



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

PHILIPPIANS 1:21, NIV

**Today's Worship**  
16th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 20, 2020

**Resurrection Lutheran Church**, 100 Lochmere Drive W., Cary, NC 27518  
[www.rlcary.org](http://www.rlcary.org) (919) 851-7248

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.

**The Welcome and Sharing of the Peace**

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

***Musical Offering, Opening Song: Let it Rise***

***Verse 1***

*Let the glory of the Lord rise among us*  
*Let the glory of the Lord rise among us*  
*Let the praises of the King rise among us*  
*Let it rise*

***Chorus***

*O-O-O let it rise*  
*O-O-O let it rise*

***Verse 2***

*Let the songs of the Lord rise among us*  
*Let the songs of the Lord rise among us*  
*Let the joy of the King rise among us*  
*Let it rise*

***Chorus***

***Verse 1***

***Chorus***

**The Invocation**

**P** In the Name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen

**The Confession of Sins and Good News of Forgiveness**

**P** Gracious Heavenly Father,  
**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,**

**C** but not beyond our faith in Your Promises made sure through the Life, Death, and Resurrection of Christ Jesus our Lord. 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.

***Musical Offering, Song of Praise: Hosanna (Praise is Rising)***

**Verse 1**

*Praise is rising eyes are turning to You  
We turn to You  
Hope is stirring, hearts are yearning for You  
We long for You*

**Pre-Chorus**

*'Cause when we see You  
We find strength to face the day  
In Your Presence all our fears are washed away  
Washed away*

**Chorus**

*Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na  
You are the God who saves us  
Worthy of all our praises  
Ho-san-na, Ho-san-na  
Come have Your way among us  
We welcome You here Lord Jesus*

**Verse 2**

*Hear the sound of hearts returning to You  
We turn to You  
In Your Kingdom broken lives are made new  
You make us new*

**Pre-Chorus**

**Chorus**

**The Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 55:6-9**

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."

**The New Testament Epistle – Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30**

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 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.

### **The Holy Gospel – Matthew 20:1-16**

"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.

### **The Children's Message – Robert E. Unger, Director of Worship and Music Ministry**

#### ***Musical Offering, Song of the Day: In Christ Alone***

##### ***Verse 1***

*In Christ alone my hope is found  
He is my light, my strength, my song  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground  
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease  
My Comforter, my All in All  
Here in the love of Christ I stand*

## **Verse 2**

*In Christ alone, who took on flesh  
Fullness of God in helpless babe  
This gift of love and righteousness  
Scorned by the ones He came to save  
Till on that cross as Jesus died  
The wrath of God was satisfied  
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid  
Here in the death of Christ I live*

## **Verse 3**

*There in the ground His body lay  
Light of the world by darkness slain  
Then, bursting forth in glorious Day  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ  
Up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory  
Sin's curse has lost its grip on me  
For I am His and He is mine  
Bought with the precious blood of Christ*

## **Verse 4**

*No guilt in life, no fear in death  
This is the pow'r of Christ in me  
From life's first cry to final breath  
Jesus commands my destiny  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man  
Can ever pluck me from His hand  
Till He returns or calls me home  
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!*

## **The Message – Pastor Jonathan Blanke**

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 imperials 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 \_\_\_\_\_
- 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 that reciprocates the dedication of St. Paul to them (1:25).
  - What a stark contrast with the “dead end” of those who live according to the “god” of the belly (3:19).
  - 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 \_\_\_\_\_
- 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)
  - Wherever people of conviction gather there will be conflict; the question is, what can and what will God *do* with that conflict?
  - Professor Gordon Fee (paraphrasing 2 Cor. 5:11–21): “The Gospel is all about reconciliation. Unreconciled people don’t advertise it well.”
  - 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

### The Apostle’s 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.**

### The Prayers of the Church

*After each additional petition:*

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

## **The 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

## **The Benediction**

### ***Musical Offering, Closing Song: Rise Up and Praise Him***

#### ***Verse***

*Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad  
Let the people of God sing His praise all over the land  
Everyone in the valley, come and lift your voice  
All those on the mountaintop be glad and shout for joy*

#### ***Chorus***

*Rise up and praise Him  
He deserves our love  
Rise up and praise Him  
Worship the Holy One  
With all your heart with all your soul  
With all your might*

#### ***Repeat Chorus***

#### ***Ending***

*Rise up and praise Him!*

## **Offering**

(The offerings of Gods people will be received through electronic giving, by postal mail and in baskets located in the FLC lobby)

**P** Go in peace and serve the Lord!

**C** **Thanks be to God!**

***In Service Today:***

Keyboards/Vocals: Christopher Reed

Vocalist: Deb Oesterling

Sound Technician: Jason Piontek

Video Tech: David Webb

Coordinator: Mike Heffner

Proclaimer: Pastor Jonathan Blanke

Liturgist: Vicar Alan Shaw

Lay Reader: Suzi Heffner

Ushers: Steve Meyer

Greeters: Benjamin Heffner,  
Kathy Rasmussen