pass**  
**away,**  
**But there's something about that**  
**name.**

*Spoken:*

Jesus....  
The mere mention of His name  
can calm the storm, heal the  
broken, raise the dead.  
At the name of Jesus, I've seen sin  
hardened men melted, derelicts  
transformed.  
The lights of hope put in the eyes  
of a hopeless child.  
At the name of Jesus, hatred and  
bitterness turn to love and  
forgiveness, arguments cease.  
The name of Jesus....  
Emperors have tried to destroy it.  
Philosophies have tried to stamp  
it out.  
Tyrants have tried to wash it  
from the face of the Earth with  
the very blood of those who  
claimed it. Yet it still stands.

And there shall be that final day  
when every voice that has ever  
uttered a sound , every voice of  
Adam's race,  
shall raise in one mighty chorus  
to proclaim the name of Jesus.  
For in that day, every knee shall  
bow, every tongue shall confess,  
that Jesus Christ is truly Lord.  
You see, it was not mere chance  
that caused the angel one night,  
long ago to say to a virgin  
maiden,  
"His name, His name shall be  
called Jesus."

Jesus....  
Yes there is something,  
something about that name.....

**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus**  
**There's just something about**  
**that name**  
**Master, Savior, Jesus**  
**Like the fragrance after the rain.**  
**Jesus, Jesus, Jesus**  
**Let all heaven and Earth**  
**proclaim.**  
**Kings and kingdoms will all pass**  
**away,**  
**But there's something about that**  
**name,**  
**The name of Jesus.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*Each prayer petition ends*

You are great, O God, ...

**in mercy, receive our prayers.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

*The gifts we use and share matter! Thank you for sharing your gifts for the sake of the world. Use the green Give button on our church's website to support our mission of nurturing lives for following Christ.*

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE BODY OF CHRIST**

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love.

For your Word of life, O God, we give you thanks and praise.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took a towel and wrapped it around his waist, and washed the disciples' feet, saying: if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet.

And after supper, when he had gone out, Jesus said to the disciples: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.

For where two or three are gathered in the name of Jesus, the body of Christ is present, with us always, to the end of the age.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BLESSING**

Mothering God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you and lead you into the way of truth and life. **Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

**Who You Say I Am**

**Who am I that the highest King,  
would welcome me  
I was lost but He brought me in,  
Oh His love for me  
Oh His love for me  
Who the Son sets free, oh is free  
indeed  
I'm a child of God, yes I am**

**Free at last he has ransomed me,  
His grace runs deep  
While I was a slave to sin, Jesus  
died for me  
Yes He died for me**

**Who the Son sets free, oh is free  
indeed  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am  
In my Father's house, there's a  
place for me  
I'm a child of God, yes I am  
I am chosen not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me  
I am who You say I am**

**I am chosen not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me  
I am who You say I am  
I am who You say I am**

**Who the Son sets free, oh is free**

**indeed  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am  
In my Father's house, there's a  
place for me  
I'm a child of God, yes I am  
In my Father's house, there's a  
place for me  
I'm a child of God, yes I am**

*[INSTRUMENTAL]*

**I am chosen not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me  
I am who You say I am**

**I am chosen not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me  
I am who You say I am**

**I am chosen not forsaken  
I am who You say I am  
You are for me not against me  
I am who You say I am**

**Oh I am who You say I am  
Yes I am who You say I am  
Who the Son sets free, oh is free  
indeed  
I'm a child of God, Yes I am  
In my Father's house, there's a  
place for me  
I'm a child of God, yes I am**

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace, nurturing lives for following Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

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“Come Thou Almighty King”

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