

WITH MALICIOUS INTENT THEY ASKED . . .

is it lawful to pay the tax or not?



GRACE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

WORSHIP TIMES

8:30 AM | 11:00 AM

OCTOBER 4

FIND TRUTH IN UNEXPECTED ANSWERS

Prelude & Confession & Absolution

WL: *In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit*

C: Amen

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us gather with true hearts that confess our sins to God, that earnestly ask for forgiveness and that trust in our renewal through the work of our Savior Jesus the Christ.

A: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth. [Psalm 124:8]

A: I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C: And you forgave the iniquity of my sin. [Psalm 32:5]

A: Almighty God, merciful Father:

C: I confess to you all my sins with which I have offended you and my neighbors. I am sorry for them. I devote myself to repentance and pray for your mercy. In your boundless grace and compassion send me your Holy Spirit that I may be strengthened in my faith and made ready for a life obedient to your will and your way.

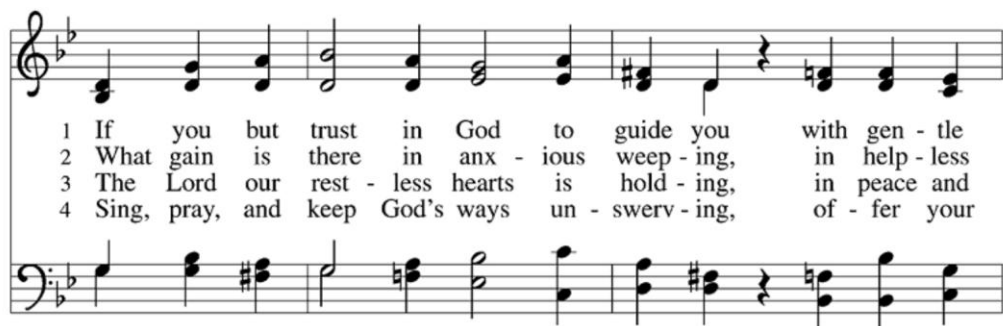
WL: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and full of steadfast love. [Exodus 34:6] Therefore, we trust that what we confess is forgiven and, in grace, we are empowered to renew, repair and reconcile all that our sin has broken. Freed through Christ, we are renewed to live more faithfully as his people.

C: Amen.

Entrance Hymn

If You But Trust in God to Guide You

769



1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

Greeting

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

C: And also with you

Kyrie [Spoken]

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen

Hymn of Praise

ELW Setting 2



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.





Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Refrain

Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

Prayer of the Day

P: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

C: A people holy to the Lord our God.

A: We have seen what our God has done

C: We declare God's faithfulness from age to age for all time.

A: We hear and keep God's Word,

C: And all that God has spoken we will do.

P: Let us pray:

C: God of wisdom and might, we believe that You have promised protection and guidance for all who trust in your Word. By your Spirit, preserve us from the temptation to rely on the apparent security of our own designs, grounding us instead in the confidence and true hope that comes only from a secure faith in Your power, plans and purposes. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Lesson

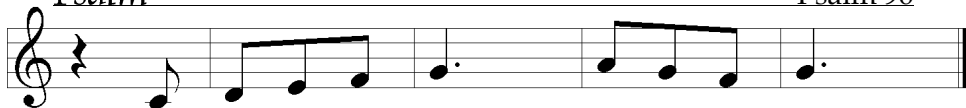
Isaiah 45

The Prophet Isaiah spoke the Word of the Lord, saying . . . Thus says the Lord to the Lord's anointed, to Cyrus, the foreign King of Persia, whose right hand I have chosen to grasp in order to subdue the nations before him and strip other kings of their robes, to open doors before him-- and the gates shall not be closed: I will go before you and level the mountains, 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 riches hidden in secret places, so 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 surname you, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, that there is no one besides me. I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness. I make weal and create woe. I the Lord do all these things.

R: The word of the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm

Psalm 96



As - crite to the LORD hon - or and power.

*O sing to the Lord á new song;
sing to the Lord, áll the earth.*

**Sing to the Lord, b̄less the Lord's name;
tell of the Lord's salvation from d̄ay to day. R**

*Declare the Lord's glory ámong the nations,
the Lord's marvelous works among áll the peoples.*

**For great is the Lord, and greatly í to be praised;
The Lord is to be revered ábove all gods.**

*For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
but the Lord made the heavens.*

**Honor and majesty áre before the Lord;
strength and beauty are in the Lord's s̄anctuary. R**

*Ascribe to the Lord, O families óf the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.*

**Ascribe to the Lord the glory dúe the Lord's name;
bring an offering, and come ínto the Lord's courts.**

*Worship the Lord in h́oly splendor;
tremble before the Lord, áll the earth. R*

LESSON

1 Thessalonians 1

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 always give thanks to God for all of you, making remembrances of you in our prayers, constantly recalling your work of faith and your labor of love and your steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ before our God and Father.

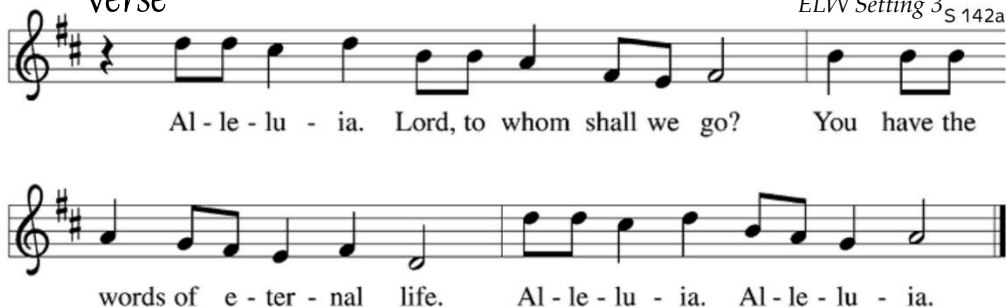
Brothers and sisters - much loved by God - we know that God has chosen you, because our message of the gospel came to you not in word alone, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with much conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, having received the Word in much tribulation with the joy of the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believing in Macedonia and in Achaia. For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but everywhere your faith toward God is going out, so that we have no need to be speaking about it. For the people of those regions report about us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God and

to wait for the Lord's Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead--
Jesus, who is rescuing us from the wrath that is coming.

R: The word of the Lord! **C: Thanks be to God!**

Verse

ELW Setting 3_S 142a



Gospel Acclamation

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel

Matthew 22

After the Pharisees had spent the day in the Temple listening to Jesus tell three parables that greatly disturbed them, they met together and devised a plan for manipulating Jesus into saying something that would convince everyone that the Lord's teaching was, indeed, heretical.

So, they sent their best theology students to him, along with the more politically minded Herodians, to say, "Teacher, we know that you are always truthful, and that you teach the way of God truthfully without worrying about what anyone else might think, for your concern is not about how you look to others. Tell us, then, what you think about the issue of whether it is lawful to give the tax to Emperor Caesar, or not?" Jesus, knowing their malicious intent, said, "You test *me*? *You*, who are merely actors playing a role and not truthful in who you really are? Come, show me the coin used for the tax."

They brought Jesus the coin.

And Jesus said to them, "Tell me, whose image and inscription is this on the coin?"

They said, "Caesar's."

Then Jesus said to them, "Then give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

They were amazed when they heard this, and they went away and let him be.

P: The Gospel of the Lord! **C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Baited the Question Rose



Bait - ed, the ques - tion rose From some - where in the
"Whose im - age does it bear, Whose name and ti - dings
May we dis - cern, O God, Your dai - ly gifts of
crowd: "Teach - er, you tru - ly know God's way: Is
tell?" "Cae - sar's, of course," they smug - ly said And
grace; Show us your im - age fresh - ly coined In
pay - ing tax al - lowed?" Je - sus per - ceived their
thought they an - swered well. "Give Cae - sar what is
ev - 'ry heart and face. Help us fit trib - ute
trap: "Why do you test me so? Bring
his; God, what is God's a - lone." Strong
yield Through prayers and hymns we raise, But
here - the coin the tax re - quires, And see - what it will show."
words, con - vinc - ing and pro - found, Like truth al - read - y known.
most of all by deeds of love To give you thanks and praise.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers & Passing of the Peace & Offering / Offertory



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

A: Let us Pray

C: God of grace and abundance, we joyfully offer these gifts of thanks for your blessings in our lives. We pray that you find what we bring in this moment to be an acceptable and adequate reflection of our gratitude, that you will continue to look on us as your faithful people, worthy of your favor and beneficence. And with humbleness in the face of our hubris, we beg your forgiveness for our lack of attention, respect and care for all you provide. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

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. 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
now and forever. Amen.

Benediction

WL: The God of hope fill you all with joy and peace, so that you
may live in harmony with God and with one another all the days
of your life.

C: Amen.

Recessional

How Firm a Foundation

796

1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove

is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign,
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,

who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Dismissal A: Go in peace, serve the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!



Sunday, October 4

Name Tag Sunday

8:30 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School

9:45 a.m. No Confirmation Class

9:45 a.m. Post-Confirmation Student Meeting

10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal

11:00 a.m. Worship

Tuesday, October 6

6:30 a.m. Early Birds Bible Study in fellowship hall

No Bible Studies w/ Pastor Chris this week

4:30 p.m. No Confirmation Class

Wednesday, October 7

9:00 a.m. Peacemakers Quilting Club

Thursday, October 8

7:30 p.m. Grace Digital Committee Meeting

Sunday, October 11

8:30 a.m. Worship
9:45 a.m. Sunday School & Post-Confirmation class meeting
9:45 a.m. No Confirmation Class
10:00 a.m. Choir Rehearsal
11:00 a.m. Worship



Timothy Kennedy, a Life Scout from Troop 1 Mahopac, will be selling Christmas wreaths and tabletop centerpieces at Grace on Sunday, October 18, 2026.

Wreaths are 22" noble fir and are \$27 each. Tabletop centerpieces are \$25 each. The reindeer and gnome sleighs are \$20/set. Cash or checks made payable to TROOP 1 MAHOPAC will be accepted.

The scouts will be at a table near the entrance. Delivery will be made to Grace before Thanksgiving. Thank you for helping Troop 1 reach their fundraising goals for activities including numerous camping and adventure trips. Check your weekly emails for sample photos of products available for sale.

