



FOR TO ME, CHRIST AND TO
TO LIVE IS DIE IS GAIN.

PHILIPPIANS 1:21, NIV

RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH
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SIXTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 19 & 20, 2020 – 6:00 PM & 8:00 AM

A warm welcome to all worshipping with Resurrection Lutheran Church today. In May of 2020, Resurrection Lutheran Church celebrated forty-two years of ministry. Celebrating our Savior's love continues today in the faithful gathering of God's people, whether we are together in God's house or as you watch online from the comfort of your home.

LESSONS AND LITURGY TODAY

Holy Scripture is overflowing with the theme of grace – God's undeserved Favor. Without our merit or labor, God freely grants us faith, forgiveness, and Everlasting Life. Mysteriously, God's Grace comes to each of us generously, even without our effort. God's Ways are not our ways; and God's generosity is sometimes beyond human comprehension. God, indeed, grants Abundant Grace.

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be celebrated at this worship service. All who are baptized in the name of the Triune God (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) and who affirm the following are welcome to come forward to receive it:

- I am a fallen and sinful person in need of God's forgiveness;
- The Sacrament is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine instituted by Christ Himself for us to eat and to drink;
- In the Sacrament, everyone who believes the words "Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins," receives forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

At Resurrection Lutheran Church children who are baptized as infants are instructed so that they may receive Holy Communion understanding what it is we are looking for, and why we are coming. Newcomers to Resurrection Lutheran Church receive the opportunity for in-depth catechetical instruction. If you and/or your children of any age are not prepared to receive the Lord's Supper with this same statement of faith, you are requested to refrain from receiving Holy Communion at this time. We do, however, welcome you and the members of your family to come forward to receive a blessing. Please either stand still with head bowed or fold your arms across your body as a sign to receive the verbal blessing.

Grape juice is available in the center of each tray of individual cups for those who cannot tolerate wine; and gluten free wafers are also available in the center of the paten, if needed. If you have any questions, please speak with an usher.

❖ Denotes times when the congregation is invited to stand.

The congregation is encouraged to quietly and prayerfully prepare for worship during the prelude.

PRELUDE

(6:00) *Es Ist Das Heil Uns Kommen Her* – D. Buxtehude

(8:00) *A Grand Celebration* – D. K. Hakes

Heavenly Handbells

WELCOME

❖ INVOCATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P The LORD is my light and my salvation;

C whom shall I fear?

P The LORD is the stronghold of my life;

C of whom shall I be afraid?

P Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;

C be gracious to me and answer me! *(Psalm 27:1, 7)*

❖ CONFESSION OF SINS AND GOOD NEWS OF FORGIVENESS

P Almighty God,

C We confess to You that our ways and thoughts are corrupted by the sinfulness that pervades our whole being. We are by nature sinful and unclean. We hear in the Gospel that You are Kind, Full of Love, and Always Forgiving. Your Ways and Thoughts are beyond our comprehension, but not beyond our faith in Your Promises made sure through the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ Jesus our Lord.

C Have mercy on us, O God, forgive our sins, and fill us with Your Holy Spirit, that we may gladly follow where Jesus leads.

P Almighty God, Who is filled with compassion, hears your humble confession and speaks to you words of abundant pardon.
Therefore, as a Called and ordained 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.

C Amen.

❖ **KYRIE**

P In response to Your Word, we seek You.

C Have mercy, O Lord.

P In answer to Your Call, we cry out to You.

C Have mercy, O Christ.

P Enlivened by Your Gospel Promises, we return to You.

C Have mercy, O Lord. Abundantly pardon us. In Your Great Compassion, grant us Your Peace. Amen.

MUSICAL OFFERING, ENTRANCE HYMN

Rejoice, My Heart, Be Glad and Sing

Psalm 27

LSB 737, vs. 1-2, 7

(Sung by soloist)

**1. Rejoice, my heart, be glad and sing, A cheerful trust maintain;
For God, the source of ev'rything, Your portion shall remain.**

**2. He is your treasure, He your joy, Your life and light and Lord,
Your counselor when doubts annoy, Your shield and great reward.**

**7. Upon your lips, then, lay your hand, And trust His guiding love;
Then like a rock your peace shall stand Here and in heav'n above.**

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❖ **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Lord God, Heavenly Father, since we cannot stand before You relying on anything we have done,

C **help us trust in Your Abiding Grace and live according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT

Isaiah 55:6-9

(Those who forsake their sinful ways and return to the Lord in faith will find God's compassion and pardon.)

Seek the LORD while He may be found;
call on Him while He is near.

Let the wicked forsake his way and the
evil man his thoughts.

Let him turn to the LORD, and He will
have mercy on him, and to our God, for
He will freely pardon.

"For My Thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways My Ways,"
declares the LORD.

"As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are My Ways higher than your ways
and My Thoughts than your thoughts."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

(Paul reminds us that our faith is tested and purified through suffering.)

Now I want you to know, brothers, that
what has happened to me has really served
to advance the Gospel.

As a result, it has become clear
throughout the whole palace guard and to
everyone else that I am in chains for
Christ.

Because of my chains, most of the
brothers in the Lord have been
encouraged to speak the Word of God
more courageously and fearlessly.
For I know that through your prayers and
the help given by the Spirit of Jesus
Christ, what has happened to me will turn
out for my deliverance.

I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now, as always, Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me.

Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two:

I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith,

so that through my being with you again your joy in Christ Jesus will overflow on account of me.

Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the Gospel without being frightened in any way by those who oppose you.

This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved--and that by God.

For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe on Him, but also to suffer for Him, since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

❖ **ALLELUIA AND VERSE** – arr. J. Ferguson

(Sung by soloist)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

❖ **HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 20:1-16

(Jesus tells the parable of the workers in the vineyard to show God's Generosity.)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twentieth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

"For the Kingdom of Heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard.

He agreed to pay them a denarius for the day and sent them into his vineyard.

"About the third hour he went out and saw others standing in the marketplace doing nothing.

He told them,

'You also go and work in my vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.'

So they went.

"He went out again about the sixth hour and the ninth hour and did the same thing.

About the eleventh hour he went out and found still others standing around.

He asked them,

'Why have you been standing here all day long doing nothing?'

"'Because no one has hired us,' they answered.

"He said to them,

'You also go and work in my vineyard.'

"When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his foreman,

'Call the workers and pay them their wages, beginning with the last ones hired and going on to the first.'

"The workers who were hired about the eleventh hour came and each received a denarius.

So when those came who were hired first, they expected to receive more.

But each one of them also received a denarius.

When they received it, they began to grumble against the landowner.

'These men who were hired last worked only one hour,' they said,

'and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the work and the heat of the day.'

"But he answered one of them,

'Friend, I am not being unfair to you.

Didn't you agree to work for a denarius?

Take your pay and go.

I want to give the man who was hired last the same as I gave you.

Don't I have the right to do what I want with my own money?

Or are you envious because I am generous?'

"So the last will be first, and the first will be last."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

MUSICAL OFFERING, HYMN OF THE DAY

Hark, the Voice of Jesus Calling

LSB 827, vs. 1-3

(Sung by soloist)

- 1. Hark, the voice of Jesus calling, “Who will go and work today?
Fields are white and harvests waiting—Who will bear the sheaves away?”
Loud and long the Master calleth; Rich reward He offers thee.
Who will answer, gladly saying, “Here am I, send me, send me”?**

- 2. Some take up His task in morning, To their Lord responding soon;
Some are called in heat of midday, Others late in afternoon;
Even as the sun is setting, Some are sent into the fields,
There to gather in the bounty That God’s Word so richly yields.**

- 3. For as rain and snow from heaven Water seeds in dusty soil,
Causing them to bud and flower, Giving bread to those who toil;
So the Lord sends forth His promise, Words of life and joy and peace—
Never void to Him returning, Bearing fruit with great increase.**

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SERMON The “Friendship” Epistle, 1: Advancing Together Pastor Jonathan Blanke

Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30

(Sermon notes on page 15)



APOSTLES’ CREED

**C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Maker of Heaven and earth.
And 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 sits at the Right Hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence 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.

GREETING OF PEACE

P The Peace of the Lord be with you.
C And also with you.

All are invited to greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3)
Any gesture accompanying this greeting (wave, hand over heart with slight bow, or handshake) is welcome.

OFFERING

(The offerings of God's people will be received through electronic giving, and in baskets located in the Narthex.)

MUSICAL OFFERING, OFFERTORY HYMN

Take My Life and Let it Be

LSB 784, vs. 1-2, 4-5
(Sung by soloist)

1. Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
2. Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee.
4. Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

**5. Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own, It shall be Thy royal throne.**

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❖ **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

P Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

After each additional petition:

P Lord, in Your Mercy,
C **Hear our prayer.**

P Into Your Hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your Mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

P Remembering what He won for us by His obedient Life and Life-giving Death, and proclaiming His Resurrection and Ascension, we pray that You gather Your Church, O Lord, and bring us together at last that, with the saints above and all who confess You here, we may begin the Marriage Supper of the Lamb in His Kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ Who has taught us to pray:

❖ **LORD'S PRAYER**

C **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**

+ SACRAMENT +

❖ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took, bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ Body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

P In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ Blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." (*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1Corinthians 11:23-25*)

❖ PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST

P As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

C **Christ has died.**

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Maintaining physical space of 6 feet behind and to the side of each communicant (small children may stand with parents), please follow usher instructions to enter the central aisle and approach the distribution area. There are six small tables between the pews and chancel area. Worshippers sitting on the left side of the sanctuary (facing the altar) will turn left to commune, and those sitting on the right side will turn to the right. Having removed your mask, please approach the first table corresponding to the side of the sanctuary where you are seated. It contains a large paten for communion host (gluten free wafers are available in the middle of the paten). Receive the host while standing to the side of these tables. Upon receiving the host, please approach the tray of individual cups at the worship leader's guiding and receive the wine to the side of the table. Empty cups are placed in the tray or basket on the third table. We recommend removing your mask to receive Holy Communion by touching ear loops or head straps only.

MUSICAL OFFERING,

MUSIC DURING THE CELEBRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

(8:00) *Aria* – M. Helman

Heavenly Handbells

**1. For me to live is Jesus, To die is gain for me;
So when my Savior pleases, I meet death willingly.**

**2. For Christ, my Lord, my brother, I leave this world so dim
And gladly seek another, Where I shall be with Him.**

**6. And so to Thee still cleaving When death shall come to me,
I fall asleep believing And wake in heav'n with Thee!**

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**1. Praise to You and adoration, Blessèd Jesus, Son of God,
Who, to serve Your own creation, Came to share our flesh and blood.
Guide me that I never may From Your fold or pastures stray,
But with zeal and joy exceeding Follow where Your steps are leading.**

**2. Hold me ever in Your keeping; Comfort me in pain and strife.
In my laughter and my weeping Be with me throughout my life.
Give me greater love for You, And my faith and hope renew
In Your birth, Your life, and passion, In Your death and resurrection.**

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❖ **DISMISSAL BLESSING**

P The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body
and soul to Life Everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.
C **Amen.**

❖ **BENEDICTION**

P The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His Face to shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
C **Amen.**

MUSICAL OFFERING, CLOSING HYMN

Lord of All Hopefulness

LSB 738
(Sung by soloist)

1. Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
2. Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
3. Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
4. Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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P Go in peace and serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Es Ist Das Heil Uns Kommen Her – J. S. Bach

**Worshippers should await usher instructions before exiting the sanctuary.
We will dismiss by rows, starting in the back.**

Acknowledgments

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Servants in Worship

Preacher.....Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke
Liturgist.....Vicar Alan Shaw
Organist/Pianist/Director.....Robert E. Unger, Director of Worship and Music Ministry

(6:00)

Coordinator.....Deb Gebbia
Lector.....Linda Crandall
Vocalist..... Rebecca Melland-Kuo, Barbara Moll
Usher.....Tom Gebbia, Jason Moll
Altar Care.....Donna Krupcale
Greeters.....Jamee Thieme, Deb Oesterling

(8:00)

Lector.....Sandy Brummeyer
Vocalist.....Rebecca Melland-Kuo
Ushers.....Bill & Jan Boyer
Altar Care.....Linda Rhoden
Greeter.....Deb Oesterling

The “Friendship” Epistle, 1: Advancing Together (Philippians 1:12–14; 19–30)
Proper 20/Series A

This week begins a new focus on the book of Philippians, often referred to as St. Paul’s “letter of friendship” to this Macedonian congregation (see Acts 16:9-12). St. Paul’s joy, an outcome of “the Spirit of Jesus Christ” at work in him, would advance the cause of the Gospel despite his status as a prisoner, isolated in captivity. He was not alone! And neither are we.

- I. The Advance of the _____ of _____ amid _____ “_____”
 - a. Who is “Lord and Savior” ... Jesus or the Roman emperor?
 - b. St. Paul marvels that not only do others speak the Word “without fear” due to his imprisonment, “the whole imperial guard” has come to know of his allegiance to Christ (1:12–14); who is in charge...Caesar or Jesus?!
 - c. What are some of the challenges to Christians in our culture today? How are they an opportunity for the Gospel of Christ to actually *advance* in the lives of God’s people?
- II. The Advance of _____ in the Face of _____
 - a. The ministry of St. Paul to the people of Philippi is detailed in Acts 16; in this letter, we find them caring for their former leader (cf. 4:18) in a way the reciprocates the dedication of St. Paul to them (1:25).
 - b. What a stark contrast with the “dead end” of those who live according to the “god” of the belly (3:19).
 - c. True and lasting joy is found in Jesus Christ, who humbled Himself to suffer even death on a cross that He might be raised and live in us! Even in the middle of bodily suffering (and even sadness), this undying *joy* is ours!
- III. The Advance of _____ Amid _____
 - a. We are not interested in unity for unity’s sake, but “striving together for the faith of the gospel” (1:27); the Body of Christ is composed of many different members, but the head of the Body is Christ Himself (1 Cor. 12:12-21)
 - b. Wherever people of conviction gather there will be conflict; the question is, what can and what will God *do* with that conflict?
 - c. Professor Gordon Fee (paraphrasing 2 Cor. 5:11–21): “The Gospel is all about reconciliation. Unreconciled people don’t advertise it well.”
 - d. Our “glory” is in the Spirit of Christ within us, through whom we are all given to suffer together for His sake
- IV. Activity: Choose a Way to Affirm Either Joy or Unity in the Faith This Week