



**Christ
Lutheran**
CHURCH

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



Time after Pentecost
October 18, 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 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.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

Cantilene in F

Rheinberger

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.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

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 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
 2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
 3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
 4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
 need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
 flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en;
 change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



what it is in Christ we share, Here, as in the
 here the cross has cen - tral place, Here in hon - es -
 Christ sus - tains us as of old, Here the ser - vants
 help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's



world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
 ty of preach - ing, here in si - lence, as in speech,
 of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
 ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;



wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts,
 here, in new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each,
 what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore,
 we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

A silence is kept before the prayer.

God of servant rule,
your kingdom breaks our tangled webs
where state and church collude
to worship power and trade on fear:
grant us the wit and will
to give you what is your own,
no more nor less
than all the world and time;
through Jesus Christ, whose kingdom comes.
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.

READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the LORD has anointed to end Israel's exile. The LORD makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this LORD as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the LORD claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

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.

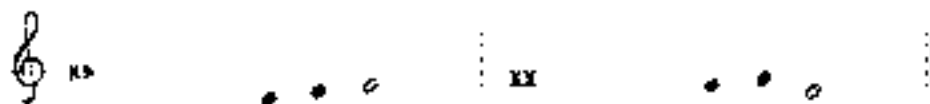
PSALM 96:1-9

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



- 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.

READING: Acts 10:34-43

In Cornelius's house, Peter proclaims God's acceptance

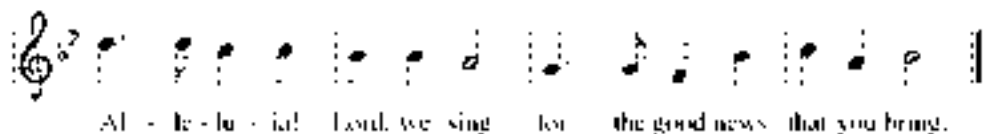
³⁴ Peter began to speak to them: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every people anyone who fears him and practices righteousness is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree, ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands to welcome the Gospel.



GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

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

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

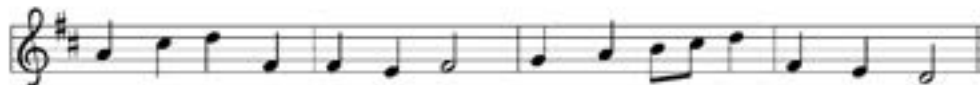
HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #685

Take My Life That I May Be

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



1 Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly, for my King;
4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with - hold;



take my mo - ments and my days; let them flow in cease - less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect, and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine;
it shall be no longer mine.
Take my heart, it is thine own;
it shall be thy royal throne,

6 Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee,

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.

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

A brief silence.

Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians, including Kaitlyn, and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry, especially Chris, newly ordained and serving at Augustana Lutheran.
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. Bless our neighbors in Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico with good governance and enough for 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 – our altar guild and those who prepare food for us to share, our property committee and manager, our building attendants, those who tend to plants indoors and out, and those who clean. Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you, especially Luke and James. 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 Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We invite those worshipping 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 clvalpo.org/give.



OFFERTORY (8:00 a.m.)

Children of the Heavenly Father

Ruiter-Feenstra

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (10:30 a.m.) *Awake, My Heart*

Marshall

Awake, my heart, and render to God thy sure defender, Thy Maker, thy preserver, a song of love and fervor. Confirm my deeds and guide me; my day, with thee beside me, beginning, middle, ending, will all be upward tending. My heart shall be thy dwelling, with joy and gladness swelling; Thy word, my nurture given, to bring me on toward heaven.

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

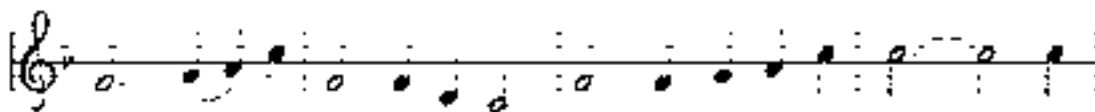
(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is he.")



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 **worshiping via livestream** to commune:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

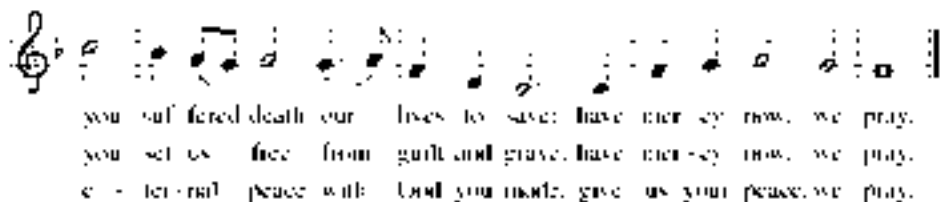
Amen (receive the bread)

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen (receive the cup)

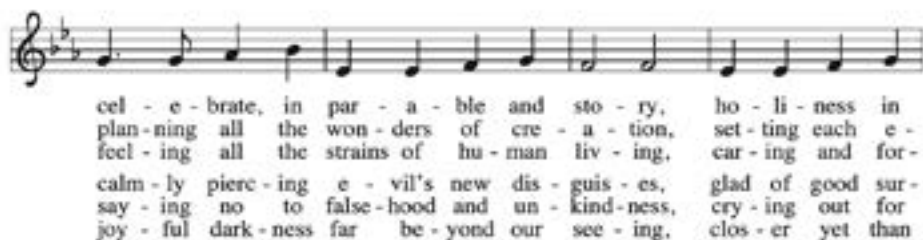
In-person distribution: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. Wine is lighter-colored and Grape Juice is dark; they are received via individual cups in the trays. Used glasses are placed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

LAMB OF GOD



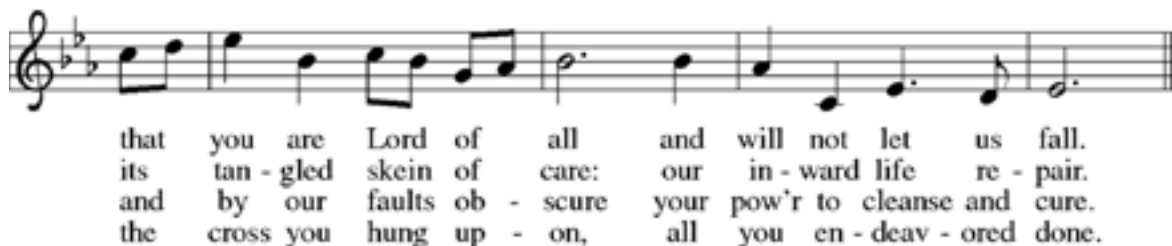
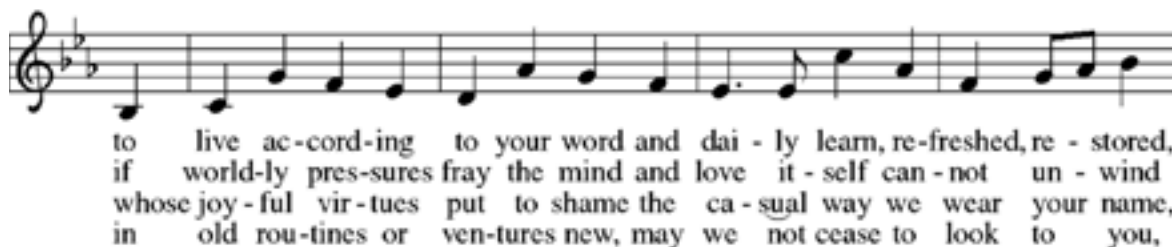
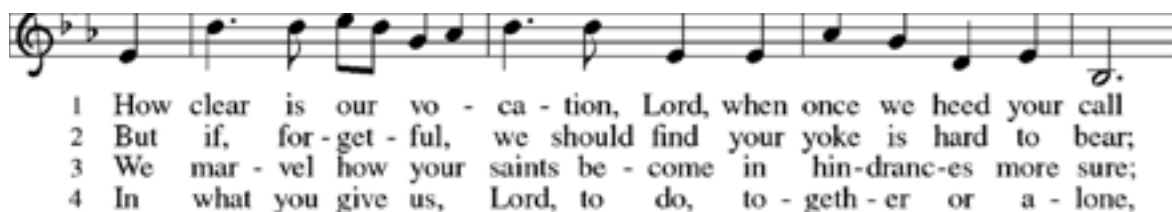
COMMUNION HYMNS

ACS #1094 Bring Many Names





ELW #580 *How Clear is Our Vocation, Lord*



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 #841

Lift Every Voice and Sing



1 Lift ev - 'ry voice and sing till earth and heav - en ring,
2 Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - t'ning rod,
3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears,



ring with the har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty;
felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;



Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - t'ning skies,
yet with a stead - y beat, have not our wea - ry feet
thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light,



let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea,
come to the place for which our par - ents sighed?
keep us for - ev - er in the path, we pray.



Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;



sing a song full of the hope that the pres - ent has brought us;
we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;



fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
shad - owed be - neath thy hand, may we for - ev - er stand,



let us march on till vic - to - ry is won,
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast,
true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

DISMISSAL

Children: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Fanfare

Lemmens

Worship Leaders	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Acolyte	Mila Pineda	
Lector	Roland Albrecht	Doug Schmidt
Prayer Assistant	Robin Nelson	Heather Budnik
Communion Assistants	Darla Hernandez Barbara Clements	Lillan DeJesus
Ushers	Bob Lockett Don MacMillan	
Sound/Light	Lance Nolting	Tony Reinhold
Video/Livestream	- - - - -	
Pastors	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr. Rev. Erica Gibson-Even	
Director of Music Ministries	Brian Bartusch	
Worship Participants	Michael and Lois Felten, cantor's (10:30 a.m.)	
Communion Baker	Lois Felten	

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico.**

We are thankful for:

- the cultures and foods distinctive here, yet enjoyed around the world
- indigenous and other groups who have resisted injustice and human rights violations
- church leaders who have spoken out and acted on behalf of the poor and marginalized
- developments that improve life for all, while also caring for the environment.

We pray for:

- stable, democratically elected governments committed to the peace and wellbeing of all
- comfort and healing for the families and loved ones of those who have been killed or disappeared, and for those responsible to be brought to justice
- stopping corruption, drug traffic, and violence, and those who profit from such activities
- improved economic life and trade policies so that people will not be exploited and can pursue livelihoods in these countries rather than migrating elsewhere for work.

COMMEMORATIONS

Week of October 18, 2026

October 18

Luke, Evangelist

St. Luke is identified by tradition as the author of both Luke and Acts. Luke is careful to place the events of Jesus' life in both their social and religious contexts. Some of the most loved parables, including the good Samaritan and the prodigal son, are found only in this gospel. Luke's gospel has also given the church some of its most beautiful songs: the Benedictus sung at morning prayer, the Magnificat sung at evening prayer, and the Nunc dimittis sung at the close of the day. These songs are powerful witnesses to the message of Jesus Christ.

October 23

James of Jerusalem, martyr, died around 62

James became an early leader of the church in Jerusalem. He is described in the New Testament as the brother of Jesus, and secular historian Josephus calls James the brother of Jesus, "the so-called Christ." Little is known about James, but Josephus reported that the Pharisees respected James for his piety and observance of the law. His enemies had him put to death.

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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