



**Christ
Lutheran**
CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street
Valparaiso, Indiana 46385
(219) 462-6660 • clcvalpo.org



Time after Pentecost
October 11, 2026

We welcome you to Christ Lutheran Church! We are a community of people sharing God's love through Christ and growing together in faith.

We celebrate all the ways we are made in the image of God, seeking to see God in everyone. We honor and respect each person's age, ethnicity, family composition, gender identity, gender expression, life history, mental well-being, physical ability, relationship status, sexual orientation, skin color, and socioeconomic standing. Together, we strive to love and serve our neighbor and all creation, including working toward racial and social justice. We would love to walk with you on this creative adventure* of faith, grace, and love.

** The first sermon ever preached at Christ Lutheran was titled "A Call to Creative Adventure."*

ABOUT WORSHIP

We gather to worship weekly to hear and remember our shared hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin, with hymns found in the red hymnals ("ELW") in the seats in front of you.

If you have a prayer request, note it on a yellow card from the seatback holder and pass it to an usher; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!

God's people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child's life. There's some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and cry room at the back of the sanctuary as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God's love takes root in their lives!

WHEN NURSERY CARE IS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP

A fully equipped and staffed Nursery is available for both infants and toddlers during all services. The Nursery is located west of our gathering area in Room 110.

RESTROOMS

Men's and women's restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.

In Isaiah we are given a vision of the great feast to come, when God will wipe away death forever. In Jesus' parable about a great banquet, those invited do not come, so the invitation is extended to others. In our liturgy God spreads a table before us. Even amid anxiety and hardship we rejoice in the peace of God which surpasses all understanding. With great joy we feast at the table of the Lord, and we go forth to share the wonderful invitation with others hungering and thirsting for the abundant life of God.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

Grand Chorus

Raney

WELCOME

If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We'd love to meet you, or if there's anything you'd like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider filling out a Connection Card online (you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection Card in the pew holders.



Prayer requests can be posted to the livechat or use a yellow Prayer Request (on the backside of the Connection Card) and give them to an usher.

If you are worshipping with us via livestream, consider preparing your space for Communion: light a candle (if appropriate and safe), and have a plate with bread/cracker/tortilla and a cup for wine or grape juice (or an empty cup as a sign Jesus is sufficient in one or both elements).

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

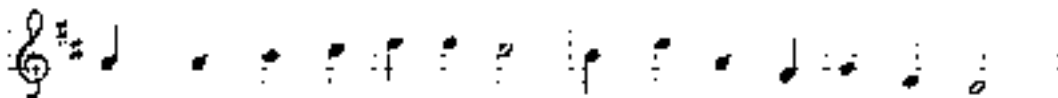
GREETING

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

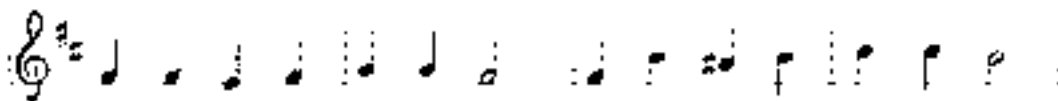
And also with you.

Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.

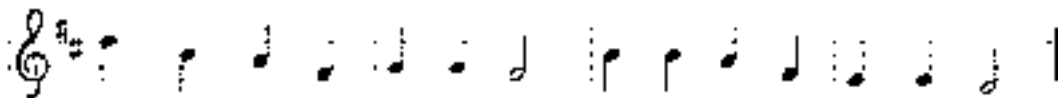
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!



1 Christ, whose glo - ry fills the skies, Christ, the true and on - ly light,
2 Dark and cheer-less as the morn - ing - ac - com - pa - nied by thee,
3 Vis - it then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief:



Sun of right-eous-ness, a - rise, in - triumph o'er the shades of night,
joy- less is the day's re - turn, tell thy mer - cy's beams I see,
fill me, ra - dian - cy di - vine, scat - ter all my un - be - lief:



Day - spring from on high, be near: Day star, in my heart ap - pear,
till they in ward light un - part, glad my eyes, and warm my heart,
more and more thy self dis - play, shin - ing to the per - pet - ual day.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A silence is kept before the prayer.

Beyond our understanding you alone are God: you speak to a world of brutal rule and shallow indifference, of arms fairs and reality shows: may the one who came to sit at the table with the victimized and excluded disturb our barren peace and call us to another feast where only love may rule; through Jesus Christ, the bridegroom.

Amen.

WORD

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

The assembly is seated as children are invited for a time together.

PSALM 23

The congregation is invited to sing the psalm refrain when indicated (R). Verses will be chanted alternately by the leader and the people.

Refrain



Psalm Tone



The LORD | is my shepherd;
I shall not | be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
and leads me be- | side still waters.

³You restore my | soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me. R

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever. R

READING: Acts 8:14-25

Peter and John in Samaria

¹⁴ Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵ The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit ¹⁶ (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). ¹⁷ Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. ¹⁸ Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money, ¹⁹ saying, "Give me also this power so that anyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." ²⁰ But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain God's gift with money! ²¹ You have no part or share in this, for your heart is not right before God. ²² Repent therefore of this wickedness of yours, and pray to the Lord that, if possible, the intent of your heart may be forgiven you. ²³ For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and the chains of wickedness." ²⁴ Simon answered, "Pray for me to the Lord, that nothing of what you have said may happen to me."

²⁵ Now after Peter and John had testified and spoken the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, proclaiming the good news to many villages of the Samaritans.

The word of the Lord.

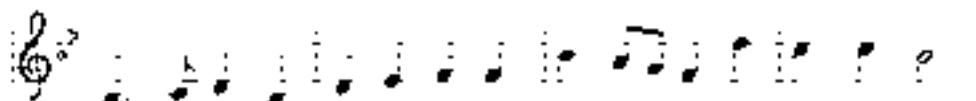
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

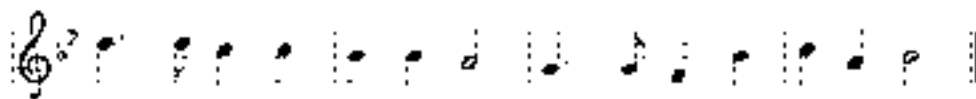
The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us: speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus tells a parable indicating that the blessings of God's kingdom are available to all, but the invitation is not to be taken lightly.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ² “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³ He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴ Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶ while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷ The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸ Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹ Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

¹¹ “But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹² and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³ Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The gospel of the Lord.

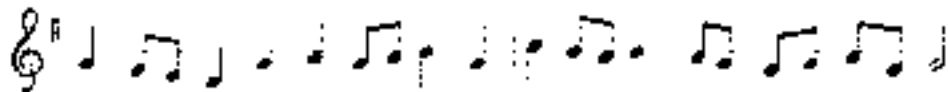
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

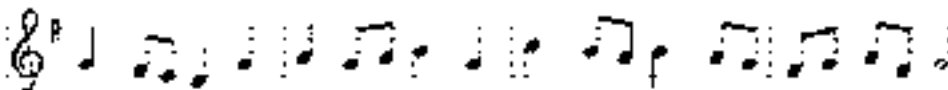
The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #522 As We Gather

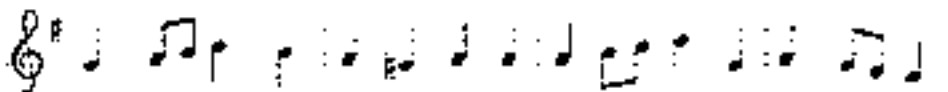
The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.



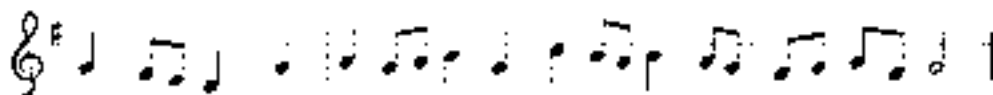
1 As we gather at your table, as we listen to your word,
2 Turn our worship in to witness in the sacrament of life,
3 Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that feast.



help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred
send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife,
where triumph and love will welcome those who had been lost and least.



Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own,
Give us, Christ, your great compassion for you gave us you for given;
There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy.



teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's way truly known,
may we still be held your image in the world you died to save
as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sound-ing joy.

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.

**Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

PRAYERS

Our prayers draw on the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle and the Church's calendar of Commemorations—further information is found each week at the end of the bulletin.

Reminded of God's gracious and abundant love, we offer our prayers, confident that God hears us.

A brief silence.

Center your church in humility as we strive to follow in your way. Help us listen to the cries of those who have been unfairly hurt by the church and dare to name difficult truths. Show all your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call us to care for your creation. Lead us into your promise of a better world through sustainable practices and respect for your handiwork. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Inspire all in positions of authority to act honorably. Remind them of their call to use their authority for the sake of the common good. Give them the gift of humility. Bless the lands, people, and churches of Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, and Peru, that peace and justice might flourish. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Comfort those who come before you in fear and trembling. Calm troubled hearts with your forgiveness. Help all those in need. Grant us your salvation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Change this congregation's heart when we say no to your call. Open us to courageous learning and service in our community, especially in new or challenging places.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Your steadfast love holds Jerome and all the saints who have finished their work and are at rest. As we grieve, remind us of your mercy so we may also give thanks; bring us at last into your presence to join the praise of Michael and all angels. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Grant the prayers we have offered, what we have forgotten to ask, and whatever else you see that we need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We invite those worshiping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: Peace be with you!

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the offerings of its members and guests. Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts with Lutheran World Relief lwr.org and ELCA World Hunger/Disaster Response elca.org/hunger and elca.org/disaster

If you wish to give electronically, use the QR code or browse to our secure on-line portal at clcvalpo.org/give.



OFFERTORY

O Had I Jubal's Lyre

Handel

OFFERING PRAYER

The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

Blessed are you, O God,

maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

THE 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, our duty and our joy...

SANCTUS

(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is he.")



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est,
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Children: The Spirit makes us one. We 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

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Thanks be to God!

The assembly is seated.

DISTRIBUTION

*The pastor invites those **worshipping via livestream** to commune:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

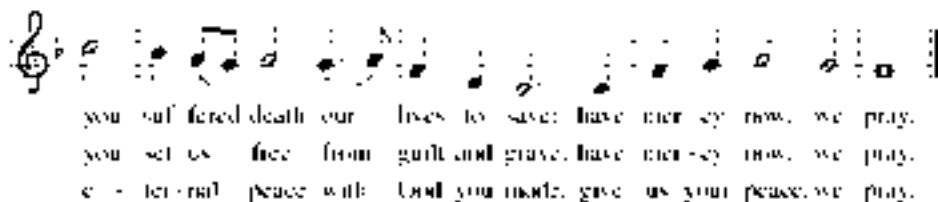
Amen (receive the bread)

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen (receive the cup)

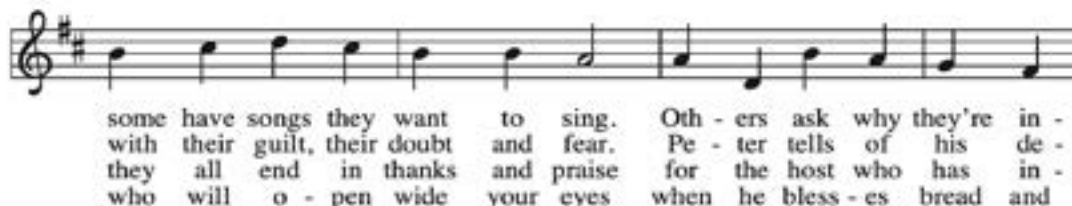
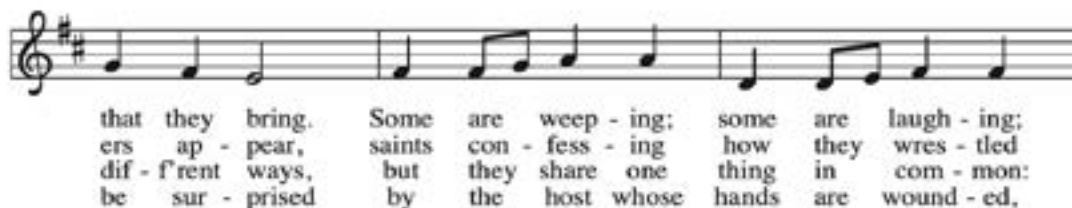
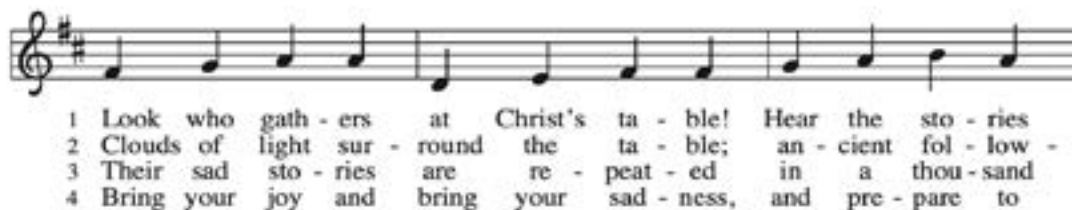
In-person distribution: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. Wine is lighter-colored and Grape Juice is dark; they are received via individual cups in the trays. Used glasses are placed in the basket located near the ramp. Gluten-Free Bread is available, please indicate to the server that you require this.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMNS

ACS #977 Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table



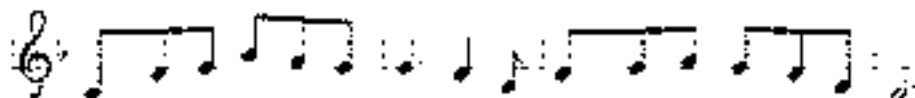


vit - ed, bur - dened by the wrong they've done. Christ in - sists they
ny - ing Christ was ev - er in his sight; Paul re - lates his
vit - ed north and south and east and west to con-verge a -
breaks it— truth and man - na from a - bove!— and then pass - es



all are wel - come. There is room for ev - 'ry - one.
fruit - less ef - forts to ob - lit - er - ate the light.
round this ta - ble, where all life is fed and blest.
wine that wa - kens in your heart the taste of love.

ELW #481 Now We Join in Celebration



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion re - ceive from his rich - scented hand



eat of the bread of sal - va - tion, drink of the blood of the Lamb.

After all have returned to their place, the assembly stands as the minister continues.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

INVITATIONS

The assembly is seated as brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.

BLESSING

The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.

Amen.

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The God of all grace + bless you now and forever.

Amen.

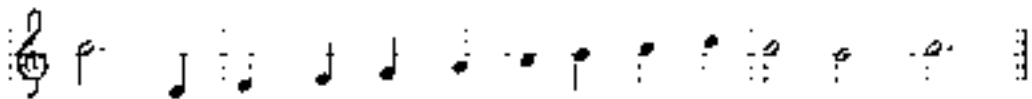
SENDING HYMN ELW #550 On What Has Now Been Sown



1 On what has now been sown, your blessing, Lord, be - stow; the
2 to you our wants are known, from you are all our pow'rs, as
3 Oh, grant that each of us, now met be - fore you here, may



pow'r is yours a - lone to make it sown and grow. O Lord, in
cept what is your own and pardon what is ours. Our prais - es,
meet to - gether thus when you and yours ap - pear, and fir - mly



grace the har - vest raise, and yours a - lone shall be the praise!
Lord, and prayers be - serve and to your word a - blessing give!
you to heav'n, our home. Even so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Children join the pastors to send us in mission.

DISMISSAL

Children: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Sortie sur l'hymne: Quid in Tenebris Tristis Aberras

Guilmant

Worship Leaders	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Acolyte	Luke Ridley	Noah DeJesus
Lector	Luke Ridley	Doug Schmidt
Prayer Assistant	Lanie Steinwart	Doug Schmidt
Communion Assistants	Erin Schmidgall Chris Schmidgal	Susan Rodeck Lillian DeJesus
Ushers	Don MacMillan	Bull Family
Sound/Light Tech		Tony Reinhold
Livestream Tech	-----	
Pastors	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even	
Director of Music Ministries	Brian Bartusch	
Worship Participants	Kathy Stefans, cantor Celebration Ringers Handbell Ensemble	
Communion Baker	Marilyn McGawn	

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

This week we pray for the churches and people of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama.

We are thankful for:

- the natural beauty in this region
- the cultural and spiritual contributions made by the indigenous peoples living in these countries
- churches leaders and others who continue to struggle for justice, human rights and dignity, and who work for reconciliation in these lands
- those who have turned away from violence and live with others in peace.

We pray for:

- children and youth who are traumatized by violence and flee to other lands
- an end to gang violence and drug trafficking
- more just distribution of wealth that enables the millions who have been excluded to have access to a dignified life in these countries
- Christians to have the courage to live out the liberating gospel

COMMEMORATIONS

Week of October 11, 2026

October 15~Teresa of Àvila (Teresa de Jesús), teacher, renewer of the church, died 1582. Teresa of Àvila (AH-vee-la) is also known as Teresa de Jesús. She chose the life of a Carmelite nun after reading the letters of Jerome. Frequently sick during her early years as a nun, she found that when she was sick her prayer life flowered, but when she was well it withered. Steadily her life of faith and prayer deepened, and she grew to have a lively sense of God's presence with her. She worked to reform her monastic community in Àvila, which she believed had strayed from its original purpose. Her reforms asked nuns to maintain life in the monastic enclosure without leaving it and to identify with those who are poor by not wearing shoes. Teresa's writings on devotional life have enjoyed a wide readership.

October 17~Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch, martyr, died around 115

Ignatius was the second bishop of Antioch, in Syria. It was there that the name "Christian" was first used to describe the followers of Jesus. Ignatius is known to us through his letters. In them he encouraged Christians to live in unity sustained with love while standing firm on sound doctrine. Ignatius believed Christian martyrdom was a privilege. When his own martyrdom approached, he wrote in one of his letters, "I prefer death in Christ Jesus to power over the farthest limits of the earth.... Do not stand in the way of my birth to real life."

Welcomed In

A crowd gathered in the church basement like they did every third Thursday of the month. They walked past the kitchen window. They grabbed their plates. They filled up cups of ice water and coffee and swung by the dessert table on their way to folding chairs situated around circular folding tables throughout the room. Conversations bubbled up as old friends greeted each other around the free meal provided, as it was every month. Everyone was welcome, no questions asked.

This image of a free meal in the church basement, attended by any and all comers, is reminiscent of the wedding feast the king gives in today's parable. When those who are invited fail to show up, the king sends his servants out into the entire surrounding countryside to bring to the meal any and all who will attend. The king doesn't check credentials; the king doesn't ask questions. The joy of the wedding feast is open to all.

The parable tells us of one guest without a wedding robe, who winds up outside the joy of the feast. This can cause us to worry or despair. Do we have a wedding robe fit for the kingdom of heaven? What happens to us if we do not? Our baptism in Jesus, however, reminds us that we have no need to fear. We have been clothed not with a robe but with the grace of Jesus, which assures us that we, who have been gathered into the feast of the reign of God, have a place and an inheritance among God's people. Gathered around that table of grace, we too are sent to share the good news and welcome others into the reality of God's reign.



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