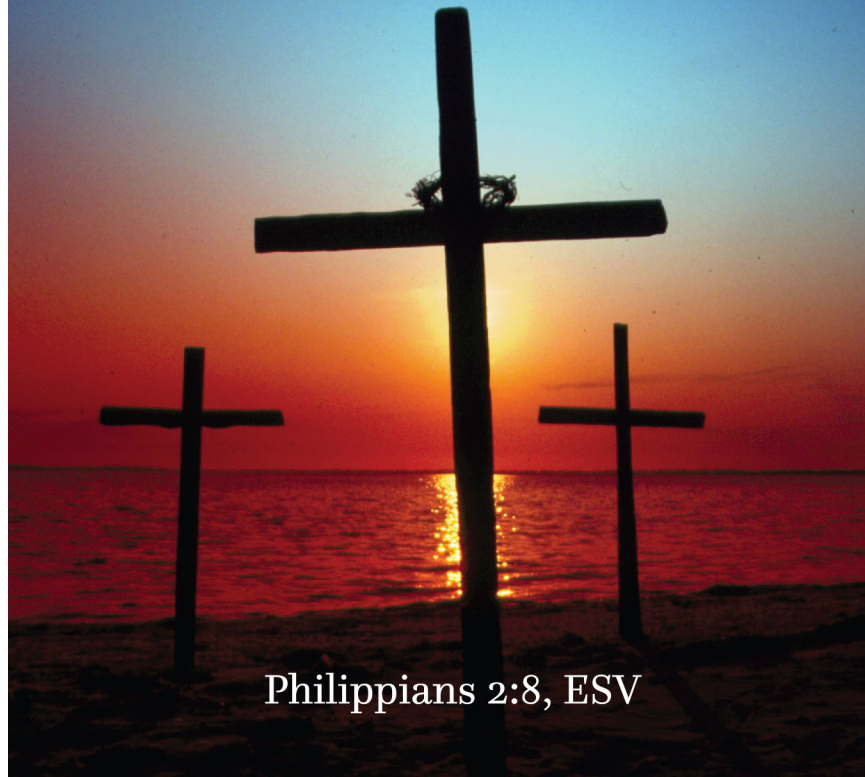


HE HUMBL'D
HIMSELF

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
919-851-7248 WWW.RLCARY.ORG

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
SEPTEMBER 26, 2020 – 6:00 PM

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.

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

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. (*Mattheew 28:18b*)

❖ **HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 21:23-32

(Jesus' authority is questioned.)

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.**

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.**

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

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SERMON The “Friendship” Epistle, 2: Rejoicing Together Pastor Jonathan Blanke

Philippians 2:1-18

(See 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, 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.**

+ 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; 1 Corinthians 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.**

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

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

O God, My Faithful God

LSB 696, vs. 1-2, 5
(Sung by soloist)

**1. O God, my faithful God, True fountain ever flowing,
Without whom nothing is, All perfect gifts bestowing:
Give me a healthy frame, And may I have within
A conscience free from blame, A soul unstained by sin.**

2. Grant me the strength to do With ready heart and willing
Whatever You command, My calling here fulfilling;
That I do what I should While trusting You to bless
The outcome for my good, For You must give success.

5. Let me depart this life Confiding in my Savior;
By grace receive my soul That it may live forever;
And let my body have A quiet resting place
Within a Christian grave; And let it sleep in peace.

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Lord, Whose Love Through Humble Service

LSB 848, vs. 1-2, 4
(Sung by soloist)

1. Lord, whose love through humble service Bore the weight of human need,
Who upon the cross, forsaken, Offered mercy's perfect deed,
We, Your servants, bring the worship Not of voice alone, but heart,
Consecrating to Your purpose Ev'ry gift that You impart.

2. Still Your children wander homeless; Still the hungry cry for bread;
Still the captives long for freedom; Still in grief we mourn our dead.
As, O Lord, Your deep compassion Healed the sick and freed the soul,
Use the love Your Spirit kindles Still to save and make us whole.

4. Called by worship to Your service, Forth in Your dear name we go,
To the child, the youth, the aged, Love in living deeds to show;
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort, Counsel, aid, and peace we give,
That Your servants, Lord, in freedom May Your mercy know and live.

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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, 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 Today

Preacher.....Rev. Dr. Jonathan Blanke
Liturgist.....Vicar Alan Shaw
Pianist.....Christopher Anderson Reed, Praise Worship Director
Lector.....Linda Crandall
Vocalist.....Rebecca Melland-Kuo
Coordinator.....Linda Crandall
Greeters.....Deb Oesterling
Altar Care.....Laura Lubak

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!