Trinity Lutheran Church

Marked with the cross of Christ we are called to love, serve, and celebrate Christ, our community, and one another.

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Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026 9:30 a.m.



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.

Welcome to Worship!

We're so glad you've joined us today.

We hope you are blessed by today's service!

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING + WORD + MEAL + SENDING

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING SONG

"This Is My Father's World" ELW #824

This is my Father's world, and to my list'ning ears
all nature sings, and round me rings
the music of the spheres.
This is my Father's world I rest me in the thought
of rocks and trees, of skies and seas;
his hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world; the birds their carols raise;
the morning light, the lily white,
declare their maker's praise.
This is my Father's world; he shines in all that's fair.
In the rustling grass I hear him pass;
he speaks to me ev'rywhere.

This is my Father's world; oh, let me not forget
that, though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.
This is my Father's world; why should my heart be sad?
The Lord is king, let heaven ring;
God reigns, let earth be glad!

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
Amen.

Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ☩ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.
Amen.

KYRIE

ELW p. 184 (vv.3&4)



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together:

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.

Please be seated.

GATHERING + ***WORD*** + MEAL + SENDING

FIRST READING Isaiah 45:1-7

1 Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right
hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and to strip
kings of their robes, to open doors before him—and the gates shall
not be closed:
2 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; 3 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. 4 For the sake of my servant
Jacob and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name; I give you a
title, though you do not know me. 5 I am the LORD, and there is no
other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not
know me, 6 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. 7 I form light and create darkness, I make weal
and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

Holy wisdom. Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

1 Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.
2 **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

3 Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.
4 **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

5 As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.
6 **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

7 Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.
8 **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

9 Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.
[10 **Tell it out among the nations: "The LORD is king! The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peoples with equity."**

11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that is therein.

12 **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O LORD, for you come to judge the earth.**

13 You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.]

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

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.

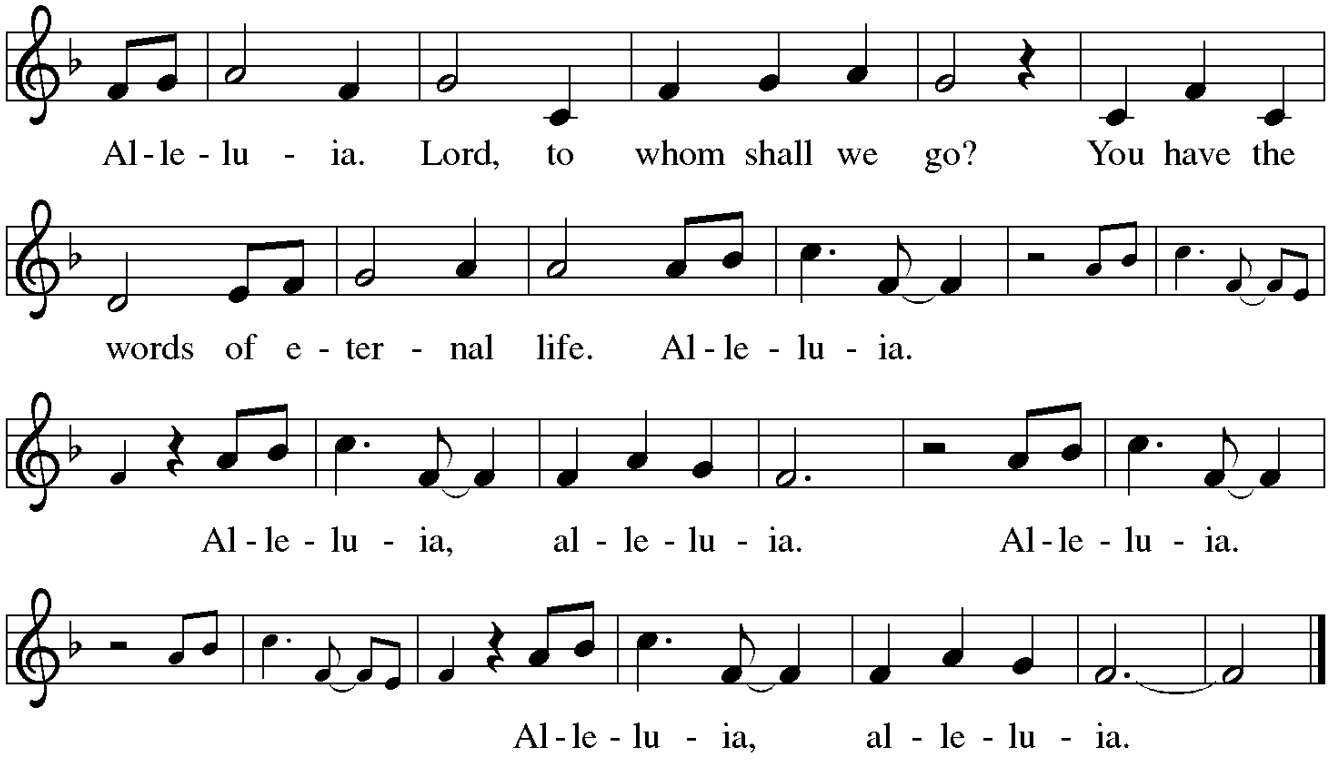
2 We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly 3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4 For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. 6 And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, 7 so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8 For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. 9 For they 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 10 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

Holy wisdom. Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW p. 188



GOSPEL Matthew 22:15-22

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

15 The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he
said. 16 So 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. 17 Tell us,
then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?”
18 But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me
to the test, you hypocrites? 19 Show me the coin used for the tax.”
And they brought him a denarius. 20 Then he said to them, “Whose
head is this and whose title?” 21 They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then

he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” 22 When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Please be seated.

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN OF GOD

SERMON Blake Danser

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

"For the Fruit of All Creation" ELW #679

For the fruit of all creation, thanks be to God.
For these gifts to ev'ry nation, thanks be to God.
For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.

In the just reward of labor, God's will is done.
In the help we give our neighbor, God's will is done.
In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.

For the harvests of the Spirit, thanks be to God.
For the good we all inherit, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.

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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.

Please be seated.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry (*local seminarians or newly called ministers may be named*). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give you thanks for the majesty of our oceans. Protect the abundant life within them and sustain all those who work to preserve them. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who hold positions of authority around the world, that they act with compassion, seeking the good of all. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, sick, or suffering (*especially*). Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church (*congregational ministries may be named*). Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you (*especially*). Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

A TIME FOR SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please be seated.

GATHERING + WORD + ***MEAL*** + SENDING

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS Becky Henry

"Creating God, Your Fingers Trace"

by Jeffery Rowthorn & W. Walker

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THE OFFERING OF OUR LIVES

"As the Grains of Wheat" ELW #465 (v.1)

As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.

As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. [Refrain]

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Offering Prayer

God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

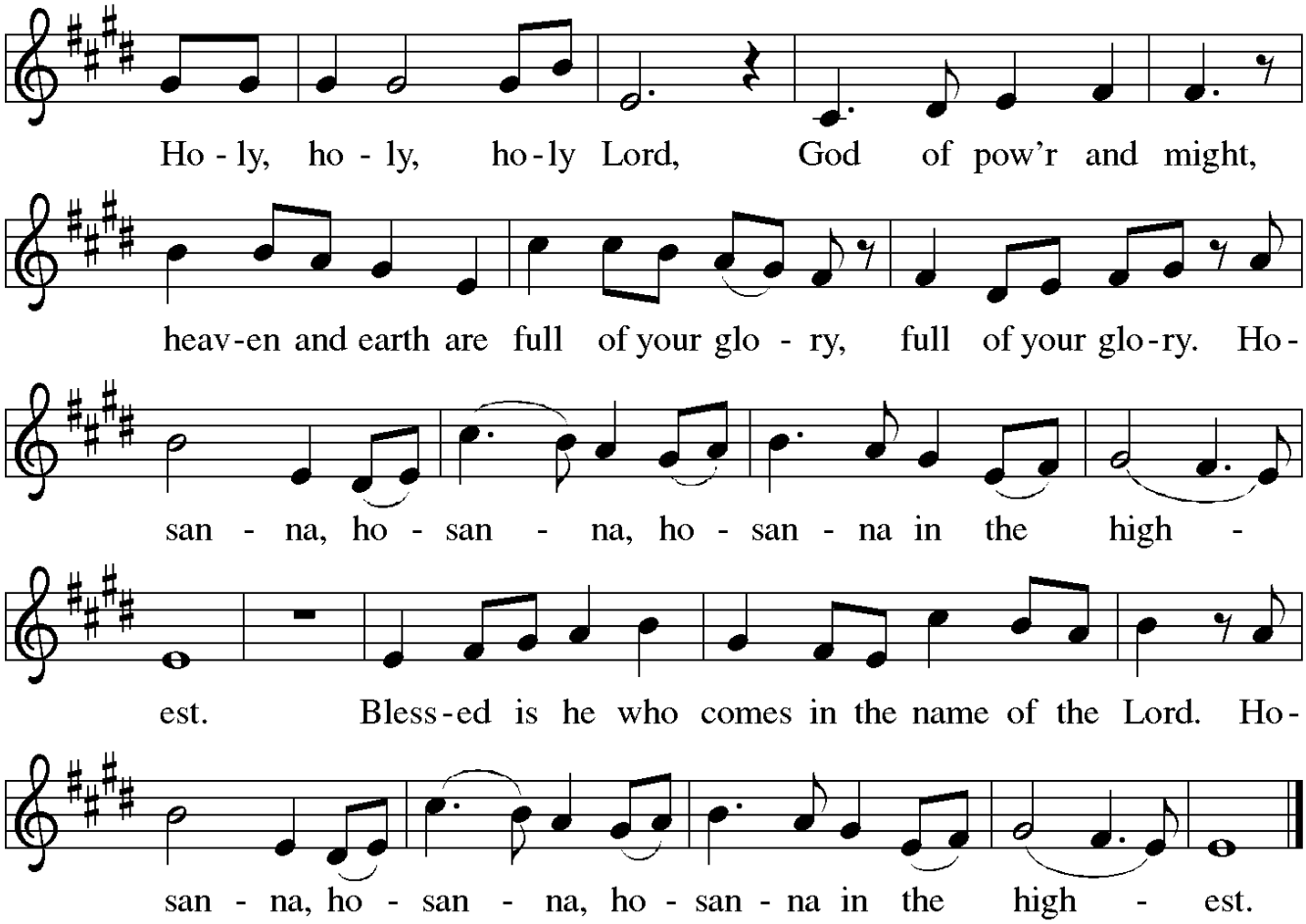
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through the great shepherd of your flock, our Savior Jesus Christ; who after his resurrection sent forth the apostles to preach the gospel and teach all nations, and promised to be with them, even to the end of the age.

And so, with the glorious company of the apostles, with the choirs of angels and all the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy Lord” ELW p. 190



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: “Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

The Lord’s Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
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.

Invitation to Communion

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Please be seated.

THE COMMUNION MEAL

(Please come forward at the direction of the ushers. Gluten-free wafers are also available — just ask the assistant at the time you commune.)

A note to those visiting with us:

All are welcome at the Lord's table. In this meal Jesus offers his grace, forgiveness, and presence to all. To learn more about the gifts of God's grace given in Baptism and Holy Communion, please speak with the pastor after worship.

COMMUNION SONG

"For the Beauty of the Earth" ELW #879

For the beauty of the earth,
for the beauty of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies:

Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

For the wonder of each hour
of the day and of the night,
hill and vale and tree and flow'r,
sun and moon and stars of light: [Refrain]

For the joy of ear and eye,
for the heart and mind's delight,
for the mystic harmony
linking sense to sound and sight:

Christ, our God, to thee we raise
this our sacrifice of praise.

For the joy of human love,
brother, sister, parent, child,
friends on earth and friends above;
for all gentle thoughts and mild: [Refrain]

For each perfect gift of thine,
peace on earth and joy in heav'n;
for thyself, best gift divine,
to our world so freely giv'n: [Refrain]

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray together:

Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

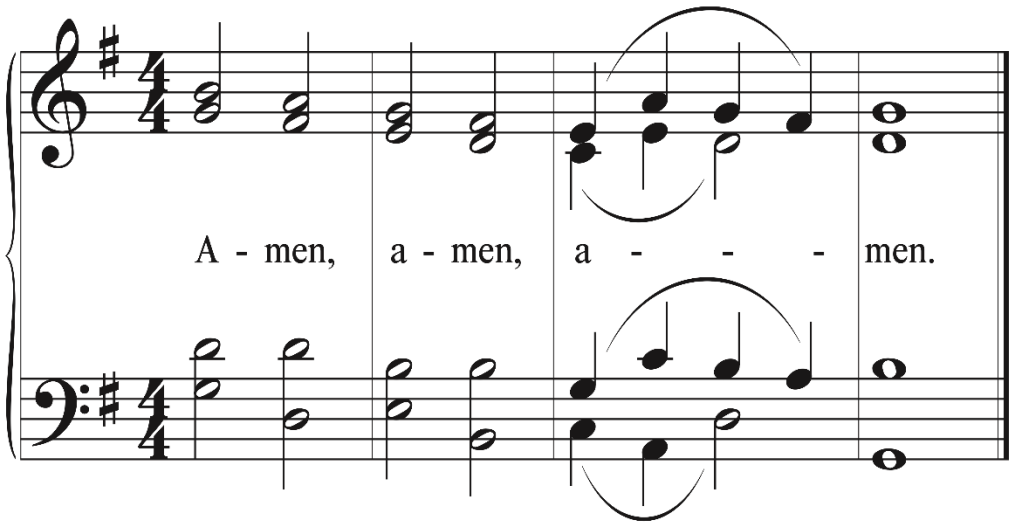
Please stand as you are able.

BENEDICTION

The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.
Amen.

The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.
Amen.

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.
Amen.



SENDING SONG

"Give to Our God Immortal Praise!" ELW #848

Give to our God immortal praise!
Mercy and truth are all his ways.
Wonders of grace to God belong;
repeat his mercies in your song.

God sent his Son with pow'r to save
from guilt and darkness and the grave.
Wonders of grace to God belong;
repeat his mercies in your song.

Give to the Lord of lords renown;
the King of kings with glory crown.
His mercies ever shall endure
when lords and kings are known no more!

DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

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