

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 18, 2026



United in Christ
Lutheran Church

MORRISONVILLE, WI

Sharing the Hope of Jesus in a Troubled World

ALTAR FLOWERS

The flowers on the altar have been given by the congregation.

PRAYER CONCERNS

Rev. Yehiel Curry, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe, Bishop of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin – ELCA

The **Evangelical Lutheran Church of America**

For the **people of United in Christ Lutheran Church**

Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe – recurring breast cancer

Geno Lainberger – at Madison Health & Rehab Center

Donna Colby – at the Legacy in DeForest

Linda Peterson – at Waunakee Manor

Kathy Olsen – sister-in-law of Ann Olsen – continued health concerns

Trey Tollefson – grand nephew of Chet Gabris – at U.W. Hospital

Sharon Gust – continued health concerns

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- HAPPY BIRTHDAYS – Mark Harris on Thursday the 22nd.

NEXT SUNDAY – OCTOBER 25TH

- Ushers – Dennis Stephenson and Ann Olsen
- Reader – Dennis Stephenson
- Communion Assistant – Marie Rasmussen-Hall
- Altar Guild – Marie Rasmussen-Hall
- Head Usher – Chet Gabris

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Now the Feast and Celebration text and music by Marty Haugen. Text and music © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. Used by permission under ONE LICENSE #A-742073.

Call to Worship written by Beth Merrill Neel on her blog, *Hold Fast to What Is Good*. Used with permission.

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Welcome to Worship!

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

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

(Please stand as you are able.)

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

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate God,

C: **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.

C: **Amen.**

God Is Here!



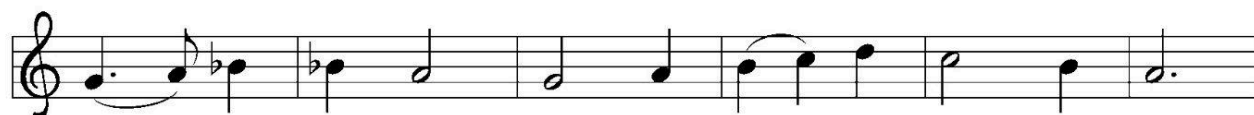
1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of



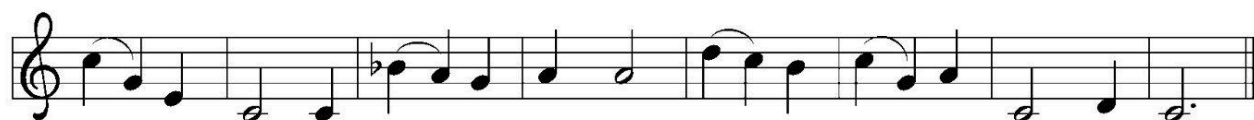
praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace; here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



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!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

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GREETING

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

C: **And also with you.**

KYRIE – *Now the Feast & Celebration*

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord.

For your

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer-cy. Christ, have mer-cy. Lord, have

Help, save, and de-fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

CALL TO WORSHIP

- P: We gather today to worship the One who created us,
 C: **The One who calls us,**
 P: The One who equips us,
 C: **The One who loves us without end.**
 P: With joyful hearts, let us worship God.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE – *Now the Feast & Celebration*



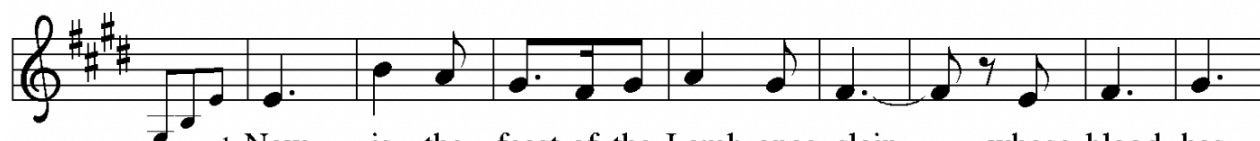
Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!



1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has



freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God.



2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and



glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er.



3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of



God; to make all things new.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

(Please be seated.)

WORD

FIRST 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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 96:1–9 [10–13]

(Please read the bold text responsively)

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 among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

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 honor and power.

⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty 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 coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.]

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able.)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION – *Now the Feast & Celebration*

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we

go? You have the words of e - ter - nal

life. Al - le - lu - ia!

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C: **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.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

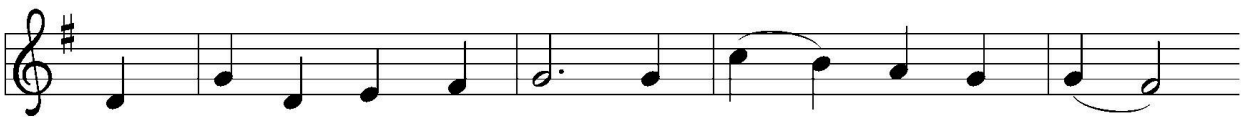
(Please be seated.)

SERMON

(Please stand as you are able.)

HYMN OF THE DAY – ELW 686

We Give Thee but Thine Own



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
 2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
 3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
 4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
 and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
 to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ-like thing.
 what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

APOSTLES CREED

P: Together with the whole body of Christ gathered around the world,
let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles Creed:

C: **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.**

(Please be seated.)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

P: Hear us, O God.

C: **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.

C: **Amen.**

PEACE

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

C: **And also with you.**

(Please stand as you are able.)

MEAL

OFFERTORY – ELW 465

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from



all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore-taste of all that is to come when



Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: AS THE GRAINS, Marty Haugen

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: 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.

C: Amen.

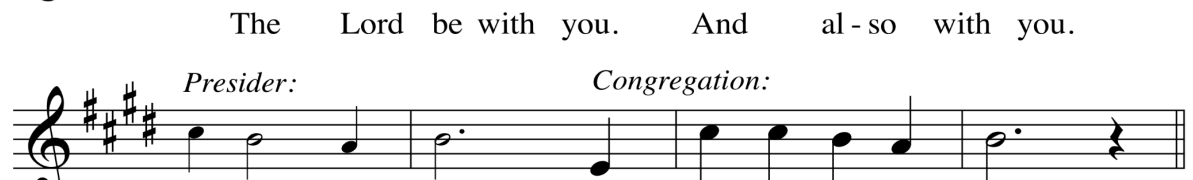
GREAT THANKSGIVING (May be spoken or sung.)

Presider: *Congregation:*



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Presider: *Congregation:*

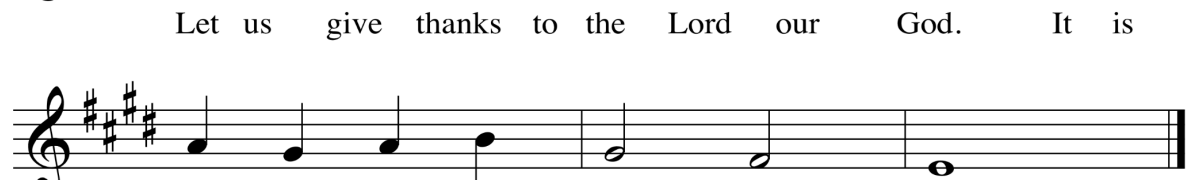


Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Presider: *Congregation:*



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is



right to give God thanks and praise.

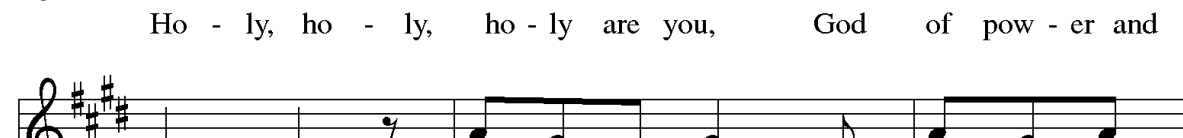
PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

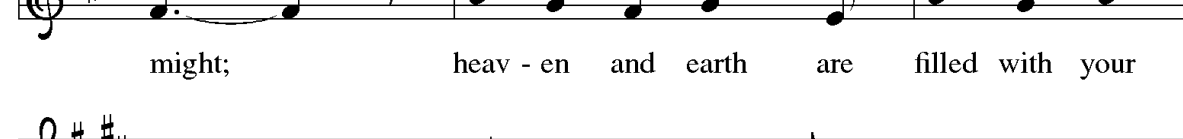
C:



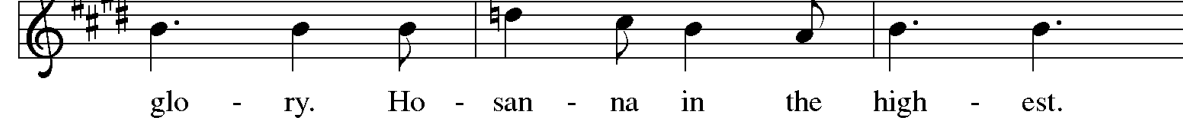
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and



might; heav - en and earth are filled with your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

P: Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord...
...be all honor and glory, now and forever.
C: **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray,
C: **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

P: Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!
C: **Thanks be to God.**

(Please be seated.)

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

Everyone is welcome to receive Holy Communion. The Presiding Pastor will provide verbal instructions for communion. If you are unable to come forward, we will bring communion to you. Gluten free bread is available. Children or those who wish not to receive communion may come forward for a blessing.

COMMUNION HYMN – ELW 462 – Now We Join in Celebration

(Hymn is played while congregation takes communion)

(Please stand as you are able.)

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P: Now may the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

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

C: **Amen.**

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

C: **Amen.**

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

C: **Amen.**

God of Grace and God of Glory



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - ploze; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

DISMISSAL

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister – Rev. Bob Moberg

Music – Pre-recorded by Ivy McLaughlin

Reader – Paul Anderson

Communion Assistant – Ann Olsen

Ushers – Chet Gabris and Darryl Horton

Altar Guild – Marie Rasmussen-Hall

Head Usher – Chet Gabris

OFFERING

Any offerings (financial gifts) may be placed in the offering plate at the entrance to the worship space anytime before or after the service. Your contributions to the congregation help us make a difference in our community by enabling us to share the Gospel and serve in areas of need. You may also make a donation online on our website or by scanning the QR code on the right.



United in Christ Lutheran Church

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A congregation of the



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Regular Office Hours: By Appointment
Weekly Worship: Sundays @ 8:30 a.m.