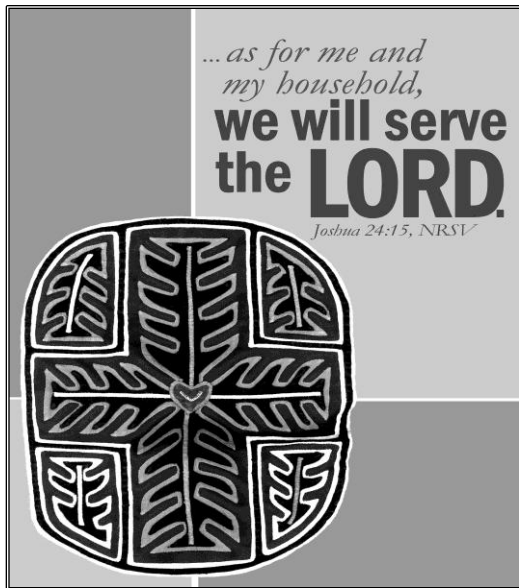




21st Sunday after Pentecost *Keeping God at the Center*

October 18, 2026
Sunday, 9:30 am

Also on Sunday: Radio Broadcast on WRMN
1410 AM & Live Stream at:

[Holy Trinity Lutheran Church \(holytrinityelgin.com\)](http://holytrinityelgin.com)

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude: *If You Will Only Let God Lead You*

Georg Boehm



Purpose Statement

Our Savior calls us into mission. Together let us say the purpose we share:

***A Christ-Centered Church
Sharing Faith, Hope, and Love
with each other, our neighbors, and the world.***



Welcome and Announcements



Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.



Gathering Hymn: *All Who Love and Serve Your City* ELW 724



1 All who love and serve your cit - y, all who
 2 In your day of loss and sor - row, in your
 3 In your day of wealth and plen - ty, wast - ed
 4 For all days are days of judg - ment, and the
 5 Ris - en Lord, shall yet the cit - y be the



bear its dai - ly stress, all who cry for peace and
 day of help - less strife, hon - or, peace, and love re -
 work and wast - ed play, call to mind the word of
 Lord is wait - ing still, draw - ing near a world that
 cit - y of de - spair? Come to - day, our judge, our



jus - tice, all who curse and all who bless,
 treat - ing, seek the Lord, who is your life,
 Je - sus, "You must work while it is day."
 spurns him, of - f'ring peace from Cal - v'ry's hill.
 glo - ry. Be its name "The Lord is there!"

Text: Erik Routley, 1917–1982
 Music: NEW ORLEANS, Paul D. Weber, b. 1949
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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.



Prayer of the Day

The presiding minister leads the prayer of the day.

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

God of deliverance, you saved the people of Israel and chose Joshua to lead your people to the Promised Land. Choose us, and equip us to live with faith and peace. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.



Mostly Children's Time

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Verse of the Month: Psalm 121:1-2

Let us remember the witness of Scripture as we say our verse of the month together:

I lift up my eyes to the hills — from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.



First Reading: Joshua 24:1-15

24 Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders of Israel, its leaders, judges, and officers. They presented themselves before God. ² Then Joshua said to the entire people, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: Long ago your ancestors lived on the other side of the Euphrates. They served other gods. Among them was Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor. ³ I took Abraham your ancestor from the other side of the Euphrates. I led him around through the whole land of Canaan. I added to his descendants and gave him Isaac. ⁴ To Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I gave Mount Seir to Esau to take over. But Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt. ⁵ Then I sent Moses and Aaron. I plagued Egypt with what I did to them. After that I brought you out. ⁶ I brought your ancestors out of Egypt, and you came to the sea. The Egyptians chased your ancestors with chariots and horses to the Reed Sea. ⁷ Then they cried for help to the Lord. So he set darkness between you and the Egyptians. He brought the sea down on them, and it covered them. With your own eyes you saw what I did to the Egyptians. You lived in the desert for a long time.

⁸ "Then I brought you into the land of the Amorites who lived on the other side of the Jordan. They attacked you, but I gave them into your power, and you took over their land. I wiped them out before you. ⁹ Then Moab's King Balak, Zippor's son, set out to attack Israel. He summoned Balaam, Beor's son, to curse you. ¹⁰ But I wasn't willing to listen to Balaam, so he actually blessed you. I rescued you from his power. ¹¹ Then you crossed over the Jordan. You came to Jericho, and the citizens of Jericho attacked you. They were Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites,

Hittites, Girgashites, Hivites, and Jebusites. But I gave them into your power. ¹² I sent the hornet^[b] before you. It drove them out before you and did the same to the two kings of the Amorites. It wasn't your sword or bow that did this. ¹³ I gave you land on which you hadn't toiled and cities that you hadn't built. You settled in them and are enjoying produce from vineyards and olive groves that you didn't plant. ¹⁴ "So now, revere the Lord. Serve him honestly and faithfully. Put aside the gods that your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates and in Egypt and serve the Lord. ¹⁵ But if it seems wrong in your opinion to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Choose the gods whom your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you live. But my family and I will serve the Lord."

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.



Gospel Acclamation: Alleluia (Setting 3)



Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

The holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁴ Then the Spirit led Jesus up into the wilderness so that the devil might tempt him. ² After Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights, he was starving. ³ The tempter came to him and said, "Since you are God's Son, command these stones to become bread." ⁴ Jesus replied, "It's written, *People won't live only by bread, but by every word spoken by God.*"

⁵ After that the devil brought him into the holy city and stood him at the highest point of the temple. He said to him, ⁶ "Since you are God's Son, throw yourself down; for it is written, *I will command my angels concerning you, and they will take you up in their hands so that you won't hit your foot on a stone.*" ⁷ Jesus replied, "Again it's written, *Don't test the Lord your God.*"

⁸ Then the devil brought him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ He said, "I'll give you all these if you bow down and worship me." ¹⁰ Jesus responded, "Go away, Satan, because it's written, *You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him.*"

¹¹ The devil left him, and angels came and took care of him.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.



Sermon



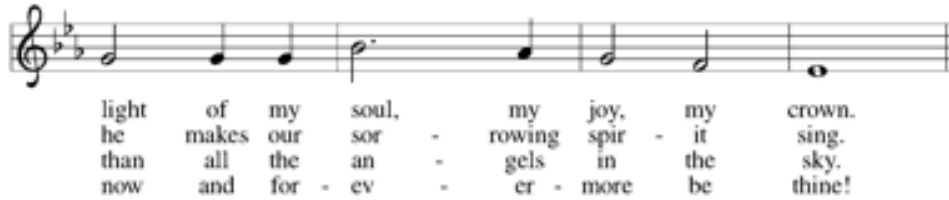
Hymn of the Day: Beautiful Savior

ELW 838

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



Text: Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Sciss, 1823–1904
Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.



Apostle's Creed

With Christians around the world, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle's 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 the People

We join with Christians far and near to worship God the Creator, praying for the earth and for all in need, responding to each petition with the words "Your mercy is great."

As we do each weekend, we light a candle for peace and pray together the Peace Prayer.

A brief silence as the peace candle is lit.

Let us pray together ... **God of love, your word teaches that peace is not the absence of conflict but the presence of justice. Peace is what happens when those who have much do not have too much and those who have little do not have too little. The very old and the very young feel safe and supported. Parents can feed themselves and their children and all have the opportunity for meaningful work in their community. Let us pray and work for this kind of peace. God of grace, hear our prayer.**

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...and all those on our prayer chain*. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you. 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.



Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

I invite you to share a sign of peace with your neighbor.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ



As we prepare to receive the gift of Holy Communion, we pray a table grace patterned after the great Old Testament and early church prayers that recount God's goodness and ask that such goodness would extend to us and through us now and until our Lord's promised return.



Offertory: *Commonwealth Is God's Commandment*

ACS 1036

Please stand in body or spirit as the gifts are brought forward.



- 1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.
- 2 Shar-ing lav-ish gifts and bless-ings, love that not one mite with-holds,
- 3 Gen-ders, rac-es, tribes, and na-tions, hear the Ho-ly One who calls,



Ta-bles set and doors wide o-pen wel-come an-gels un-a-ware.
stretch out arms to friends and strang-ers: God has sheep of man-y folds.
bid-ding all to work to-geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.



Plead for the peace of all cre-a-tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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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 for our neighbors,
today and always.
Amen.



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 God our thanks and praise.

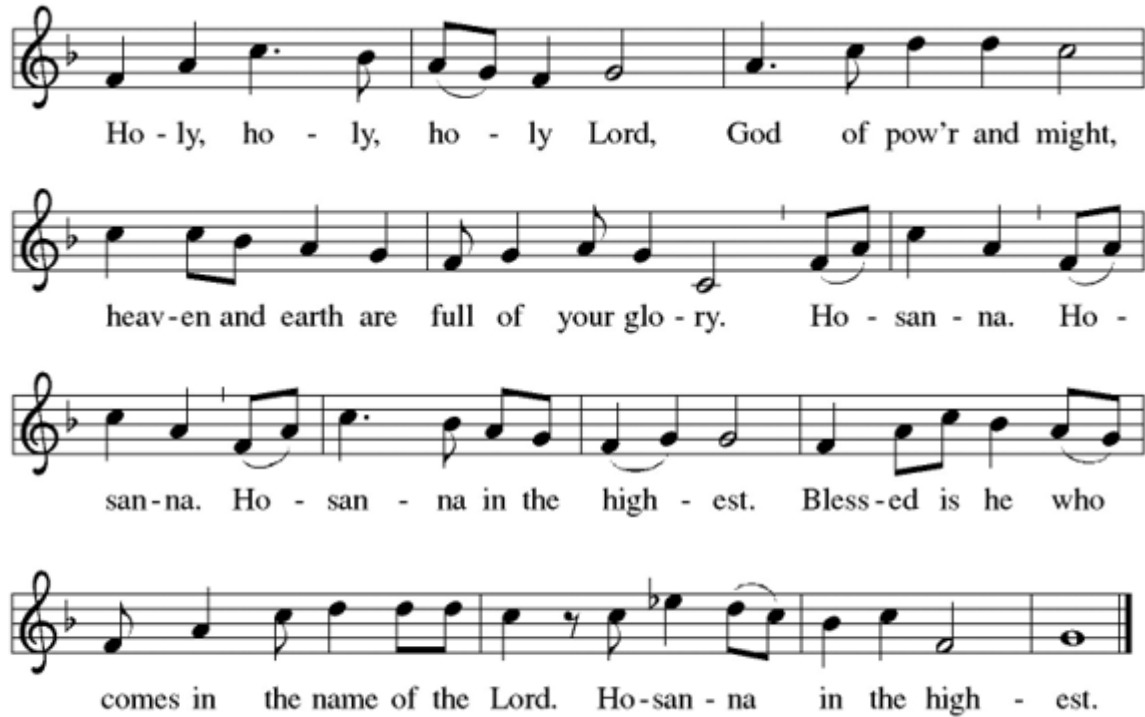
Pastor continues with the preface to the eucharistic prayer, which leads us to Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus), an ancient hymn comprised of the angelic chorus of Isaiah 6, the praise of Psalm 118:26, and the crowd's Palm Sunday shouts of Matthew 21:9.

Preface

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 our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,

and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

(Setting 3)



Thanksgiving at the Table

Pastor continues with the eucharistic prayer, which concludes with the Lord's Prayer.

Holy God,
our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,
you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.
You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,
and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.
You sent your Son to eat with sinners
and to become food for the world.

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 life given for us and his rising from the grave,
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.
By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen

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!
Thanks be to God.

The assembly may be seated.

*All are welcome to the communion feast, for our Lord is host and gives
himself to all who desire to receive.*

***Please come up to the communion rails, either kneel or stand as
you are able.***

Those not receiving Holy Communion are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing or remain in their seats in prayer. While we share this festive meal, we sing of our Savior's invitation, grace, and promise. Come, let us eat and drink at the table of the Lord.



Music During Communion: *Lamb of God (setting 3)*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have

mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the

sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Music *Yield Not to Temptation*

Horatio Palmer



Sharing the meal



Prayer after Communion

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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.



Blessing

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 Hymn: *The Lord Now Sends Us Forth*

ELW 538

En - via - do soy de Dios, mi ma - no lis - ta_es - tá
 The Lord now sends us forth with hands to serve and give,

pa - ra cons-truir con él un mun - do fra - ter - nal.
 to make of all the earth a bet - ter place to live.



Los án - ge - les no son en - via - dos a cam - biar
The an - gels are not sent in - to our world of pain

un mun - do de do - lor por un mun - do me - jor;
to do what we were meant to do in Je - sus' name;

me ha to - ca - do a mí ha - cer - lo rea - li - dad.
that falls to you and me and all who are made free.

A - yú - da - me, Se - ñor, a ha - cer tu vo - lun - tad.
Help us, O Lord, we pray, to do your will to - day.

Text: Anonymous, Central America; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923
Music: ENVIADO, anonymous, Central America
English text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress.

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Dismissal

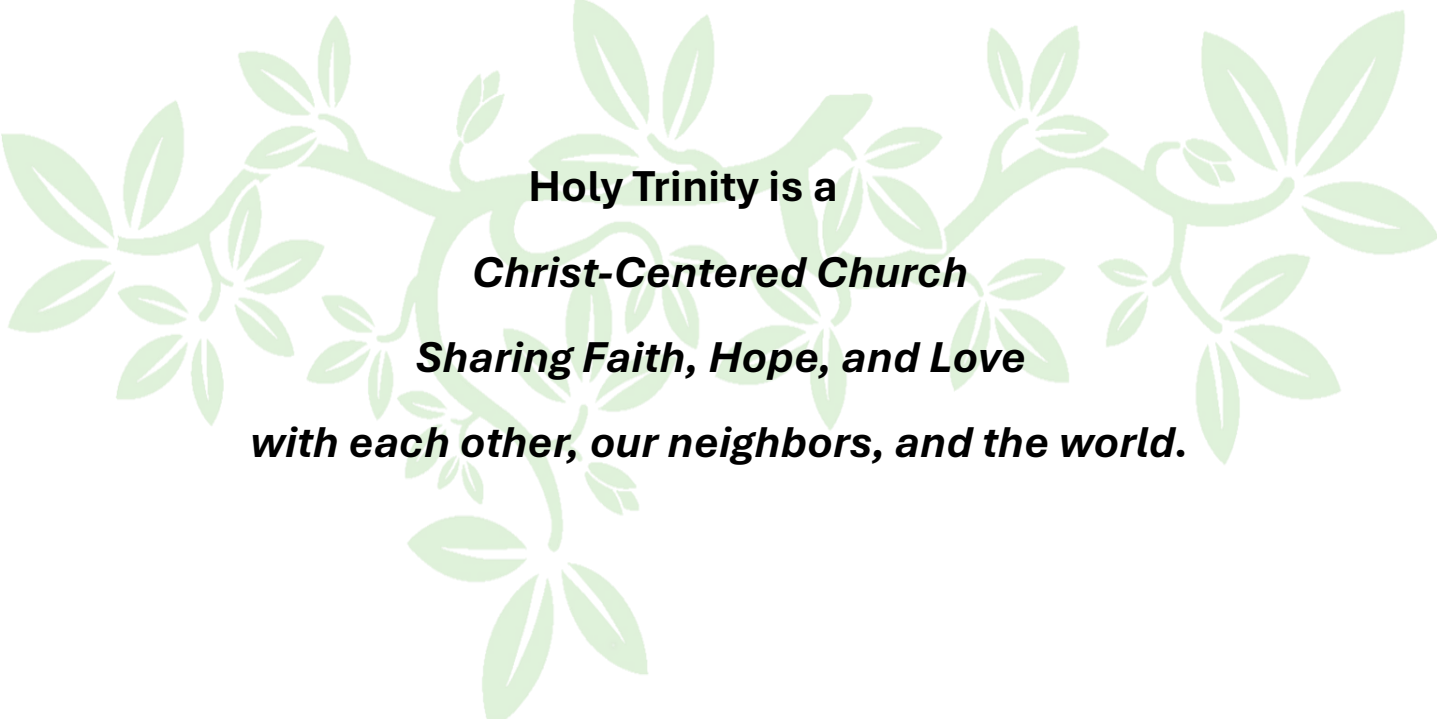
Go out in joy.

Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: *Maestoso*

Jean-Phillipe Rameau



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Christ-Centered Church
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*with each other, our neighbors, and the world.***



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Holy Trinity
Lutheran Church

