

COME GROW SERVE

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2026

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church!

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.

*Words printed in **bold** are spoken by all. Visitors are invited to sign the guest registry in the Narthex or fill out a pew card and place it in the offering plate.*

THIS SERVICE IS LIVE STREAMED. TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

GATHERING

WELCOME

P: Welcome to those who are joining us online. Welcome to worship at St. Paul's!

PRELUDE

Romance
Diane Mues, viola

Claude Debussy

The assembly is invited to stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

All: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

All: 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.

P: 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.

All: Amen.

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A: Let us pray.

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.

All: **Amen.**

The assembly is invited to be seated.

WORD**FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7**

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

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.

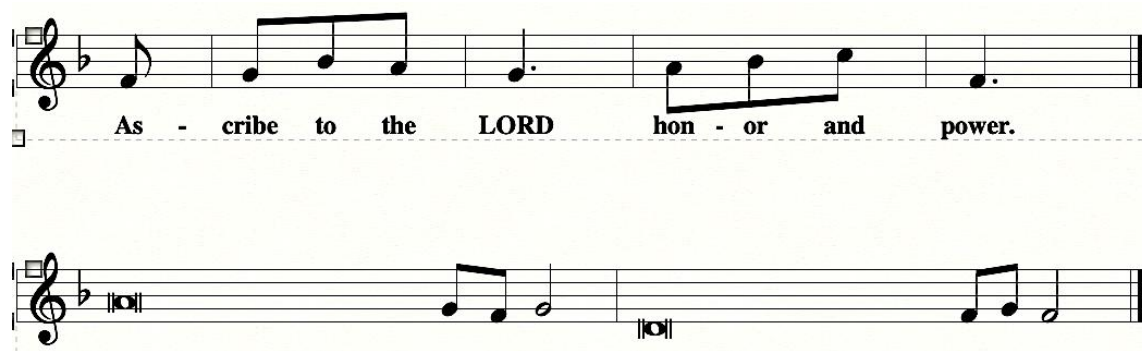
⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.

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.

Word of God. Word of Life.
All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96:1-13



- 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. R**
- 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. R**
- 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
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 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. **R**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

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.

Word of God. Word of Life.

All: Thanks be to God.

The assembly is invited to stand for the reading of the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: 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.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pr. Matt Holmes

Please stand as you are able

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, You Give the Great Commission

ELW 579, v. 1-3

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

P: 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.

All: Your mercy is great.

A: 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.

All: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

All: Your mercy is great.

A: 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 those on our prayer list and those we pray for either silently or aloud (*pause*). Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

All: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

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

All: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

The assembly is invited to be seated.

MEAL

THE OFFERING *An offering is gathered and the Table is set.*

MUSICAL OFFERING *Over My Head* **Spiritual, arr. Kurt Westerberg**
Libby Harrison, soprano; Nicholas Marotta, mezzo-soprano

OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

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.

All: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

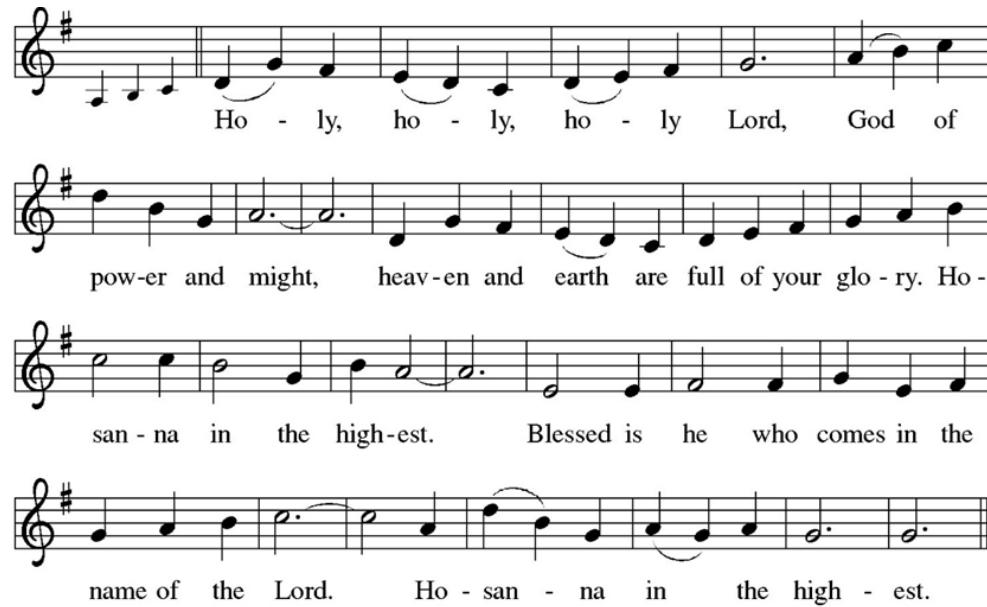
All: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who in dying has 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 earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection, taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way 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, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory

and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Together as one body, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us.

All: 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNE

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



DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

We will commune one side of the church at a time. Please come forward to receive the bread first. Gluten free wafers are available.

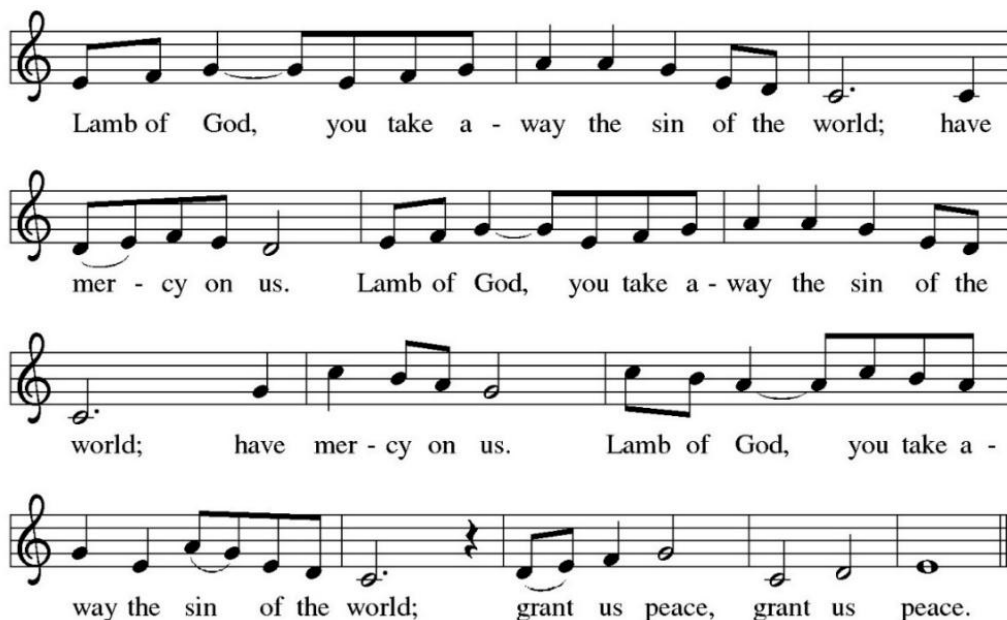
You may choose a cup of red wine or white grape juice.

Move to the side eat and drink.

Place your empty cup in the tray provided.

All are welcome at Christ's Table. We believe Jesus is the host and the gifts of God are for everyone. Children will be offered communion unless otherwise indicated by parents. The wine is red and grape juice is white.

LAMB OF GOD



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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMN

Welcome Table

1 I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel-come ta - ble,
2 I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey,
3 I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er,

I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel-come ta - ble, some of these days.
I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon-ey, some of these days.
I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er, some of these days.

I'm a-goin'-a eat at the wel-come ta - ble,
I'm a-goin'-a feast on milk . . . and hon - ey,
I'm a-goin'-a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er,

I'm goin' - a eat at the wel-come ta - ble, some of these days.
I'm goin' - a feast on milk . . . and hon-ey, some of these days.
I'm goin' - a wade 'cross Jor - dan's riv - er, some of these days.

Please stand as you are able.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray. 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.

All: **Amen.**

SENDING

Please be seated for the announcements.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly is invited to stand.

SENDING BLESSING

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

All: **Amen.**

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

All: **Amen.**

P: The God of grace ✠ bless you now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 583

DISMISSAL

A: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Trumpet Tune

Maurice Greene

THANK YOU

To our musicians,

To Amanda Kelly for donating Altar flowers to beautify our sanctuary.

To _____ for hosting coffee fellowship.

PRAYER REQUEST

For Joan Brandt.

For Jan Rock, as she recovers from stenoses.

For Bill Kastilahn, recovering from eye interaction with medication.

For Deborah Green, friend of LuAnne Origer, as she recovers from brain surgery.

For the family of Sue Salisbury as they mourn the death of her uncle, Gernard “Bud” Drayer.

For the family of Diane DiFrancesco, as they mourn the death of her cousin, Vince Della
Sola and Matthew Christopher Reese



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ST. PAUL'S
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