Pastor: We have gathered this morning to worship the Lord, to be renewed and strengthened in God's love and the forgiveness of sins. As we go, let us remember who we are and what we do:

C: "We are rooted in God's love, united in connecting people to Jesus."

Pastor: You are dearly loved and treasured by God, planted and growing in God's love. As God's beloved children, go in peace! Love one another! Be a blessing! Share the faith! Serve the Lord with gladness!

C: Thanks be to God!

Service Acknowledgments

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"We are rooted in God's love, united in connecting people to Jesus"

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost ***October 18th, 2026***

PRELUDE MUSIC

WELCOME and INVOCATION

OPENING PRAISE: "Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear" (908)

CONFESSION OF SINS AND ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

P: Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near to God in faith and repentance, confessing our sins. We confess together:

C: Heavenly Father, I confess all my sins to You, the sins that I know of and I acknowledge that there are others that are unknown to me. Your Word teaches that I will be held accountable for my sins. But, Your Word also teaches me about Jesus and that He is the Savior of the world. Lord, I ask that You forgive me of my sins, that my sins not stay with me. "God, have mercy on me, a sinner" (Luke 18.13b).

P: Friends of God, heaven rejoices when we acknowledge our sins for God desires to shower His mercy and love upon us. Know, therefore, that your sins, your known and unknown sins, are removed from you as far as the east is from the west (Psalm 103.12). The words I speak, I now speak for God: You are forgiven of your sins! They are no longer with you!

C: Amen! Thanks be to God!

HYMN OF PRAISE: "We Praise You and Acknowledge You" (941)

KYRIE PRAYER (Spoken)

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

P: The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you!

P: Let us pray together:

C: O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (10:30)

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE READINGS

The Epistle reading is **1st Thessalonians 1.1-10**. The Apostle Paul gives thanks for the Thessalonians, whose faith in Jesus bears fruit in love, steadfast hope, and a witness that reaches others.

Today's Gospel is from **Matthew 22.15-22**. The Pharisees attempt to entrap Jesus by presenting Him with a tricky question.

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel

L: These are the Words of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

CONFESSION OF OUR FAITH Apostles' Creed (Screens)

SERMON HYMN: "Blessed Jesus, at Your Word" (904)

SERMON: Matthew 22.15-22

OFFERING & OFFERTORY

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRAYERS & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Congregational response to each petition is: ***"Hear our prayer"***

AFFIRMATION OF HOPE

P: To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, in Your holy Church forever and ever. Amen!

C (Loudly): CHRIST HAS COME! CHRIST IS RISEN! CHRIST SHALL COME AGAIN!

THE BENEDICTION

C: Amen!

CLOSING HYMN: "Crown Him with Many Crowns" (525)