

Sunday Worship Service – October 11, 2026
20th Sunday after Pentecost – Thanksgiving Sunday
***Evangelical Lutheran Worship Book – Holy Communion Setting 7* (p.175-183)**

Words of Welcome by Pastor

Land Acknowledgement & Welcome Statement

Introduction to the Theme of the Bible Readings

The reading from Philippians invites us to rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding which is possible as we recognize the reminder and assurance from Psalm 23 of God's presence with us always. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. With great joy we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

Prayer of Confession¹

Blessed be the holy Trinity, the one who fashions us,
 the one who heals us, the one who transforms us again and again. Amen.
 Let us confess our sin, calling for God's transforming power.

(Silence for reflection and self-examination.)

**Holy Presence, following you is seldom easy. When we become afraid,
 we allow our worries and doubts to cloud our vision and obscure our faith.
 When you seem far away, we replace you with hobbies and work, with
 desirable playthings and pursuits that leave us feeling hollow and empty.
 Forgive us. Focus our hearts and minds on things that are excellent,
 admirable, and worthy of praise. Shine the light of your love in our lives,
 that we may see within ourselves the things that are just, righteous, and
 true. Amen.**

Words of Forgiveness

Rejoice in God whose grace is ours. Rejoice in the power of love!
 Rejoice that you are forgiven in the name of + the Father, Son,
 and Holy Spirit. Amen.

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#525 Gathering Hymn “*You Are Holy*”

1. You are holy, you are whole. You are always ever more
than we ever understand. You are always at hand.
Blessed are you coming near. Blessed are you coming here
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.
2. You are holy, you are wholeness, you are present.
Let the cosmos praise you, Lord!
Sing hosanna in the highest! Sing hosanna!
Sing hosanna to our God!

p.175 **Greeting**

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.**

p.175 **Kyrie**

Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy on us; O Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy on us; O Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy on us; O Lord, have mercy.
O Lord, have mercy.

p.176 **Canticle of Praise “Gloria”**

Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!
Gloria, gloria, gloria, glory to God on high!
And on earth peace to God’s people. Glory to God.
And on earth peace to God’s people. Glory to God.

Prayer of the Day²

*Holy God, we come into your midst with praise on our lips and songs of
joy in our hearts. We come to stand firm in our conviction: that good is
stronger than evil, that love is stronger than hate, that truth will
ultimately win the day. Keep our hearts focused on things that are worthy
of praise, and bless us with your peace – a peace that passes all*

² *The Abingdon Worship Annual 2017 Compilation* © 2016 Abingdon Press. Used by permission.

understanding. Keep our minds grounded in Christ Jesus, that we may know the joy of your justice and your faithfulness. Amen.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

He maketh me to lie down in green pastures:

he leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul:

he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,

I will fear no evil: for thou art with me;

thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies:

thou anointed my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life:

and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. (KJV)

Scripture Reading: Philippians 4:1-9

Though writing from prison and facing an uncertain future, Paul calls on the Philippians to rejoice and give thanks to God no matter what the circumstance. God's peace is with us and binds together our hearts and minds in Jesus Christ, especially when things around us do not seem peaceful.

A reading from Philippians the 4th chapter:

Therefore, you whom I love and miss, who are my joy and crown, stand firm in God. Loved ones, I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to come to an agreement in God. Yes, and I'm also asking you, loyal friend, to help these women who have struggled together with me in the ministry of the gospel, along with Clement and the rest of my coworkers whose names are in the scroll of life.

Be glad in God always! Again I say, be glad! Let your gentleness show in your treatment of all people. God is near. Don't be anxious about anything; rather, bring up all of your requests to God in your prayers and petitions, along with giving thanks. Then the peace of God that exceeds all understanding will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.

From now on, if anything is excellent and if anything is admirable, focus your thoughts on these things: all that is true, all that is holy, all that is just, all that is pure, all that is lovely, and all that is worthy of praise. Practice these things: whatever you learned, received, heard, or saw in us. The God of peace will be with you.(CEB)

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

p.179 **Gospel Acclamation**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-14

In the gospel from Matthew, Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus responded by speaking again in parables: "The kingdom of heaven is like a ruler who prepared a wedding party for his son. The ruler sent the servants to call those invited to the wedding party. But they didn't want to come. Again the ruler sent other servants and said to them, 'Tell those who have been invited, "Look, the meal is all prepared. I've butchered the oxen and the fattened cattle. Now everything's ready. Come to the wedding party!"' But they paid no attention and went away—some to their fields, others to their businesses. The rest of them grabbed the ruler's servants, abused them, and killed them.

"The ruler was angry and sent soldiers to destroy those murderers and set their city on fire. Then the ruler said to the servants, 'The wedding party is prepared, but those who were invited weren't worthy. Therefore, go to the roads on the edge of town and invite everyone you find to the wedding party.'

"Then those servants went to the roads and gathered everyone they found, both evil and good. The wedding party was full of guests. Now when the

ruler came in and saw the guests, he spotted a man who wasn't wearing wedding clothes. The ruler said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' But he was speechless. Then the ruler said to his servants, 'Tie his hands and feet and throw him out into the farthest darkness. People there will be weeping and grinding their teeth.'
 "Many people are invited, but few people are chosen." (CEB)

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

#374 (VU) Hymn of the Day *"Come and Find the Quiet Centre"* (familiar tune)

1. Come and find the quiet centre in the crowded life we lead,
 Find the room for hope to enter, find the frame where we are freed:
 Clear the chaos and the clutter, clear our eyes that we can see
 All the things that really matter, be at peace, and simply be.
2. Silence is a friend who claims us, cools the heat and slows the pace,
 God it is who speaks and names us, knows our being face to face,
 Making space within our thinking, lifting shades to show the sun,
 Raising courage when we're shrinking, finding scope for faith begun.
3. In the Spirit let us travel, open to each other's pain,
 Let our lives and fears unravel, celebrate the space we gain:
 There's a place for deepest dreaming, there's a time for heart to care,
 In the Spirit's lively scheming There is always room to spare!

Affirmation of Faith³

As followers of Jesus Christ, living in this world—
 which some seek to control, and others view with despair—
 we declare with joy and trust: our world belongs to God!
 From the beginning, through all the crises of our times,
 until God's kingdom fully comes, God keeps covenant forever.
 Our world belongs to God! Let the earth be glad!
 The Spirit is at work, renewing creation.
 We rejoice in the goodness of God, renounce the works of darkness,
 and dedicate ourselves to holy living and loving.

³ Adapted from "Our World Belongs to God," articles 1, 2, 6. Posted on the [Calvin Institute for Christian Worship](http://www.calvin.edu/ChristianWorship/) website.

**As covenant partners, called to faithful obedience,
and set free for joyful praise,
we offer our hearts and lives to do God's work in God's world.
And we are confident that the light which shines in the present darkness
will fill the earth. Our world belongs to God.**

Prayers of Intercession⁴

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

Holy God, we remember your promise of unity on your holy mountain. Empower the World Council of Churches and all those working across religious difference, that the world may know your undivided love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise of green pastures and quiet waters. Preserve all places of natural beauty and restore our relationship with the land. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise to not abandon us amid storm and disaster. Renew all communities facing disasters (*regions in crisis may be named*) and give your courage to those leading relief efforts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We remember your promise to wipe away every tear. Heal and console all who are sick or suffering (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** We remember your promise of a banquet open to all people. We give you thanks that our doors are open and that we welcome everyone to the table. 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.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always! **And also with you!**

⁴ <https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/DayTexts>

Offering and Offering Prayer⁵

God of steadfast love, your bounty knows no bounds. For the abundant gifts in our lives, we thank you. For the peace that passes all understanding, we praise you. For keeping our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus, we honor you. Receive the gifts we bring you this day, and help us stay focused on things that are excellent and admirable, holy and just, righteous and pure. Amen

A Thanksgiving Communion Liturgy

As the seed which was scattered to all corners of the field comes together to make bread on our table,

So God's people gather from all corners of the world to share the great banquet of thankfulness and hope.

At God's table there are no divisions.

At God's table all are welcome to share in the bounty of abundant life.

Here at God's table we join with all who seek to follow Jesus.

Here we taste God's grace. Here we know that God is good.

The Spirit of the Living God be with you all

And also with you.

In this harvest season we pause to give thanks to God.

It is a good thing to give thanks for all God has given us.

God of growth, God of harvest, God of gifts, God of blessings,
here we pause to give thanks for the abundance of our lives.

For the fruit of the earth, for the food on our tables,

for the love of our family of faith around the world.

For the promise of hope in a world given to despair,

for the possibility of peace in a world torn apart by violence,

For these, and many other things, we offer our thanks and praise.

Remembering

In the middle of our thankfulness we give special thanks for a person from Nazareth, Jesus, the one we call Christ.

Child of Mary, child of grace, Jesus came to teach about the wonders of your love. Jesus came to break down the walls of division among your people.

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As Jesus ate with the despised and the least of this world Jesus showed us what the glorious banquet of life could be like.

We give thanks for Jesus' witness and commitment to The Way.

We give thanks for Jesus' healing of broken spirits and broken bodies.

We give thanks for Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

Here, now, as we gather at the table to which Jesus calls us,

we remember another table long ago and far away.

At that table Jesus gathered with friends to tell again the ancient story of liberation from bondage.

Words of Institution

In that same 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, Jesus took the cup,

Gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the covenant in my blood,

Shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Transforming

May the presence of the Spirit make this meal an occasion of transformation for we who gather to eat it together.

Creator, our Source of Love;

Christ, Love Incarnate;

Spirit, Love's flowing power

be praised, now and forever. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as 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.

Communion Distribution

p.182 ***Lamb of God***

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
 have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
 grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.
 have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
 Grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

#502 Communion Hymn *"The King of Love My Shepherd Is"*

1. The King of love my shepherd is, whose goodness faileth never;
 I nothing lack if I am his and he is mine forever.
2. Where streams of living water flow, my ransomed soul he leadeth
 and, where the verdant pastures grow, with food celestial feedeth.
3. Perverse and foolish oft I strayed, but yet in love he sought me,
 and on his shoulder gently laid, and home, rejoicing, brought me.
4. In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear Lord, beside me,
 thy rod and staff my comfort still; thy cross before to guide me.
5. Thou spreadst a table in my sight; thine unction grace bestoweth;
 and, oh, what transport of delight from thy pure chalice floweth!
6. And so, through all the length of days, thy goodness faileth never.
 Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise within thy house forever.

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion

God of all creation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
 reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
 Through this meal, may we become Christ's body in the world,
 bearing witness to your love for all creation, in Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Announcements

A Thanksgiving Blessing⁶

May an abundance of gratitude burst forth as you reflect on what you have received.

May thanksgiving overflow in your hearts and be proclaimed in your prayers.

May the harvest of your good actions bring forth plentiful fruit each day.

May your basket of blessings surprise you with its rich diversity of gifts and its opportunities for growth.

May you be open, willing, and ready to share your blessings with others.

May you never forget the Generous One who loves you lavishly and unconditionally.

In the name of the + Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer. Amen.

#840 Sending Hymn *"Now Thank We All Our God"*

1. **Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.**
2. **Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.**
3. **All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now, and shall be evermore.**

Sending

Go in peace, to love and serve God through word and deed.

Thanks be to God!

⁶ Adapted from *Out of the Ordinary* © 2000 by Joyce Rupp. Used by permission of Ave Maria Press. All rights reserved.