

Order of Worship for October 22, 2023

Prelude

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Opening Hymn: “*Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings*” - Hymn #782

Confessing our sins and receiving God’s forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: God has placed us in the world under the care of our parents and by extension from them under the direction of teachers, bosses, supervisors, and our government. He calls on us to be good citizens, who obey the laws of our land and serve the nations we belong to.

C: Yet, we disobey—our parents, our leaders, our government. We complain that things are not done our way. We take for granted the protection and blessings that we have from our nation.

P: We call ourselves patriots when it is convenient for us, when it serves our purposes and makes us look better than others.

C: Then we forget that being patriots involves commitment and sacrifice, giving to help others. Forgive us, Lord, for how we sin against You by sinning against the authorities over us and by being so ungrateful for what You have given us in our country.

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ took His authority and used it to serve all people, to go to the cross and die with our sin. By His command 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.

Service of the Word

Entrance Psalm:

P: The LORD is your keeper;

C: the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

P: I lift up my eyes to the hills.

C: From where does my help come?

P: My help comes from the LORD,

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: He will not let your foot be moved;

C: He who keeps you will not slumber.

P: Behold, He who keeps Israel

C: will neither slumber nor sleep.

P: The LORD will keep you from all evil;

C: He will keep your life.

P: The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in

C: from this time forth and forevermore.

ALL: 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.

P: The LORD is your keeper;

C: the LORD is your shade on your right hand.

Hymn of Praise: “All Praise To Thee, for Thou, O King Divine” - Hymn #815

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. ... 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

Old Testament Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

R: 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: “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, 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. 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. I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides Me there is no God; I equip you, though you do not know Me, 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. I form light and create darkness, I make well-being and create calamity, I am the LORD, who does all these things.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

R: Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers loved by God, that He has chosen you, 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. 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, so that you became an example to all the

believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 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. 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, and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Holy Gospel – Matthew 22:15-22

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

P: Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle [Jesus] in His words. 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. Tell us, then, what You think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put Me to the test, you hypocrites? Show Me the coin for the tax.” And they brought Him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is this?” 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.” When they heard it, they marveled. And they left Him and went away.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message (8:30)

Sermon Hymn: “God of Grace and God of Glory” - Hymn #850

Sermon: “What Belongs to God” - Matthew 22:15-22

One of the greatest changes to college athletics over the last few years has been the introduction of the idea of NIL deals. Student athletes and others are compensated for use of their name, image, and likeness. This has led to big deals such as all of the scholarship football players at Utah receiving a new truck. An NIL deal involving Iowa State football players went viral after the Iowa Pork Producers Association made a deal with four football players, who standing in a line form the sentence, “Purchase Moore Ham and Bacon”. Earlier this week, it was announced that the Iowa Hawkeyes Marching Band mellophone section has an NIL deal with The Brick Kitchen. NIL deals remind us that images have power, and whoever has authority and control over an image has that power. For years, athletes didn't have that control. Now they do.

That's the point Jesus makes in today's Gospel lesson. The Pharisees and the Herodians, two groups that normally don't work well together, come together to question Jesus. They think they've got the perfect question to trap Jesus with. After starting out with flattery, they ask him, “Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” Jesus is in trouble no matter how he answers the question. If he says yes, it's lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, than he's supporting the occupying, oppressive Romans who make life miserable for the people of Israel. If he says no, then the

wrath of Rome will come down on him just as it has on so many other rebellious rabbis and would be messiahs. Jesus can't answer yes or no without angering someone.

Jesus knows it's a trap. The way Jesus gets out of the trap question he's asked is by turning the question around. He asks about the image on the coin. The emperor wanted everything stamped with his image on it to show it belonged to him. Cities had statues of the emperor in the center of town to show who was in charge. Throughout the Roman Empire were many cities named "Caesarea," reminding people who was in charge every time they said the name. Coins, too, had Caesar's image on them to show who was in control.

For the Pharisees to be near one of those coins was strange to say the least. The money changers in the temple were there to make sure these coins with the emperor's image on them didn't get anywhere near the holy parts of the temple. They remembered the commandment about no graven image. But to trap Jesus, they were willing to work with the Herodians, those who worked well with King Herod, even coming close to something that had Caesar's image on it.

Jesus gets out of the trap by looking at the coin. When they show and tell him Caesar's image is on the coin, Jesus tells them to "render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21). If it had Caesar's image on it, it belongs to Caesar. It is lawful to pay the tax, but even more it's important to remember what is God's.

So what belongs to God? The image of Caesar was on the coin, but the image of God was on Caesar, just as it is on every human. When God created humans, He said "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness" (Genesis 1:26). God's image is on all of us, even though it's been distorted by sin. More than that, we know everything has been marked by God to show it belongs to Him. "The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof" (Psalm 24:1).

But all too often we live as though God doesn't own everything. We act like if we put our stamp on things, it belongs to us, and we have the authority to use it however we want. We look at things, places, land, even each other as if they only bear the image of Caesar or only have dollar signs on them, as if they're only worth what we can get out of them. We fail to see the image of God in each other.

Whether it's in dehumanizing those we disagree with or objectifying those around us, anytime we fail to see the image of God in another person, we sin. We let sin distort our vision, and fail to see as God does.

Jesus came to restore our image. He came to fix how the image of God present at creation in each of us had been distorted by sin. When the Pharisees ran out of ways to trick Jesus, they presented the false image of him as a rabble rouser and blasphemer, and the Romans sent him to the cross, to show an image of what happens when you defy Caesar. Instead, the image of the cross became an image of God's love, a picture of what God did to fix the effects of sin.

We see that in baptism. When someone receives the sign of the cross upon his forehead and his heart, he is marked as one redeemed by Christ the crucified, one belonging to God. As the water and the Word joined together to make him a child of God, he was joined with Jesus' death and resurrection. The image of God restored by Jesus is now restored.

But we still need to remember that images have power and authority, and change how we see things. As we begin our stewardship talks, we need to be reminded that God's image is on everything, which shows that everything belongs to God. That changes how we use them, and how we think about them.

A few years ago, activist Shane Claiborne and other members of the Simple Way in Philadelphia won a lawsuit against the police department and received \$10,000. Since they live frugally, they sent one hundred dollar bills to 100 communities around the world that, in their opinion, incarnate the spirit of Jubilee. In the envelope with the money, Shane quoted a passage from Acts about laying money at the apostles' feet. One of the pastors to receive a hundred dollar bill from Shane was Rick McKinley, pastor of Imago Dei church in Portland, Oregon.

Pastor McKinley describes what happened next:

On the day I received it, I put it in my pocket. Now what? I wondered. Sure it was mine now, but I'd received it from one of the poorest guys I know. I knew I had to use it well, but I held on to it for a while.

Every now and then, I'd take my wallet out and see it again. The bill didn't look ordinary to me; it felt different, not really mine. It had the stamp of empire on it. I'm holding a sacred 100 dollar bill, I'd think to myself. I don't know if I've ever held one before.

One day I ended up in a store with no cash, so I pulled out the 100 to tide me over. But Shane had written "Love" all across it, and that's not why I was in the store. Nothing in that particular store had anything to do with love. I put the bill back in my pocket.

By the time I had passed the money on to a single mom I know, I had received a visceral lesson in Kingdom economics. Money is to be treasured—but differently.

Because not all treasures are created equal. And because every bill is marked."

Every bill is marked. Most don't have "love" written across them. Instead, they say "in God we trust" and remind us they are legal tender for all debts public and private. They have pictures of dead presidents on them, or other famous Americans. Or perhaps you're like most Americans, and you never even worry about having cash on you anymore because you just pull out something that has "MasterCard" or "Visa" written on it, perhaps with a picture of what you hope to earn with your rewards or a picture of your favorite sports team. Maybe you don't even need that, just using your ISU ID to pay for everything on campus, or use your phone to buy your morning coffee across the street.

Whatever you use, though, all money is marked. It all has an image on it. Sometimes you can see it. Other times, you can't see how it's marked. You only look at "in God We Trust" and fail to look closer to see it's the god of the almighty dollar you trust. You look at your credit card and fail to see the image of instant gratification there. Everything is marked, whether you see it or not. E

You've been marked by God in your baptism. As you look around this place, look and see Jesus in everyone around you. As you leave, continue to see God's fingerprints in the world, not just the image and marks of dollar signs. Look for God's image in every person. God sends us out to our homes, our schools, our neighborhoods, our jobs, surrounding us with people who need to

hear how much God loves them, and see that love in action. Let God open your eyes to see as He sees, and carry the image of God in you.

Catechism: 4th commandment and explanation from Large Catechism

All: Honor your father and your mother.

P: What does this mean?

All: In this commandment belongs a further statement about all kinds of obedience to persons in authority who have to command and to govern. For all authority flows and is born from the authority of parents. Where a father is unable alone to educate his rebellious and irritable child, he uses a schoolmaster to teach the child. If he is too weak, he gets the help of his friends and neighbors. If he departs this life, he delegates and confers his authority and government upon others who are appointed for the purpose. Likewise, a father must have domestic manservants and maidservants under himself for the management of the household. So all whom we call “masters” are in the place of parents and must get their power and authority to govern from them. So also men are all called fathers in the Scriptures, who in their government perform the functions of a father, and have a paternal heart toward their subordinates. From antiquity the Romans and other nations called the masters and mistresses of the household “housefathers and housemothers.” They called their national rulers and overlords “fathers of the entire country.” This is a great shame to us who would be Christians because we do not give them the same title or, at least, do not value and honor them as fathers.

Interest Surveys

Prayers

P: Lord God, You tell us how we should act towards authority:

C: “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.

P: Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.” (Romans 13:1-5)

P: “Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every human authority: whether to the emperor, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by Him to punish those who do

wrong and to commend those who do right.

C: For it is God's will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.

P: Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God's slaves. Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor." (1 Peter 2:13-17)

C: "Remind the people to be subject to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, to be ready to do whatever is good." (Titus 3:1)

P: Yet, we want things our way. We forget Your command:

C: "Do not blaspheme God or curse the ruler of your people." (Exodus 22:28)

P: Help us to remember:

C: "All people are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall." (1 Peter 1:24)

P: Instead send Your Holy Spirit so that we listen to You and those You put over us:

C: "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." (Matthew 7:24)

P: "For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother." (Matthew 12:50)

C: "Jesus replied, 'Anyone who loves Me will obey My teaching. My Father will love them, and We will come to them and make Our home with them.'"

(John 14:23)

P: Help us to see that real authority in You and what You direct us to do:

C: "Therefore anyone who sets aside one of the least of these commands and teaches others accordingly will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever practices and teaches these commands will be called great in the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:19)

P: Especially guide us so that we use the authority You give us as Jesus did to serve others.

C: "Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant," (Matthew 20:26)

(Other concerns) , , ,

P: All this we pray for Jesus' sake as we remember:

C: "He will call on me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble. I will deliver him and honor him." (Psalm 91:5)

8:30 AM service continues.....

Hymn: “All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” - Hymn #549

Closing Prayer

P: Almighty and Everlasting God, in Christ You have revealed Your glory among the nations. Preserve the works of Your mercy, that Your Church throughout the world may preserve with steadfast faith in the confession of Your name, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing (Pastor)

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: “Almighty Father Bless the Word” - Hymn #923

Postlude

11 AM service continues.....

Sharing Our Ministry

Offering:

Service of the Sacrament

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

C: To do so it both right and proper.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

P: We give thanks to You, heavenly Father, that You are in control of our universe and that You love us. We can trust that You know best for us. Send us Your Holy Spirit so that we continue to grow in trust to You and Your authority. Help that faith to always rest on Your Son, Christ Jesus, who used His authority to die on the cross to save us. Bless us as He answer His call to come to His altar and receive His true body and blood for he forgiveness of sins in Holy Communion.

C: Amen.

The Words of our Lord

Lords’ Prayer

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Distribution of Holy Communion

“Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us” - Hymn #851

“All Hail the Power of Jesus’ Name” - Hymn #549

Prayer after Communion:

P: Almighty and Everlasting God, in Christ You have revealed Your glory among the nations. Preserve the works of Your mercy, that Your Church throughout the world may preserve with steadfast faith in the confession of Your name, through Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Blessing (Pastor)

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: *“Almighty Father, Bless the Word” - Hymn #923*

Postlude