

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost October 22, 2023

INTROIT

Psalm 121:1-4, 7-8; Antiphon: Psalm 121:5

*The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade on your right hand.*

I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

*My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth.*

*He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.*

*Behold, he who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.*

*The LORD will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.*

*The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time forth and forevermore.*

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*The LORD is your keeper;
the LORD is your shade on your right hand.*

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P *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]♪*

GRADUAL

Psalm 91:11, Psalm 103:1

*He will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.*

*Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and all that is within me, bless his holy name!*

RESPONSE FOR PRAYERS

After each petition:

P *Lord, in Your mercy,*
C **hear our prayer.**

Isaiah 45:1-7 (ESV)

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:

² “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,

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no
other,

besides me there is no God;

I equip you, though you do not
know me,

⁶ 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.

⁷ I form light and create darkness,

I make well-being and create
calamity,

I am the LORD, who does all these
things.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 (ESV)

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians
in God the Father and the Lord Jesus
Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

² We give thanks to God always for
all of you, constantly mentioning you
in our prayers, ³ remembering before
our God and Father your work of faith
and labor of love and steadfastness of
hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we
know, brothers loved by God, that he
has chosen you, ⁵ 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. ⁶ 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, ⁷ so that
you became an example to all the
believers in Macedonia and in Achaia.
⁸ 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. ⁹ 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, ¹⁰ and to wait
for his Son from heaven, whom he
raised from the dead, Jesus who
delivers us from the wrath to come.

Matthew 22:15-22 (ESV)

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” ¹⁸ But Jesus,

aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰ And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” ²¹ 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.” ²² When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Proper 24 A

Isaiah 45:1–7

1 Thessalonians 1:1–10

Matthew 22:15–22

We Are Recreated in the Image of God by the Cross of Christ

Plotting against Jesus, the Pharisees attempted “*to entangle Him in His talk*” by asking about the payment of taxes to Caesar (Matt. 22:15). The Lord pointed to coins required for the tax, and He answered that we should “*render to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s*” (Matt. 22:21). But if coins bearing the image of Caesar should be rendered to him, then man—who is made in the image of God—must be rendered to the Lord. That tax is paid for us by the Lord Jesus, the Image of God in the flesh, by His self-offering on the Cross. And from His Cross, as the Lord’s anointed, He reigns as the true Caesar over all nations “*from the rising of the sun and from the west*” (Is. 45:6). The Lord once called and anointed Cyrus “*to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings*” (Is. 45:1). Now by the preaching of the Gospel, “*in power and in the Holy Spirit*” (1 Thess. 1:4), foreigners from all over the world are “*turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God*” (1 Thess. 1:9–10).

Our family and friends are with us in life but they can't shield us from life and all its uncertainty. Where will you find security? Hear Rev. Dr. Michael Zeigler’s message entitled “**What Are People Good For?**” based on Psalm 46:1 next Sunday on The Lutheran Hour on 620/am at 7:30 AM (SK) or 940/am at 9:00 AM (SK) or 1250/am at 10:30 AM (MB) or Streaming audio and pod-casts at www.lutheranhour.ca.

Next Week’s Readings from God’s Word:

October 29 Reformation Sunday

Revelation 14:6-7; Psalm 46 (v.7); Romans 3:19-28;

Matthew 11:12-19 or John 8:31-36

WHAT LUTHERANS BELIEVE

THE BIBLE – We believe that EVERY word in the Bible is inspired by God, and therefore the whole Bible is the true, unalterable Word of God, clearly teaching the way of salvation. (2Ti. 3:15-17).

GOD – We believe that God is ONE (Dt. 6:4) and that He has revealed Himself in three distinct Persons (Mt. 3:13-17), the Father, our Creator and Preserver; the Son, Jesus, Who is both God and Man, and our only Saviour; the Holy Spirit, Who creates faith in our hearts and enables us to live a God-pleasing life.

MAN – We believe that God created man with body and soul, in His image, but man of his own free will lost this image through sin. (Gn. 1:27; 2:7; 3.)

SIN – “Sin is the transgression of the Law.” (1Jn 3:4). There are two kinds of sin: original (inherited) sin (Ps. 51:5) and actual sin (sin in thought, word and deed) (Mt. 15:19). Man is subject to death and eternal damnation by reason of the guilt that attaches to sin.

REDEMPTION – We believe that God out of pure love and mercy redeemed mankind from sin through the all-sufficient sacrifice of His only Son, Jesus, and His resurrection shows that God was satisfied with the work of Christ. (Jn 3:16; 1Jn 2:2; Ro. 4:25).

FAITH – We believe that the sinner must personally receive the merits of Jesus for salvation and trust that, “Jesus died for me.” (Jn 17:3; Ja 1:21; Ps. 31:14).

THE CHURCH – We believe that the church, established by Christ is the whole number of believers in Christ, for only believers are members of the church. Jesus Christ is its one and only foundation (Ep. 2:19-22). The church is found wherever the Gospel of Jesus Christ is preached and the Sacraments are administered according to Christ’s institution.

SACRAMENTS – We believe that Christ instituted two sacraments, and when Baptism is administered to infants and adults, according to the command of Christ, God offers His grace and forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16). In the Lord’s Supper communicants receive in, with and under the bread and wine also Christ’s body and blood. Communicants believing this word of promise receive this for the forgiveness of sins (1Co. 11:24-25).

SECOND COMING OF CHRIST – We believe that Christ will return visibly to earth (Acts 1:11) on the Last Day (Mk. 13:32) to judge the world (Acts 10:42). The believers will go to heaven, to be with God forever (1Th. 4:13-18). The unbelievers will go to hell, eternally separated from God (Mt. 25:32, 46).

RESURRECTION – We believe that on the Last Day believers in Christ will rise from the dead, their souls reunited with their earthly bodies and glorified by Christ (Jn 14:19; 17:24).