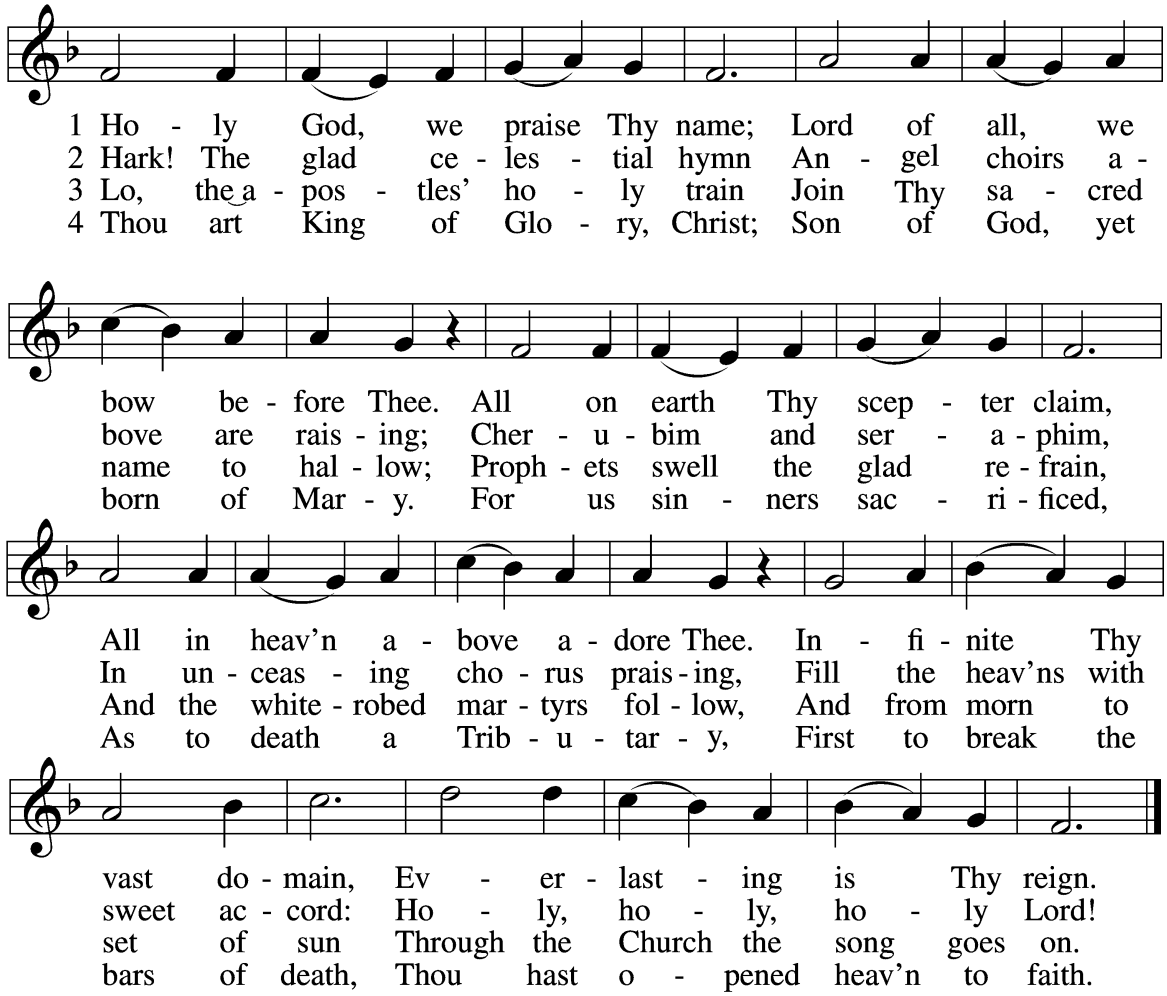Pastor's Bible Class

October 18, 2026

The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 24

Hymn 940 Holy God, We Praise Thy Name



Read Isaiah 45:1-7

1. Read Isaiah 44:28. Who is mentioned by name and what title is he given? What is the significance of this title?

2. Cyrus ruled the Persian Empire from 559 to 530 B.C. His conquest of Babylon in 539 B.C. allowed him to release the Jews from captivity. Note that Isaiah prophesied more than a century and a half before the ascendancy of Cyrus. What do the following references tell us about this future Persian king?

- Ezra 1:1-4:
- II Chronicles 36:22-23:

3. In today's text, the prophet writes as though God is speaking to Cyrus in the present tense. What is the title Isaiah gives to Cyrus in verse one? Why is this title significant?

4. What specific promises are made to Cyrus in this text?

- Isaiah 45:1
- Isaiah 45:2
- Isaiah 45:3

5. Why will God give Cyrus this kind of success? See Isaiah 45:4.

6. What do verses 4 and 5 say about the faith of King Cyrus?

7. What does God say about His power and work in verse 7?

8. Read the rest of chapter 45. What additional information does God reveal about how He operates in our lives? Is this comforting to you? See also Romans 8:28 and II Timothy 2:10.

Read Matthew 22:15-22

9. What motivates the Pharisees to send "their disciples…along with the Herodians" to question Jesus?

10. How does this story relate to the Old Testament reading from Isaiah, and what is its application for the way we live out our lives in the world?

Devotional Thought from "The Lutheran Study Bible"

"The Lord rescues Israel through Cyrus, the pagan king of Persia. The Lord uses all creation – even Satan – to accomplish His good purposes. If the devil and an idolater like Cyrus can come to such notable service, will the Lord not also use you to great purpose?" (TLSB, 1164).

Prayer

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.