

**Sunday Worship Service – October 18, 2026**  
**21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
***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\***

Jesus' encounters with the Pharisees challenge us to engage God's teachings more fully and to live God's teachings more completely. The point of God's teachings is that God is our center and our source. As we remember and live this truth, returning our first fruits to God and doing God's work in the world flows naturally. As we remember and live this truth, we yearn for deeper connection with God.

**Prayer of Confession\***

O God, **you have shown us your ways and promised to walk with us.**  
**Through your Son, Jesus, you have given us an example to follow, that we might be imitators of your divine love. Lover of justice, forgive us when we forget whose image we bear. May the deep convictions of our faith be displayed through acts of kindness, compassion and mercy, in your holy name we pray. Amen.**

**Words of Forgiveness**

Our God is a God who forgives, showing kindness and compassion to all.  
 When we call on God, God hears and answers us.  
 We are forgiven, in the name of the + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

**#825 Gathering Hymn "*You Servants of God*"**

- 1. You servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
and publish abroad his wonderful name;  
the name, all-victorious, of Jesus extol;  
his kingdom is glorious and rules over all!**
- 2. Ascended on high, almighty to save,  
yet still he is nigh, his presence we have.  
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,  
ascribing salvation to Jesus, our king!**
- 3. Salvation to God who sits on the throne!**

Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.  
 The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,  
 fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

4. Then let us adore and give him his right,  
 all glory and pow'r and wisdom and might,  
 all honor and blessing, with angels above,  
 and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!

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.**

**Confirmation Covenanting**

**Sharing of the Peace**

**Prayer of the Day\***

*Holy One*, send your word, like rain in the desert, to satisfy our thirsty souls. Nurture us and strengthen our spirits, that we may be centered on your ways and empowered by your Holy Spirit. Inspire us that our actions may be just and our words be true reflections of your love and grace, as we bear your image in the world. In your holy name, we pray. Amen.

**Psalm 96:1-9<sup>1</sup>**

Sing to God a new song! Sing to God all the earth!  
**Sing to God, bless God's name! Proclaim God's salvation day after day.**  
 Declare God's glory among the nations, God's marvels to every people.  
**God is great, most worthy of praise, God is to be revered above all gods.**  
 The gods of the nations are nothing,  
 they don't exist – but God created the universe.  
**In God's presence are splendor and majesty,**  
**in God's sanctuary power and beauty.**  
 Pay tribute to god, you tribes of the people;  
 pay tribute to the God of glory and power.  
**Pay tribute to the glorious name of God;**

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<sup>1</sup> *The Inclusive Bible: The First Egalitarian Translation*

**bring out the offering, and carry it into god's courts.**

Worship God, majestic in holiness.

**Scripture Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

*Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.*

A reading from 1 Thessalonians, chapter 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 and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before God your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that God has chosen you, 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. And you became imitators of us and of Jesus, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 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. 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 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath. (NRSVUE)

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 22:15-22**

*In the gospel from Matthew, after Jesus begins teaching in the temple, we hear the religious leaders trying 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 22<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. 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. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then Jesus said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" They answered, "Caesar's." Then Jesus said to them, "Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left Jesus and went away. (NRSVUE)

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

**Sermon: *Bearing God's Image***

**#583 Hymn of the Day "Take My Life, That I May Be"**

*Refrain:*

**Take my life, that I may be consecrated, Lord, to thee;  
take my moments and my days let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**1. Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love;  
take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.**

*Refrain*

**2. Take my silver and my gold, not a mite would I withhold;  
take my intellect and use ev'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.**

*Refrain*

**3. Take my voice and let me sing always, only, for my King;  
take my lips and let them be filled with messages from thee.**

*Refrain*

**4. Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine;  
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.**

*Refrain*

### **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 of Intercession<sup>2</sup>**

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

Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel.  
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. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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<sup>2</sup> <https://members.sundaysandseasons.com/Home/DayTexts>

We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church.  
Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love.  
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.**

### **Offering and Offering Prayer\***

Generous God, **these offerings represent only a part of what we owe you.**  
**Our currency bears the imprint of worldly powers,**  
**but we bear the holy image you inscribe on our hearts.**  
**All that we have and all that we are belong to you, O God.**  
**As we give these gifts and ourselves freely to you,**  
**may others know your goodness and your love,**  
**through the offerings of our lives. Amen.**

### p.180 **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 a right, good and joyful thing, always and everywhere,  
to give thanks to you for the glorious resurrection of Jesus Christ,  
who in dying destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life.  
And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the  
resurrection, with your creatures on earth and all the heavenly chorus,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

p.181 **Holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of might and power; holy is the Lord.**  
**Holy, holy, holy Lord God, God of might and power; holy is the Lord.**  
**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.**  
**Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**  
**Hosanna in the highest, hosanna here on earth.**  
**Blest is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

Holy, mighty, and merciful God, 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.

### **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.

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this holy communion  
we may know the unity we share with all your people  
in the body of your son, Jesus Christ.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all glory and honour is yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

**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.

**#482 Communion Hymn “*I Come with Joy*”**

1. I come with joy a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall in love laid down for me,  
in love laid down for me.
2. I come with Christians far and near to find, as all are fed,  
the new community of love in Christ’s communion bread,  
in Christ’s communion bread.
3. As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one, and strangers now are friends,  
and strangers now are friends.
4. The Spirit of the risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known, alive among us here,  
alive among us here.
5. Together met, together bound by all that God has done,  
we’ll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one,  
the love that makes us one.

**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**

**Blessing\***

Strengthened by the presence of God, go forth in hope.  
 Guided by the teachings of Christ, go forth to serve.  
 Led by the power of the Holy Spirit, go forth to love.  
 In the name of + God the Creator, Jesus our healer,  
 and the Holy Spirit our comforter. Amen.

**#546 Sending Hymn “To Be Your Presence”**

1. To be your presence is our mission here,  
 to show compassion’s face and listening ear,  
 to be your heart of mercy ever near, alleluia!
2. To be your presence is our mission bold,  
 to feed the poor and shelter homeless cold,  
 to be your hands of justice, right uphold, alleluia!
3. To be your presence is our mission blest,  
 to speak for all the broken and oppressed,  
 to be your voice of hope, your love expressed, alleluia!
4. We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice,  
 to serve your people is our call and choice,  
 and in this mission we, the church, rejoice, alleluia!

**Sending**

Go in peace, to love and serve God through word and deed.  
**Thanks be to God!**

**Sources:**

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