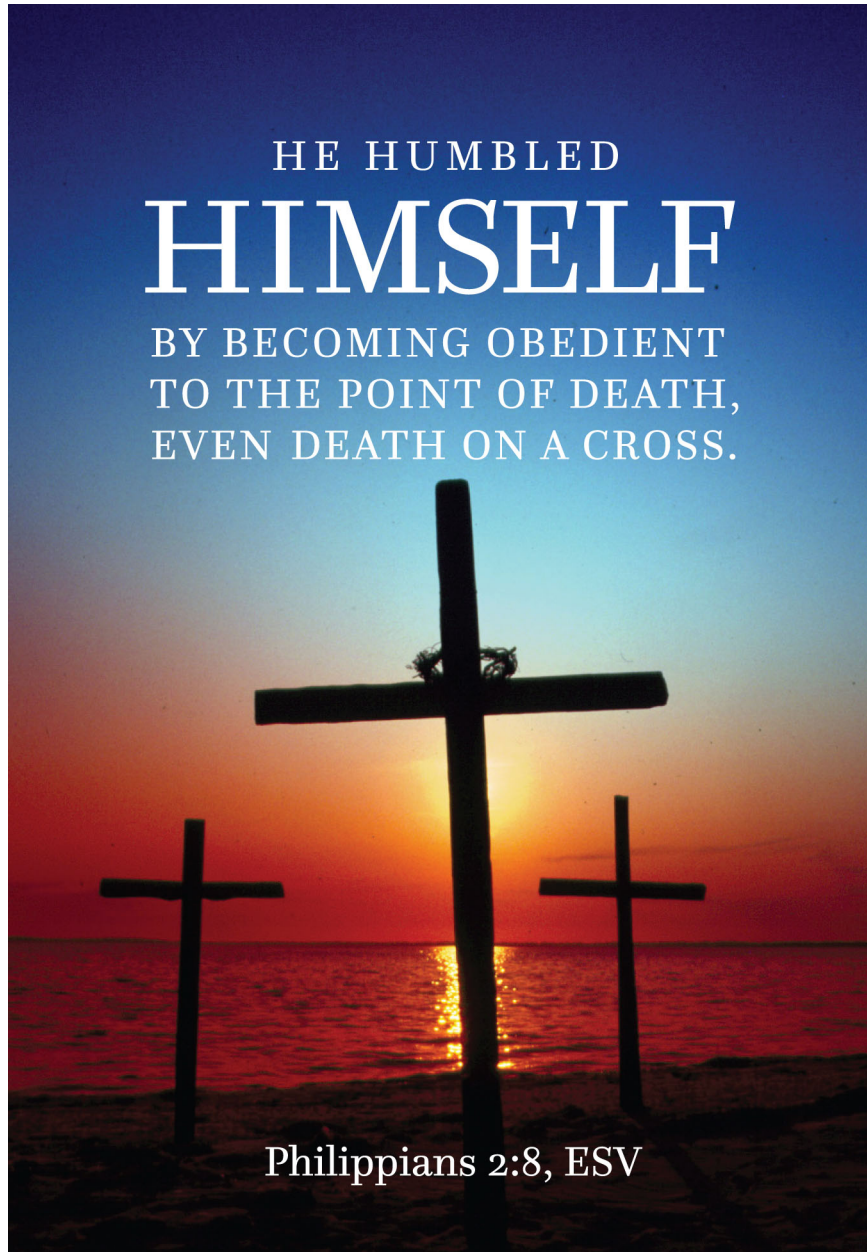


HE HUMBLED
HIMSELF

BY BECOMING OBEDIENT
TO THE POINT OF DEATH,
EVEN DEATH ON A CROSS.



Philippians 2:8, ESV

RESURRECTION LUTHERAN CHURCH
100 W. Lochmere Drive Cary, NC 27518
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SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 27, 2020 – 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

"By what authority are You doing these things, and who gave You this authority?" The answer has everything to do with who Jesus is. We believe that Jesus came "from heaven" and is the Christ, the Son of God. He proved His authority over sin, death, and the devil by His suffering, death, and resurrection from the dead. We hear Him, believe His forgiveness and rejoice that He, by the means of grace through His word and sacraments, forgives our sins; and gives us new, eternal life.

❖ Denotes times when the congregation is invited to stand.

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

PRELUDE

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven – R. Hobby

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.**



ENTRANCE PSALM

Psalm 25:1-10

(We ask God to remember His Great Mercy and Love)

P To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul;
C **in You I trust, O my God.**

P Do not let me be put to shame,
C **nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

P No one whose hope is in You will ever be put to shame,
C **but they will be put to shame who are treacherous without excuse.**

P Show me Your Ways, O LORD,
C **teach me Your Paths;**

P guide me in Your Truth and teach me,
C **for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all day long.**

P Remember, O LORD, Your Great Mercy and Love, for they are from of old.
C **Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;**

P according to Your Love remember me, for You are Good, O LORD.
C **Good and upright is the LORD;**

P therefore He instructs sinners in His Ways.
C **He guides the humble in what is right and teaches them His Way.**

P All the Ways of the LORD are loving and faithful
C **for those who keep the demands of His Covenant.**
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.

OLD TESTAMENT

Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32

(Through the prophet, the Lord declares that He takes no pleasure in the death of anyone. We repent and live.)

The Word of the LORD came to me:
"What do you people mean by quoting
this proverb about the land of Israel:

"The fathers eat sour grapes, and the
children's teeth are set on edge?"
"As surely as I live,"

declares the Sovereign LORD,
 'you will no longer quote this proverb in
 Israel.
 For every living soul belongs to Me, the
 father as well as the son--both alike
 belong to Me.
 The soul who sins is the one who will
 die.'"

 "Yet you say,
 'The Way of the Lord is not just.'
 Hear, O house of Israel:
 Is My Way unjust?
 Is it not your ways that are unjust?
 If a righteous man turns from his
 righteousness and commits sin,
 he will die for it; because of the sin he has
 committed he will die.
 But if a wicked man turns away from the
 wickedness he has committed and does
 what is just and right, he will save his life.

Because he considers all the offenses he
 has committed and turns away from them,
 he will surely live; he will not die.
 Yet the house of Israel says,
 'The Way of the Lord is not just.'
 Are My Ways unjust, O house of Israel?
 Is it not your ways that are unjust?
 "Therefore, O house of Israel, I will judge
 you, each one according to his ways,
 declares the Sovereign LORD.
 Repent!
 Turn away from all your offenses; then sin
 will not be your downfall.
 Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have
 committed, and get a new heart and a new
 spirit.
 Why will you die, O house of Israel?
 For I take no pleasure in the death of
 anyone,' declares the Sovereign LORD.
 'Repent and live!'"

L This is the Word of the Lord.
 C **Thanks be to God.**

❖ **CONFESSION OF SINS AND GOOD NEWS OF FORGIVENESS**

P Let us confess our sins to God our Father.
 C **When we lack love and tenderness; when we infringe on the unity of the
 Community; When we are conceited, when we lack humility, considering
 ourselves superior to others; When we are preoccupied with ourselves instead
 of thinking of others; When our words say "Yes," and our actions say "No,"
 forgive us, Lord.**

P Upon this, your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a Called and ordained servant
 of the Word, announce the Grace of God to all of you. In the Stead and by the
 Command of my Lord Jesus Christ, 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, HYMN OF PRAISE

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven

LSB 793

(Sung by soloist)

- 1. Praise, my soul, the King of heaven; To His feet your tribute bring;
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, Evermore His praises sing:
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.**
- 2. Praise Him for His grace and favor To His people in distress;
Praise Him still the same as ever, Slow to chide and swift to bless:
Alleluia, alleluia! Glorious in His faithfulness.**
- 3. Fatherlike He tends and spares us; Well our feeble frame He knows;
In His hand He gently bears us, Rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia! Widely yet His mercy flows.**
- 4. Angels, help us to adore Him; You behold Him face to face;
Sun and moon, bow down before Him, All who dwell in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace.**

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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.

Almighty God, You exalted Your Son to the place of all honor and authority.

C **Enlighten our minds by Your Holy Spirit that, confessing Jesus as Lord, we may be led into all truth; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

EPISTLE

Philippians 2:1-18

(Paul encourages us imitate Christ's humility.)

If you have any encouragement from
being united with Christ,

if any comfort from His Love,
if any fellowship with the Spirit,

if any tenderness and compassion,
then make my joy complete by being like-
minded, having the same love, being one
in spirit and purpose.

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or
vain conceit, but in humility consider
others better yourselves.

Each of you should look not only to your
own interests, but also to the interests of
others.

Your attitude should be the same as that
of Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God, did not
consider equality with God something to
be grasped; but made Himself nothing by
taking the very nature of a servant,

being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man,

He humbled Himself and became
obedient to death—even death on a cross!
Therefore God exalted Him to the highest
place and gave Him the Name that is
above every name, that at the Name of
Jesus every knee should bow, in Heaven
and on earth and under the earth,

and every tongue confess that Jesus
Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the
Father.

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have
always obeyed—not only in my presence,
but now much more in my absence—
continue to work out your salvation with
fear and trembling, for it is God Who
works in you to will and to act in
according to His Good Purpose.

Do everything without complaining or
arguing, so that you may become
blameless and pure, Children of God
without fault in a crooked and depraved
generation, in which you shine like stars in
the universe as you hold out the Word of
Life—in order that I may boast on the Day
of Christ that I did not run or labor for
nothing.

But even if I am being poured out like a
drink offering on the sacrifice and service
coming from your faith, I am glad and
rejoice with all of you.

So you too should be glad and rejoice with
me.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

❖ **ALLELUIA VERSE**

C **Alleluia. All authority in Heaven and on earth has been given to Me.**

Alleluia. (Matthew 28:18b)

❖ **HOLY GOSPEL**

(Jesus' authority is questioned.)

Matthew 21:23-32

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-first chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Jesus entered the temple courts, and, while He was teaching, the chief priests and the elders of the people came to Him. "By what authority are You doing these things?" they asked. "And who gave You this authority?" Jesus replied, "I will also ask you one question. If you answer Me, I will tell you by what authority I Am doing these things. John's baptism--where did it come from? Was it from Heaven, or from men?" They discussed it among themselves and said, "If we say, 'From Heaven,' He will ask, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' But if we say, 'From men'--we are afraid of the people, for they all hold that John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We don't know." Then He said, "Neither will I tell you by what authority I Am doing these things.

"What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' 'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went. "Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. "Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the Kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, Lord Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pastor Jonathan Blanke

MUSICAL OFFERING, HYMN OF THE DAY

When I Behold Jesus Christ (What Kind of Love Is This)

LSB 542, vs. 1, 3-4
(Sung by soloist)

**1. When I behold Jesus Christ, True God who died for me,
I wonder much at His love As He hung on the tree.**

Refrain

**What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?
You showed Your love, Jesus, there To me on Calvary.
What kind of love is this? What kind of love is this?
You showed Your love, Jesus, there To me on Calvary.**

**3. You had no sin, holy Lord, But You were tortured, tried;
On Golgotha there for all My sins You bled and died. Refrain.**

**4. What love is this? Greater love No one has ever known.
My life with God— this I owe To You, and You alone. Refrain.**

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SERMON The “Friendship” Epistle, 2: Rejoicing Together Pastor Jonathan Blanke
Philippians 2:1-18
(See sermon notes on page 12)

❖ ***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, by postal mail, and in baskets located in the Narthex.)

MUSICAL OFFERING, PSALM HYMN

On Eagles' Wings

Psalm 91

LSB 727 1-2,4

(Sung by soloist)

1. **You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord, Who abide in His shadow for life,
Say to the Lord: "My refuge, My rock in whom I trust!"**

Refrain

**And He will raise you up on eagles' wings, Bear you on the breath of dawn,
Make you to shine like the sun, And hold you in the palm of His hand.**

2. **The snare of the fowler will never capture you, And famine will bring you no fear;
Under His wings your refuge, His faithfulness your shield.**

Refrain

4. **For to His angels He's given a command To guard you in all of your ways;
Upon their hands they will bear you up, Lest you dash your foot against a stone.**

Refrain

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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.**

❖ **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**

❖ **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, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

LSB 655

(Sung by soloist)

**1. Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word; Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son And bring to naught all He has done.**

**2. Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known, For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we May sing Your praise eternally.**

**3. O Comforter of priceless worth, Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife And lead us out of death to life.**

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

POSTLUDE

Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven – D. Hustad

**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
Pianist.....Christopher Anderson Reed, Praise Worship Director
Lector.....Kim Otten
Vocalist.....Rebecca Melland-Kuo
Ushers.....Charles Miller, Mike Heartling
Greeters.....Mike & Trudy Heartling
Camera Operators.....Jill Hammergren, Garrett Nigg
Live Stream Producer.....Susan Moore

The “Friendship” Epistle, 2: Rejoicing Together (Philippians 2:1–18) Proper 21/Series A

We continue our focus on Philippians. St. Paul shares a song of praise with the Philippian church, he is rejoicing with them and inviting them to rejoice together with him. His is not merely an invitation to “put on a happy face” or have a positive attitude; it’s a proclamation in song of what Christ has done for people to bring them together that they might shine a light in the world’s dark places (Philippians 2:15).

- I. St. Paul starts with an _____: “Empty yourselves!” (Phil. 2:3, 7)
 - a. A life where rejoicing seems to have fallen silent might be due to our being so “full of ourselves”
 - b. Luther’s description of the default human life: humanity “curved in” upon itself and unaware that it is so
 - c. We cannot by our own reason or strength sing a song of joy; the humility that St. Paul describes can only be a gift from God
- II. St. Paul continues with a _____: “Jesus Christ emptied Himself for us...even dying for us on a cross” (Phil 2:6–11)
 - a. The message of the hymn is important! God’s love for us is so profound that it started with Jesus’ humbling himself from heaven and was completed by Jesus’ humbling himself on a cross!
 - b. A visit to a memory care facility and what it taught me about God’s love for us, the gift of joy, and our love for one another
 - c. Songs and hymns reflect a life of rejoicing that has been begun by Jesus: “Paul knew that this hymn to Christ [takes our] attention away from [our]selves, puts it on Christ, and joins [us] together in lives of self-sacrificial love” (Schmitt).
- III. St. Paul ends on a _____: “I am rejoicing with you!” (2:17)
 - a. We need not be a Moses or a St. Peter to be a hero in God’s eyes! Notice the ordinary “heroes” in this letter: Timothy and Epaphroditus performing acts of “mutual service,” “mutual suffering,” “carrying holy words,” and “holy deeds” within the body of believers and in so doing are evidence that the Philippians and Paul were rejoicing together.
 - b. The Holy Spirit draws us together in worship right now and will live in us this week and the weeks ahead as we are led by God to rejoice together in service to one another.
 - c. Next Sunday we will feature service opportunities to one another and our community. Our song of rejoicing together continues!