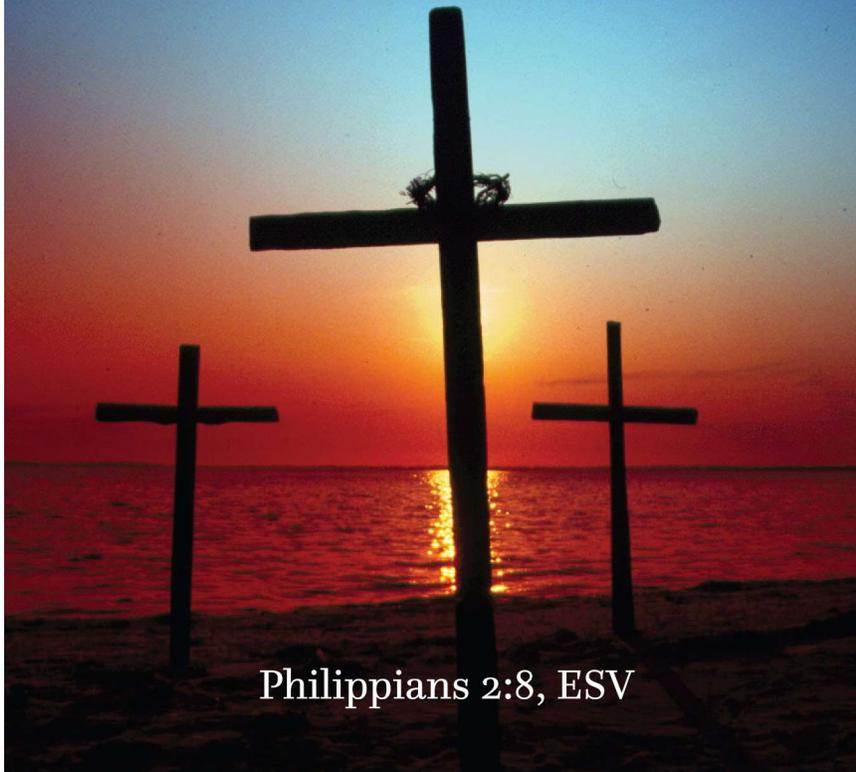


HE HUMBLED  
**HIMSELF**

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



Philippians 2:8, ESV

**Today's Worship**  
17th Sunday after Pentecost  
September 27, 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.

"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.

**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: Open the Eyes of My Heart***

***Chorus x 2***

*Open the eyes of my heart, Lord*

*Open the eyes of my heart*

*I want to see You, I want to see You*

***Verse***

*To see You high and lifted up*

*Shining in the light of Your glory*

*Pour out Your power and love*

*As we sing holy, holy, holy*

**Chorus x 2**

**Verse x 2**

**Bridge x 2**

*Holy, holy, holy*

*Holy, holy, holy*

*Holy, holy, holy*

*I want to see You*

**The Invocation**

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

P Gracious Heavenly 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,” but 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, Song of Praise: The Lion and the Lamb***

**Verse 1**

*He’s coming on the clouds, kings and kingdoms will bow down*

*And every chain will break as broken hearts declare His praise*

*For who can stop the Lord Almighty*

**Chorus**

*Our God is the Lion, the Lion of Judah*

*He’s roaring with power and fighting our battles*

*And every knee will bow before Him  
Our God is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain  
For the sin of the world, His blood breaks the chains  
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb  
Every knee will bow before Him*

**Verse 2**

*So open up the gates, make way before the King of kings  
The God who comes to save is here to set the captives free  
For who can stop the Lord Almighty*

**Chorus**

**Bridge**

*Who can stop the Lord Almighty, Who can stop the Lord Almighty  
Who can stop the Lord Almighty, Who can stop the Lord?*

**Chorus**

**The Old Testament Reading – Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**

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!

**The New Testament Epistle –*Philippians 2:1-18***

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.

**The Holy Gospel – *Matthew 21:23-32***

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."

**The Children's Message** – Pastor Jonathan Blanke

***Musical Offering, Song of the Day: Jesus Messiah***

**Verse 1**

*He became sin who knew no sin  
That we might become His righteousness  
He humbled Himself and carried the cross  
Love so amazing, Love so amazing*

**Chorus**

*Jesus Messiah, Name above all names  
Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel  
The Rescue for sinners, the Ransom from heaven  
Jesus Messiah, Lord of all*

**Verse 2**

*His Body the bread, His Blood the wine  
Broken and poured out all for love  
The whole earth trembled, and the veil was torn  
Love so amazing, Love so amazing*

**Chorus**

**Bridge**

*All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You  
All the glory to You, God, the Light of the world*

**Chorus**

*Jesus Messiah Lord of all  
The Lord of all, The Lord of all*

**The Message – The “Friendship” Epistle, 2: Rejoicing Together - Pastor Jonathan Blanke**  
**Philippians 2:1-18** (Sermon notes on page 8)

**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**

## Holy Communion – Words of Institution and Invitation

**Musical Offerings during Distribution – *Christopher Reed***

## The Blessing and Benediction

***Musical Offering, Closing Song: Forever Reign***

### **Verse 1**

*You are good, You are good when there's nothing good in me  
You are love, You are love, on display for all to see  
You are light, You are light, when the darkness closes in  
You are hope, You are hope, You have covered all my sin*

### **Verse 2**

*You are peace, You are peace, when my fear is crippling  
You are true, You are true, even in my wandering  
You are joy, You are joy, You're the reason that I sing  
You are life, You are life, in You death has lost its sting*

### **Chorus**

*Oh, I'm running to Your arms, I'm running to Your arms  
The riches of Your Love will always be enough  
Nothing compares to Your embrace  
Light of the world, forever reign*

### **Verse 3**

*You are more, You are more, than my words will ever say  
You are Lord, You are Lord, all creation will proclaim  
You are here, You are here, in Your Presence I'm made whole  
You are God, You are God, of all else I'm letting go*

***Chorus x 2***

## 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!**

### 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!

***In Service Today:***

Keyboards/Vocals: Christopher Reed

Vocalist: Deb Oesterling

Sound Technician:

Video Tech:

Coordinator: Mel Tolliver

Camera Operators: Jill Hammergren, Garrett Nigg

Live Stream Producer: Susan Moore

Proclaimer: Pastor Jonathan Blanke

Liturgist: Vicar Alan Shaw

Lay Reader: Lynn Hoffman

Ushers: Steve Meyer

Greeters: Anna Tolliver

Altar Care: Angela York