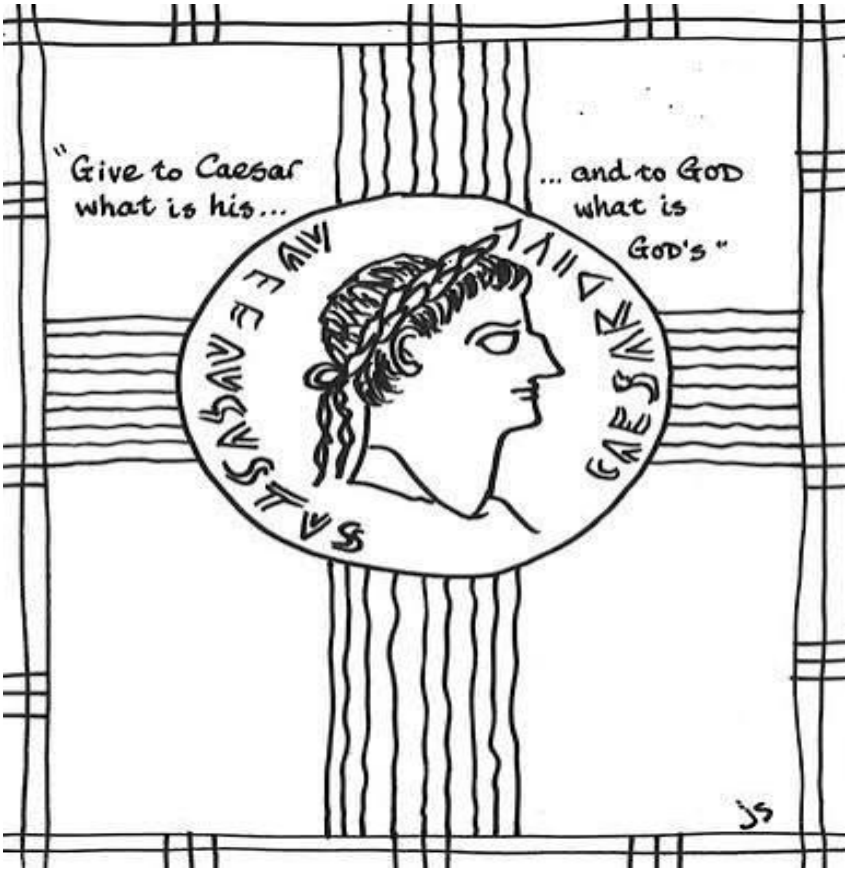


Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, October 18, 2026

9:00 am

Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise the God of new life!

Bulletins are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary. We encourage you to participate throughout worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns. An asterisk * indicates when you are invited to stand, as you are comfortable.

All are welcome to come forward for communion. The ushers will guide you. Juice and gluten-free wafers are available; please let your server know if you need either of these.

A basket for offerings is at the rear of the sanctuary.

A children's table is located at the back of the sanctuary, where you'll find some books and activities to help children feel more at home in worship.

Serving in Worship Today

Presiding Minister	The Rev. Andrea McDonough
Organist	Gerry Mass
Assisting Minister	Harry Werner
Lector	Paula Hohenstein
Offering Bearer	Maggie Hernandez
Parish Administrator	Jen Lasher-Dobush
Custodian	Vanessa Petrakos

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude:

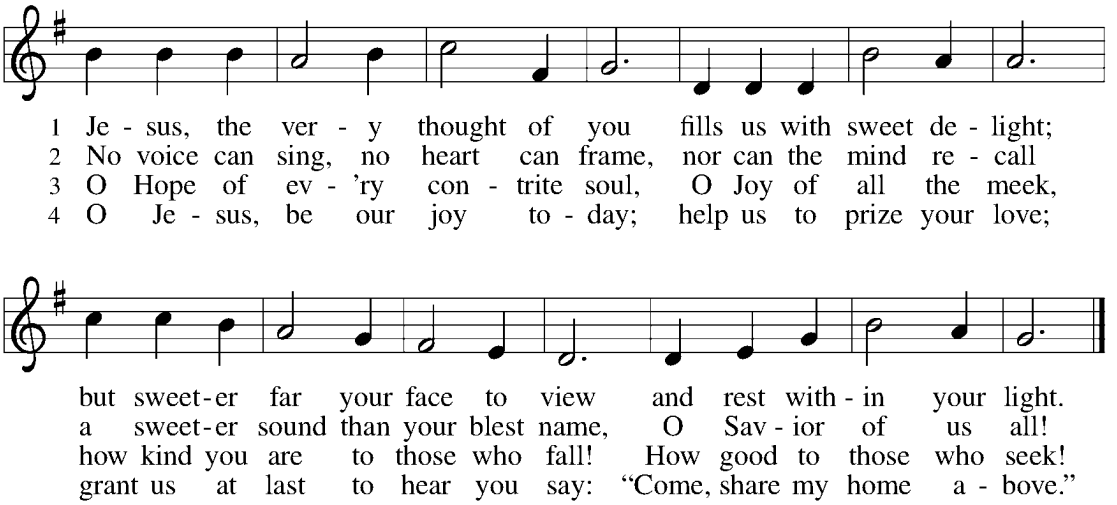
*Confession & Forgiveness

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.

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.**

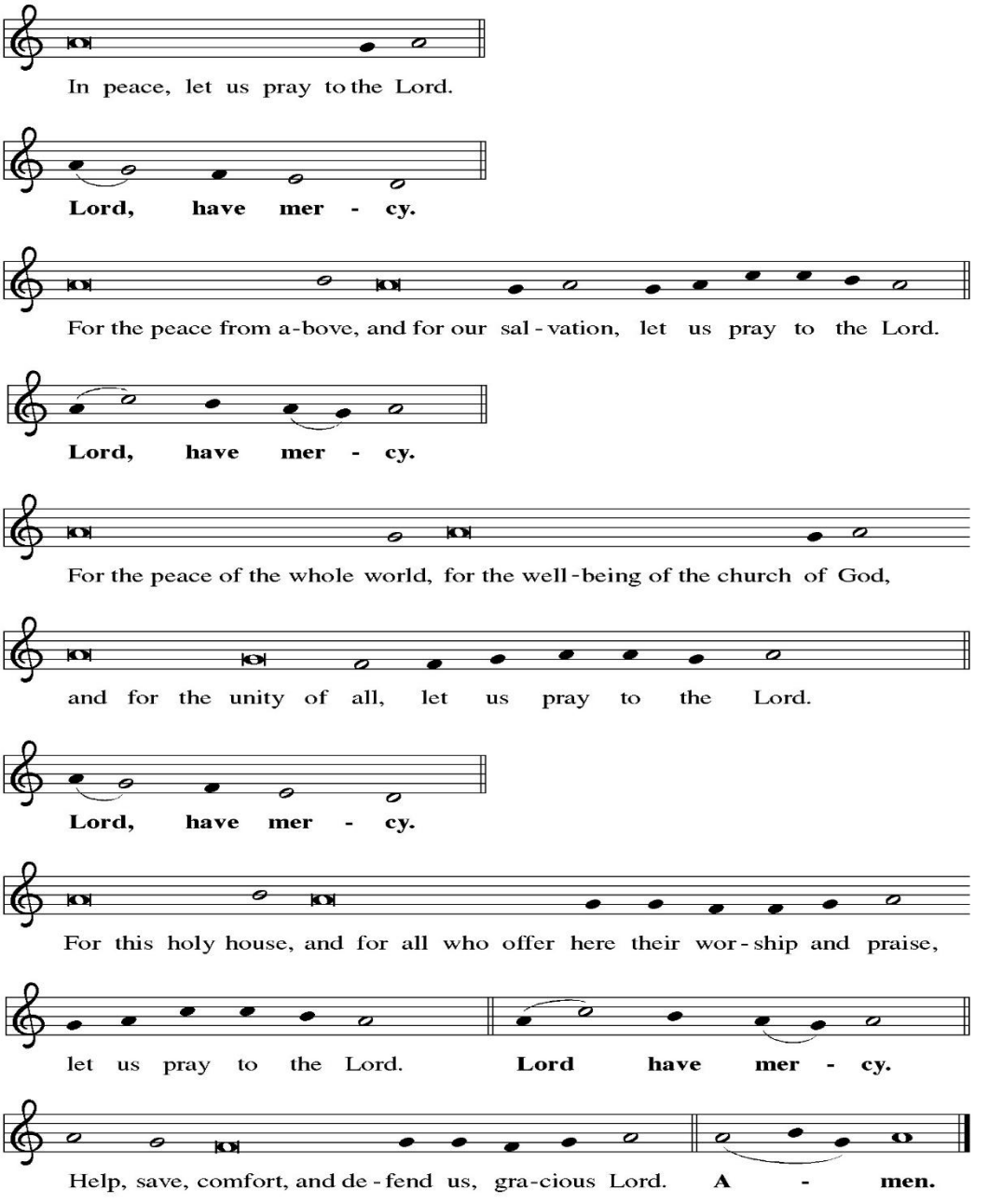
*Gathering Hymn: Jesus, The Very Thought of You
ELW # 754



Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878
Music: ST. AGNES, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

***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.**

*Kyrie


In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
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.
Lord, have mer - cy.
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.
Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

*Hymn of Praise



* Prayer of the Day

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.**

Children's Moment

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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 a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong 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 hon- | or 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 beau- | ty 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 peo- | ples 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 com- | ing, 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 Theselonians 1:1-10

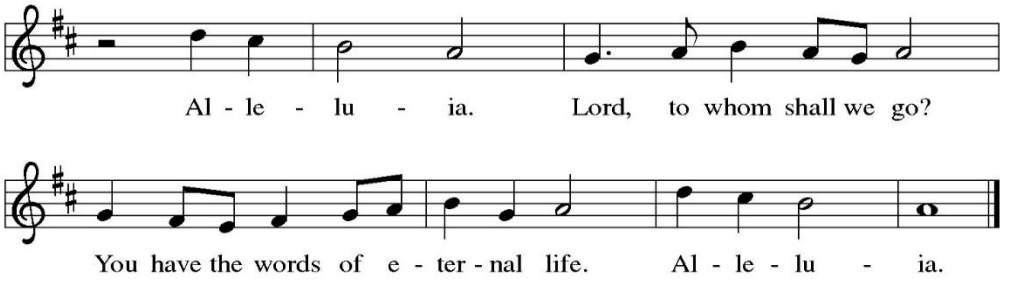
1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

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

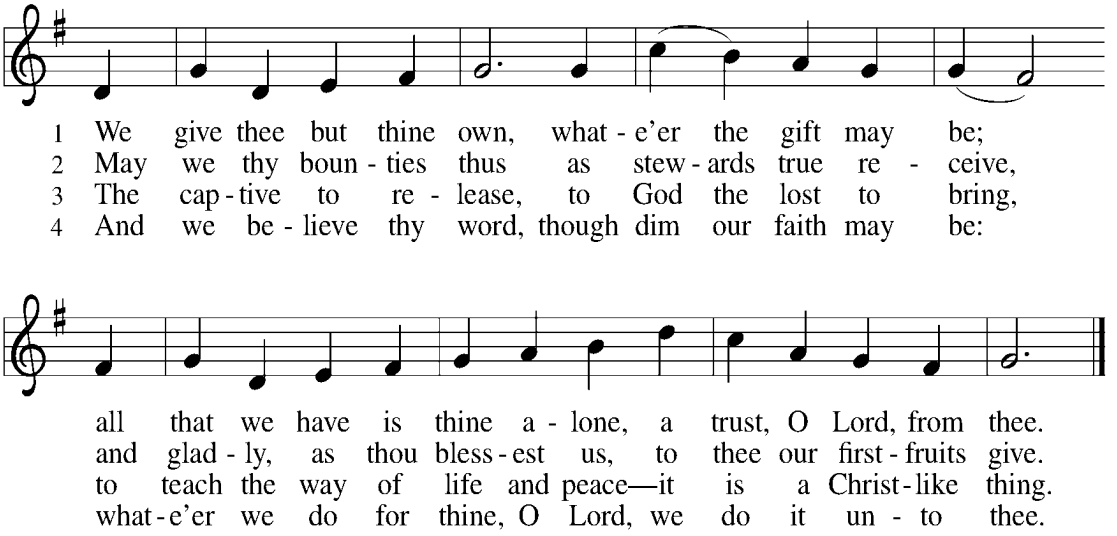
title?” [21] They answered, “Caesar’s.” Then he said to them, “Give therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s.” [22] When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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

Sermon

*

Hymn of the Day: We Give The But Thine Own ELW # 686



Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.
Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

*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 the People

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. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry. 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.**

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.**

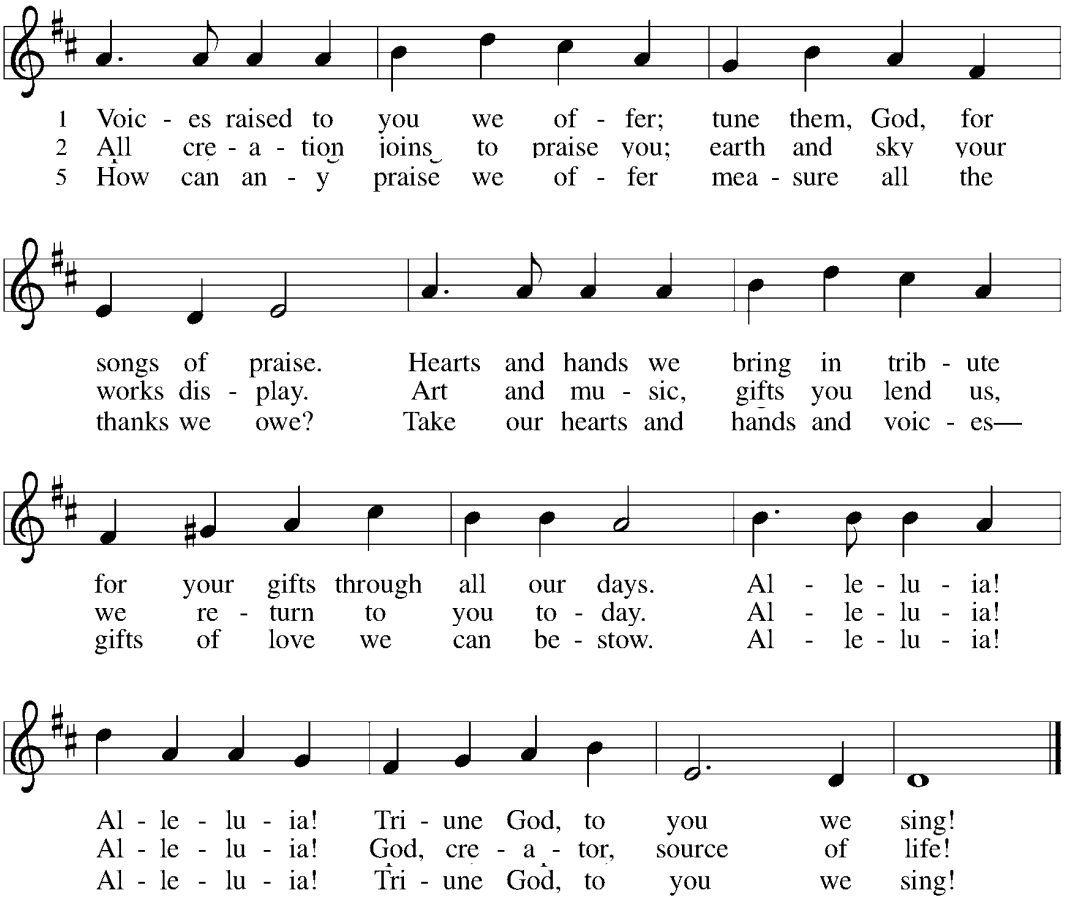
We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

*Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always**. And also with you**

*Offertory Hymn: Voices Raised to You ELW # 845



*Offertory 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.**

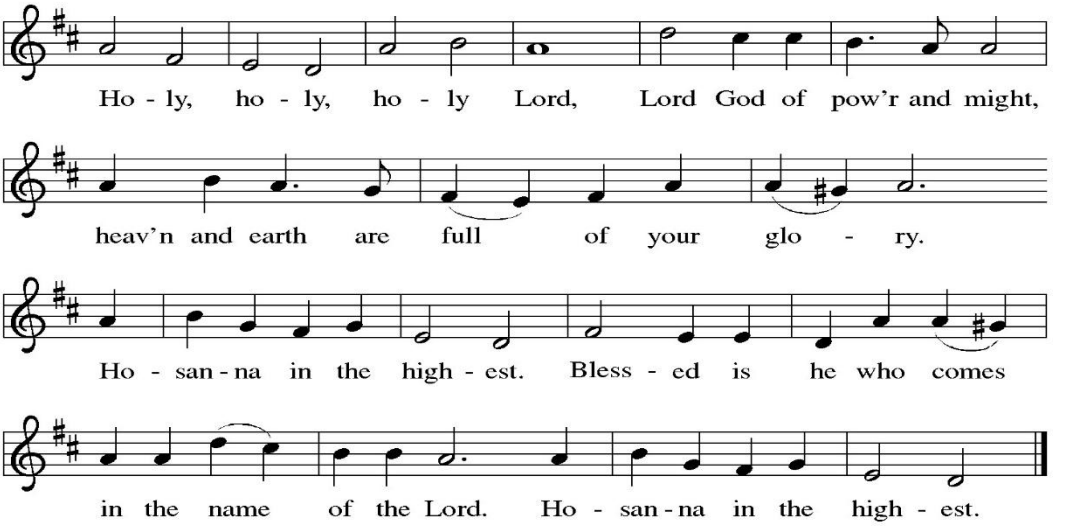
*Great Thanksgiving

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 and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. In him you have received us as your children, made us citizens of your kingdom, and given us your Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



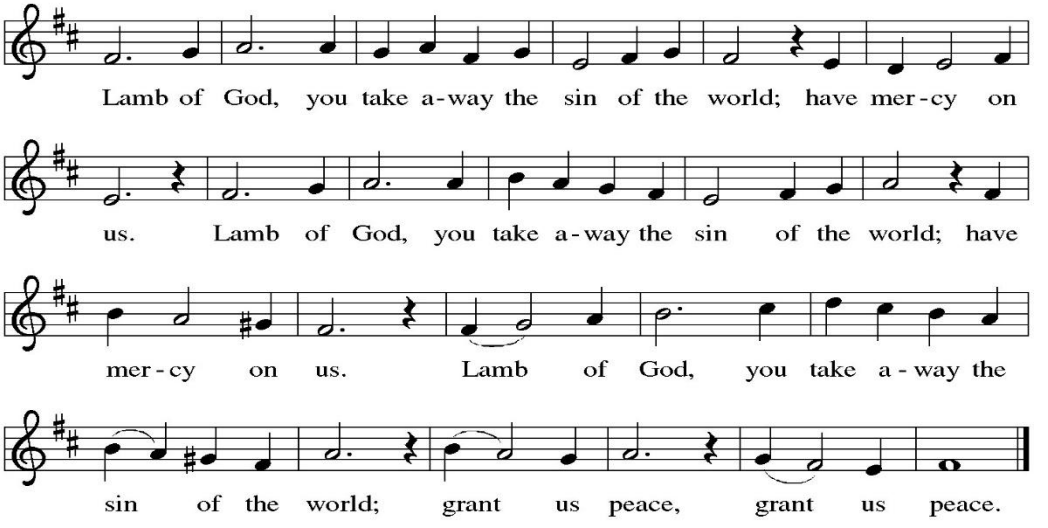
*Eucharistic Prayer

*The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave 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 Hymn



*Post Communion Prayer

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.**

*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: God Of Grace and God of Glory ELW # 705



Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

*Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating: Gayle Agg, Nora Beach, Vince Besesdnjak, Joan Clarke, Chuck Dickey, Bill Flick, Dan Fleming, Barbara Fossa, Alan Fugo and family, Donna Franz, Risa Gabor, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Jane Gradert, Marge (Shriver) Katarzynski, Dorrie Kearns, Dylan King, Karen Kipfsthul, Elaine Knerem, Nel Lanese, Jennifer Lewane, Phyllis Nemeth, Patti Novak, Dick Ptak, Madeline Ptak, Ginny Robinson, Steve Senderak, Mary Jane Sesek, Clarence Smith, Claude, Starks, Arlene Stoltz, Barb Toth, Verl Williamson, Maud Wright, Charlotte Zaranka, Wilma Dancy, , Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Lois Williams, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family.

Last Week

General Fund receipts for week ending 10/11/2026: $ 3002.00

Parish Calendar: 10/18/2026

Sunday	9:00 am Sunday Eucharist
Monday	6:00-8:00 pm AA Meeting in Parlor
Tuesday	6:00-8:00 pm Women's AA Meeting Parlor
Wednesday	6:00-8:00 pm AA Meeting in Parlor
Thursday	5:00-6:00 pm Community Meal in Hall
Friday	6:30-8:30pm GOD AA Meeting in Parlor
Saturday	11:00am-12:00pm NCMBC Bible Study in Parlor
	3:00 –5:00pm AA Meeting in Parlor
	6:00-8:00pm CA Meeting in Parlor
Sunday	9:00 am Sunday Eucharist
Sunday	10:30 am Congregational Meeting in Sanctuary

Office Hours
Monday Office Closed
Tuesday 10:00-3:00pm
Wesnesday 10:00-3:00pm
Thursday 10:00-3:00pm
Friday 10:00-12:00pm
Saturday Office Closed
Sunday 8:00 10:30 am

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