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**21st Sunday after Pentecost October 22, 2023 Video**

*Good morning. This is Richfield Lutheran Church’s video worship service for October 22. I’m Pastor Brian, with me today are Paul on the organ and Mary as our vocalist. The printed bulletin for this service can be found on our website, Richfield-Lutheran.org.*

*Our gospel is Matthew 22:15-22*. *In today’s first reading, God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.*

1. **GATHERING**

**Prelude**

**Call to Worship** Psalm 118:24

This is the day that the Lord has made;

**Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

**Gathering Hymn** *Take My Life, That I May Be* **# 685, vv 1 & 6**

1 Take my life, that I may be

 consecrated, Lord, to thee;

 take my moments and my days;

 let them flow in ceaseless praise.

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour

 at thy feet its treasure store;

 take myself, and I will be

 ever, only, all for thee.

**Greeting and Prayer of the Day**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

**Sovereign God, raise your throne in our hearts. Created by you, let us live in your image; created for you, let us act for your glory; redeemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

1. **WORD**

**Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22.** *(*After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First, they ask if God’s people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.*)*

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

15Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said.  16So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality.  17Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?”  18But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites?  19Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. 20Then he said to them, “Whose head is this, and whose title?”  21They answered, “The emperor’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor’s, and to God the things that are God’s.”  22When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon** *God’s Things* Pr Brian

**Hymn of the Day** *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord* **# 580, vv 1 & 4**

1 How clear is our vocation, Lord,

when once we heed your call

to live according to your word

and daily learn, refreshed, restored,

that you are Lord of all,

and will not let us fall.

4 In what you give us, Lord, to do,

together or alone,

in old routines or ventures new,

may we not cease to look to you,

the cross you hung upon,

all you endeavored done.

**Prayers of the People**

Trusting in the transformative power of God’s loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*(A brief silence.)*

Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world and binds believers near and far into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith, and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Creating God, the sea roars, the earth rejoices, and the heavens are glad at the wonder of all you have made. Bless the work of ecologists and conservationists and all those who safeguard the riches of creation. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Sovereign God, your rule and authority is over the cosmos. As you once worked through the ruler Cyrus for the good of your people, accomplish your purposes through the work of elected leaders and public servants. Guide them with your wisdom and compassion. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Caring God, your arms enfold all who are lonely, oppressed, despairing, sick, and suffering, *especially* *the people of Ukraine, the people of Israel and Palestine, and those whom we now name in our hearts….* Pour out your abundant mercy on all whom this world has neglected, abandoned, and forgotten, that they may know your joy. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, all our life belongs to you. When earthly idols threaten to lead your church astray, remind us that you alone are the source of our eternal hope. Direct the work of church treasurers, councils, and all who manage financial matters. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

*(A brief silence.)*

Everlasting God, the saints of every age have sung your praise and shared your word. We give you thanks for their witness and pray that we may join them as citizens of your unending kingdom. God of grace,

**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**III. THANKSGIVING**

**Offering**

*You can support this and other of God’s ministries through Richfield Lutheran Church today via our website: Richfield-Lutheran.org/give. Thank you for your faithful generosity.*

**Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**IV. SENDING**

*On Sunday, October 22, in addition to this video recording and its phone-in option, we have in-person worship at 9:30. And the choir is singing! All are welcome.*

*Next Sunday, October 29, is Reformation Sunday—remember to wear something red! Our gospel is Matthew 22:34-46.* Put on the spot by the Pharisees, Jesus displays wisdom by summarizing the law of God in just two commandments and by demonstrating the Messiah must be more than the son of David.

**Blessing**

The God of glory, ☩ Jesus Christ, name above all names, and the Spirit who lives in you, bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Sending Hymn** *God of Grace and God of Glory* **# 705, vv 1 & 4**

1 God of grace and God of glory,

 on your people pour your pow'r;

 crown your ancient church's story;

 bring its bud to glorious flow'r.

 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage

 for the facing of this hour,

 for the facing of this hour.

4 Save us from weak resignation

 to the evils we deplore;

 let the gift of your salvation

 be our glory evermore.

 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,

 serving you whom we adore,

 serving you whom we adore.

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

**This Week’s Daily Bible Readings:**

Monday, October 23. Psalm 98

Tuesday, October 24. Daniel 3:19-30

Wednesday, Oct 25. Matthew 17:22-27

Thursday, October 26. Psalm 1

Friday, October 27. Titus 2:7-8, 11-15

Saturday, October 28. John 14:21-27

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