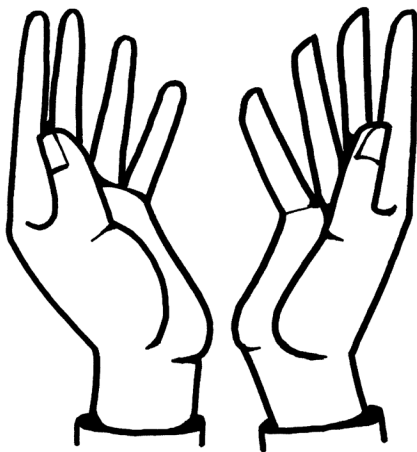




APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH

7092 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061 | 804-693-9098 | www.apostles-elca.org



20th Sunday After Pentecost **SUNDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2022 | 10:00 AM**

Our Mission is to be a Caring Inclusive Christian Community responding to God's grace through Worship, Service, and Sharing the Gospel.



RECONCILING in CHRIST



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

WELCOME TO APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH!

It is an honor to worship God with you this morning. We pray you experience the loving presence of the Spirit as we share our words, our actions, and the Holy Meal.

If you are worshipping with us for the first time, please fill out a card in the pew rack with your contact information. A restroom can be found by exiting the rear door of the worship space. It is directly in front of you to the right. Additional restrooms can be found in the back corner of the fellowship area, near the Pastor's office.

RECONCILING in CHRIST

We, the people of Apostles Lutheran Church, follow Paul's message to the Galatians (3:28): "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Believing that because we are all one in Christ, and created in God's image, all are welcome as beloved children of God. We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us. Rejoicing in God's amazing diversity, we welcome people of all ages, races, gender identities, sexual orientations, and physical and mental abilities. Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to breaking down dividing walls and building a community where all are beloved.

Genuine repentance and pretentious piety stand in stark contrast in the gospel and all around us. All creation stands in need of God's forgiveness. Keep the faith. God's people shall be accounted righteous for Jesus' sake. Our God is merciful to sinners. For this we worship and glorify God forever.



PRELUDE AND SILENT PRAYER

*Martin Luther said of music: "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." Please take a moment to **silence all cell phones**.*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please rise in body or in spirit

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive 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.

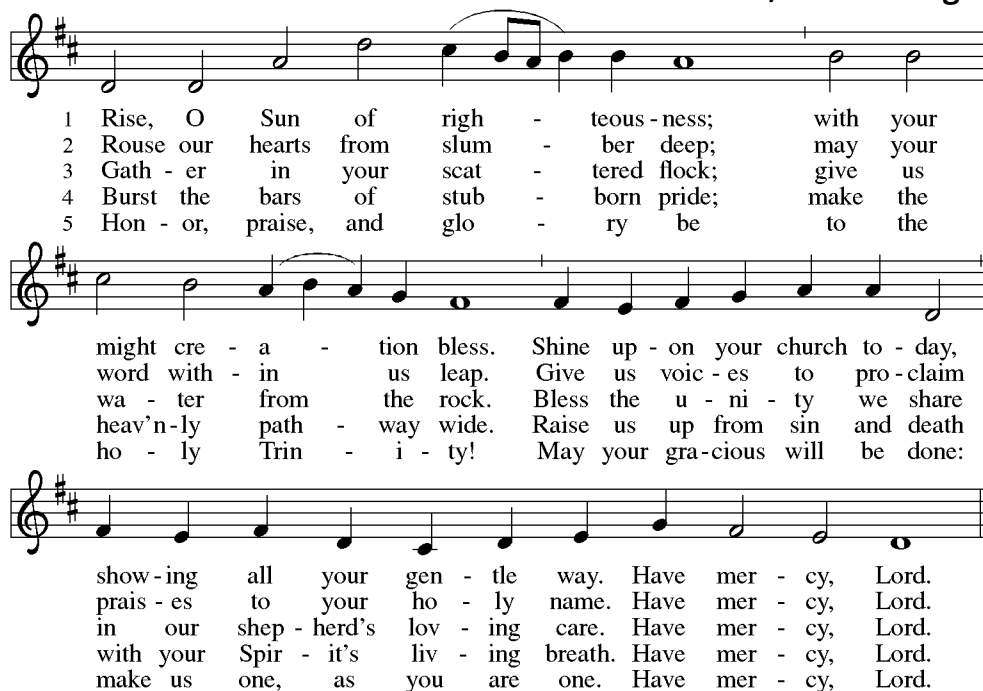
In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #657

"Rise, O Sun of Righteousness"



1 Rise, O Sun of righ - teous - ness; with your
 2 Rouse our hearts from slum - ber deep; may your
 3 Gath - er in your scat - tered flock; give us
 4 Burst the bars of stub - born pride; make the
 5 Hon - or, praise, and glo - ry be to the

might cre - a - tion bless. Shine up - on your church to - day,
 word with - in us leap. Give us voic - es to pro - claim
 wa - ter from the rock. Bless the u - ni - ty we share
 heav'n - ly path - way wide. Raise us up from sin and death
 ho - ly Trin - i - ty! May your gra - cious will be done:

show - ing all your gen - tle way. Have mer - cy, Lord.
 prais - es to your ho - ly name. Have mer - cy, Lord.
 in our shep - herd's lov - ing care. Have mer - cy, Lord.
 with your Spir - it's liv - ing breath. Have mer - cy, Lord.
 make us one, as you are one. Have mer - cy, Lord.

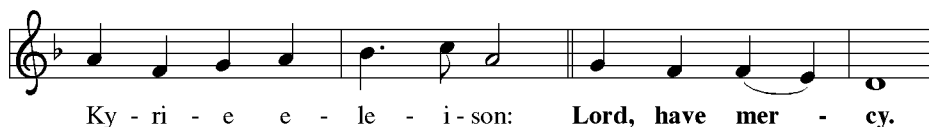
Text: Christian David, et al.; tr. Frank W. Stoldt, b. 1958

Music: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT, Bohemian Brethren, *Kirchengeseng*, 1566

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KYRIE



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Lord, have mer - cy.

Chri - ste e - le - i - son: Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: Lord, have mer - cy.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

³

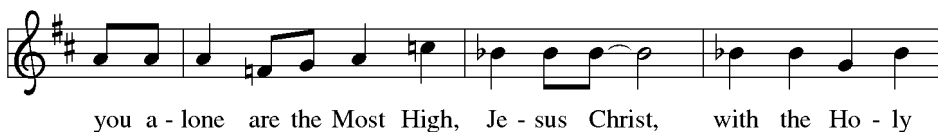
1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we

wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.


Refrain

Glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the high - est;

glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Final refrain



Glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;
 glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on
 earth, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, our righteous judge, daily your mercy surprises us with everlasting forgiveness. Strengthen our hope in you, and grant that all the peoples of the earth may find their glory in you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Sit

FIRST LESSON

JEREMIAH 14:7-10, 19-22

Jerusalem will be defeated

In a time of drought, the people pray for mercy, repenting of their sins and the sins of their ancestors. They appeal to God to remember the covenant, to show forth God's power, and to heal their land by sending life-giving rain.

⁷Although our iniquities testify against us, act, O Lord, for your name's sake; our apostasies indeed are many, and we have sinned against you. ⁸O hope of Israel, its savior in time of trouble, why should you be like a stranger in the land, like a traveler turning aside for the

night? ⁹Why should you be like someone confused, like a mighty warrior who cannot give help? Yet you, O Lord, are in the midst of us, and we are called by your name; do not forsake us!

¹⁰Thus says the Lord concerning this people: Truly they have loved to wander, they have not restrained their feet; therefore the Lord does not accept them, now he will remember their iniquity and punish their sins.

¹⁹Have you completely rejected Judah? Does your heart loathe Zion? Why have you struck us down so that there is no healing for us? We look for peace, but find no good; for a time of healing, but there is terror instead. ²⁰We acknowledge our wickedness, O Lord, the iniquity of our ancestors, for we have sinned against you. ²¹Do not spurn us, for your name's sake; do not dishonor your glorious throne; remember and do not break your covenant with us. ²²Can any idols of the nations bring rain? Or can the heavens give showers? Is it not you, O Lord our God? We set our hope on you, for it is you who do all this.

Response after the First Lesson

Word of the Spirit, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

PSALM 84:1-7

Happy are the people whose strength is in you. (Ps. 84:5)

¹How dear to me ¹ is your dwelling,

O ¹ Lord of hosts!

²**My soul has a desire and longing for the courts ¹ of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the ¹ living God.**

³Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may ¹ lay
her young,

by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king ¹ and my God.

⁴**Happy are they who dwell ¹ in your house!**

They will always be ¹ praising you. R

⁵Happy are the people whose strength ¹ is in you,

whose hearts are set on the ¹ pilgrims' way.

**⁶Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a ¹ place of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with ¹ pools of water.**

⁷They will climb from ¹ height to height,
and the God of gods will be ¹ seen in Zion. **R**

SECOND LESSON

2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8, 16-18

The good fight of faith

The conclusion of this letter to a young minister offers a final perspective on life from one who faced death. Though others let him down, Paul was sure of his faith in the Lord, who stood by him and lent him strength.

⁶As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.

¹⁶At my first defense no one came to my support, but all deserted me. May it not be counted against them! ¹⁷But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion's mouth. ¹⁸The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Response after the Second Lesson

Word of the Spirit, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or in spirit

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



The gospel is announced.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 18th Chapter

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

LUKE 18:9-14

A Pharisee and tax collector pray together

The coming reign of God will involve unexpected reversals of fortune with judgment rooted in mercy. Jesus tells a parable in which the one who humbles himself is exalted and the one who exalts his own righteousness is humbled.

⁹[Jesus] also told this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous and regarded others with contempt:¹⁰“Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. ¹¹The Pharisee, standing by himself, was praying thus, ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: thieves, rogues, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. ¹²I fast twice a week; I give a tenth of all my income.’ ¹³But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’ ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his home justified rather than the other; for all who exalt themselves will be humbled, but all who humble themselves will be exalted.”

The gospel concludes:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

DR. PETE LILJEBERG

Please rise in body or in spirit

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #588

"There's A Wideness In God's Mercy"



1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom-ised grace made good;
3 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea - sures of our mind;
4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some-thing more than all:



there's a kind-ness in God's jus - tice which is more than lib - er - ty.
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing in his blood.
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der - ful - ly kind.
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor - rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
There is grace e - nough for thou - sands of new worlds as great as this;
But we make this love too nar - row by false lim - its of our own;
Make our love, O God, more faith - ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
there is room for fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
and we mag - ni - fy its strict-ness with a zeal God will not own.
and our lives will be thanks - giv - ing for the good-ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.
Music: LORD, REVIVE US, North American, 19th cent.

Please rise in body or in spirit

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 One who made us, dwells in us, and calls us to life, we pray for the world, the church, and all in need ...

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:

God of grace,
hear our prayer.

Into your hands, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unlimited capacity for love and mercy, through your grace.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We share a distanced sign of Peace with our neighbors saying

Peace be with you to which we respond **And also with you.**

Sit

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Offering plates will not be passed around. Please consider giving online or by dropping your offering in the plate at the back of the sanctuary. To give online:

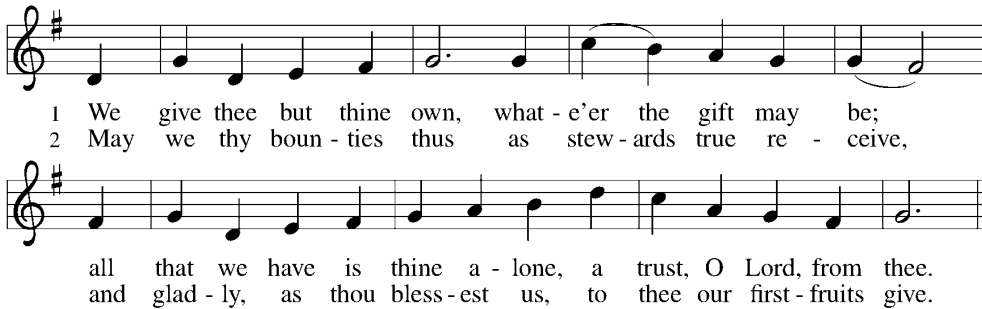
✚ Visit apostles-elca.org/contributions

✚ From your mobile phone, text the word **GIVE** to 844-215-5453

CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING

ELW #686

"We Give Thee but Thine Own"



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

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.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

**Our creator 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.**

CANDLE LIGHTING

During the song, please come forward, if you wish, light a candle and place it in the crossbox.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission back into the world.

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.
Amen.

"Go, My Children, with My Blessing"



- 1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919, alt.

Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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