

# Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

October 22, 2023



## Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church

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## THE SERVICE – SETTING ONE

**THREAD:** *Christian life values godly government.*

### Hymn: O Lord of Nations

CW 773



1 O Lord of na - tions, hear our prayer. We thank you for this  
2 For farms and fields of gold - en grain, for sci - ence and for  
3 Most grate - ful, gra - cious God, are we that in this coun - try  
4 For - give us, Lord, when we for - get your gifts to share, your



land most fair, cre - at - ed by your might,  
med - i - cine, for wealth be - yond com - pare,  
we are free to wor - ship you a - bove.  
Word to spread to those who ache and bleed.



for moun - tain sun - set, lake at dawn, for wood - land bloom and  
for lei - sure time and work to do— Lord, all these bless - ings  
We gath - er here to speak your name, then leave this place to  
Re - new our will to help the weak, to feed the hun - gry,



rob - in song, for stars that lace the night,  
come from you, signs of your lov - ing care.  
spread your fame that all may know your love.  
and to speak your Word to souls in need.

- 5 And for the leaders you ordained  
we pray, O Lord, that they remain  
courageous, honest, wise.  
O give them guidance, make them strong  
to stand for right, to battle wrong,  
that freedom's song may rise.
- 6 When storm and terror strike our land,  
remove our fear and help us stand  
against our enemies.  
Lord, may no wicked men prevail.  
May ev'ry plot of treach'ry fail.  
May we remain at peace.
- 7 And when at last all nations fall  
and you return as Lord of all  
to make the earth anew,  
then may we join that shining band  
of saints from ev'ry tribe and land  
and make our home with you.

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In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Confession

CW 154

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature**

**and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

*Silence for meditation and reflection*

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Lord, Have Mercy

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## Glory Be to God on High

CW 157



Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.



We praise you, we bless you, we wor - ship you, we glorify you,



we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,  
 God the Fa-ther Al - mighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;  
 O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sin of the world;  
 have mercy on us. You take away the sin of the world; re-ceive our prayer.  
 You sit at the right hand of God the Father; have mercy on us.  
 For you on-ly are holy; you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the  
 Ho-ly Spirit, are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

## THE WORD

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

### Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, so govern the nations on earth and direct the affairs of this world that your church may worship you in peace and joy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

### First Reading

*Daniel 1:3–21*

*We know them as Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. They were carried off into exile by the conquering Babylonians and willingly served their government. Resolving to not defile themselves for the government, they committed themselves not to give their rulers that which belonged to God. Instead, they offered an alternative that allowed them to obey government and God.*

<sup>3</sup>Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility—<sup>4</sup>young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. <sup>5</sup>The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

<sup>6</sup>Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. <sup>7</sup>The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Beltshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

<sup>8</sup>But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. <sup>9</sup>Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, <sup>10</sup>but the official told Daniel, “I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you.”

<sup>11</sup>Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, <sup>12</sup>“Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. <sup>13</sup>Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.” <sup>14</sup>So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

<sup>15</sup>At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. <sup>16</sup>So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

<sup>17</sup>To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

<sup>18</sup>At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. <sup>19</sup>The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king’s service. <sup>20</sup>In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

<sup>21</sup>And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm: Give the LORD Glory and Honor

Psalm 96B

### Refrain



### Tone



Sing to the LORD a / new song;  
sing to the LORD, / all the earth.  
Sing to the LORD, / praise his name;  
proclaim his salvation day / after day.

Declare his glory among the / nations,  
his marvelous deeds among all / peoples.  
Worship the LORD in the splendor of his / holiness;  
tremble before him, / all the earth. **Refrain**

Let the heavens rejoice, let the / earth be glad;  
let the sea resound, and all that / is in it.  
Let the fields be jubilant, and every- / thing in them;  
let all the trees of the forest / sing for joy.

Let all creation rejoice before the LORD, / for he comes,  
he comes to / judge the earth.  
He will judge the world in / righteousness  
and the peoples in his / faithfulness.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. Refrain**

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## Second Reading

Romans 13:1–7

*Paul makes it clear that everyone is to be subject to government. It is not a choice for the Christian, but a submission to the will of God. Our obedience is not contingent on the government being good – certainly not that of the Roman Empire. However, they carried out the job for which God established government: punished wrongdoers, provided security and provided roads (on which the gospel traveled). Knowing God’s plan for the world, Christians will pay, pray and obey.*

<sup>1</sup>Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. <sup>2</sup>Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. <sup>3</sup>For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. <sup>4</sup>For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. <sup>5</sup>Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

<sup>6</sup>This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. <sup>7</sup>Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

Colossians 2:10

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

In Christ you have been brought to fullness.

**He is the head over every power and authority.**

**Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

## Gospel

Matthew 22:15–22

*The Pharisees and the Herodians combined to try to trap Jesus on the issue of taxes. God uses his answer to tell us what it means to be citizens of the kingdom of God and the citizens of the kingdom of the world at the same time. As citizens of the earthly kingdom, we render to government what is required of us, because it is God’s will. As citizens of his kingdom, we are called to give to God what is God’s.*

<sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. <sup>16</sup>They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. <sup>17</sup>Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?”

<sup>18</sup>But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? <sup>19</sup>Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, <sup>20</sup>and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?”

<sup>21</sup>“Caesar’s,” they replied.

Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

<sup>22</sup>When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

# Hymn of the Day: Praise the Almighty; My Soul, Adore Him

CW 619



1 Praise the Al - might - y; my soul, a - dore him!  
 2 Pen - i - tent sin - ners, for mer - cy cry - ing,  
 3 Trust not in princ - es, they are but mor - tal;  
 4 Praise, all you peo - ple, the name so ho - ly



Yes, I will laud him un - til death. With songs and  
 par - don and peace from him ob - tain; ev - er the  
 earth-born they are and soon de - cay. Vain are their  
 of him who does such won-drous things! All that has



an - thems I'll come be - fore him as long as  
 wants of the poor sup - ply - ing, their faith - ful  
 coun - sels at life's last por - tal when the dark  
 be - ing, to praise him sole - ly, with hap - py



he al - lows me breath. From him my life and  
 God he will re - main. He helps his chil - dren  
 grave will claim its prey. Since, then, no one can  
 heart its a - men sings! Chil - dren of God, with



all things came; bless, O my soul, his ho - ly  
 in dis - tress, the wid - ows and the fa - ther -  
 help af - ford, trust on - ly Christ, our God and  
 an - gel host praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



name. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 less. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ghost! Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

## Sermon

Romans 13:1-7

### Submit to the Authorities, for they are God's Servants

- A. Who is really in charge?
- B. Remember who is really in charge
  - How does this comfort us in the face of evil done by governments?
  - What does remembering who is in charge lead us to do?
  - What if the government orders us to do something sinful?
- C. Give thanks for the good God works through the Authorities
  - What good does God work through the government?
  - How can we express our thanks?

*Sermon by Rev. Gregg Bitter, adapted. Used by permission*

*Ministering Elder: Mark Harris*

## **Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **Prayer of the Church**

Almighty God and Father, we thank you for all your mercies, especially for the gift of your Son, through whom you have revealed your gracious will. We praise you for the Holy Spirit and his working through the means of grace.  
**Plant your Word in our hearts, and cause it to produce fruit in our lives.**

Strengthen and defend your Church, that by your Word and sacraments faith may grow and love toward all may increase.

**Support all who spread the light of your truth throughout the world.**

Keep our children in the grace of their baptisms. Enable their parents to train them in lives of faith.

**Raise up Christians to serve you in the ministry of the Word and in all godly walks of life.**

Preserve our nation in justice and honor. Guide and bless all who make, administer, and judge our laws.

**Give them wisdom that they may promote justice and hinder evil.**

Let your blessing rest on planting and harvest, commerce and industry, medicine and science, the arts and culture.

Protect all who travel, and care for those whose work is difficult or dangerous.

**Be with all who devote themselves to any useful task.**

Comfort all who are in sorrow or need, sickness or adversity. Remember those who suffer persecution for the faith.

Have mercy on those for whom death draws near.

**Grant them your love, and take them into your tender care.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

... Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

*Silent prayer*

We remember with thanksgiving those who have loved and served you, who now rest from their labors. Console those who are mourning or living with sadness.

**Keep us in the true faith, and bring us at last to the joys of heaven.**

Grant us these things, Father, for the sake of Jesus, who died and rose again.

**Amen.**

**Offering** – *The mail at church is being collected. Offerings may be mailed to:*

*Peace Ev. Lutheran Church, 200 E. Beidler Road, King of Prussia, PA 19406*



Let us pray:

God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Lord's Prayer

**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.**

**Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours  
now and forever. Amen.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.

**Amen.**

## Hymn: God Bless Our Native Land

CW 774



1 God bless our na - tive land; firm may she ev - er stand  
2 For her our prayers shall rise to God a - bove the skies;



thro' storm and night! When the wild tem - pests rave, Rul - er of  
on him we wait. Thou who art ev - er nigh, guard - ing with



wind and wave, do thou our coun - try save by thy great might.  
watch - ful eye, to thee a - loud we cry: God save the state!

## Silent prayer – Announcements

### Acknowledgments:

Setting One from Christian Worship

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