

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER, E.L.C.A.

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21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026

* Stand as you are able

GATHERING

INVOCATION, CONFESSIONS AND FORGIVENESS*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.
Amen.

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

Compassionate God, **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.

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.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN*

ELW # 758 "You Are The Way"

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.**

KYRIE* (ELW pg. 203)

¹**Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.**

We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

²**Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.**

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.

³**Have mercy on us, Lord, make sin and shame depart.**

Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts!

Hymn of Praise*- ELW pg. 204

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth.
Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth:
we exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you; here on earth our songs we raise.

Glory be to Christ forever, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
Son of God and gracious Savior, you have come from heav'n above;
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Hear our prayer; restore, forgive us; in your promise firm we stand.

Holy One we now acclaim you; Lord alone, to you we call;
Holy One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:
Jesus Christ, with God the Spirit, in the Father's splendor bright.
For the peace that we inherit, glory be to God on high!

Prayer of the Day

**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.
Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS:

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.

P: The Word of the Lord:

C: Thanks be to God

Psalm 96:1-9

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.

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

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.

Gospel Acclamation*(pg. 205 in your hymnal) Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

P: THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO Matthew 22:15-22

C: Glory to you O Lord.

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.

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.

Sermon

"Where Do You See God"

Hymn of the Day *

"Seek Ye First"

Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And His righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you
Allelu, alleluia

Man shall not live by bread alone
But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God
Allelu, alleluia

Ask and it shall be given unto you (alleluia)
Seek and ye shall find (alleluia)
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you (alleluia)
Allelu, alleluia (alleluia)

Seek ye first the kingdom of God (alleluia)
And His righteousness (alleluia)
And all these things shall be added unto you (alleluia)
Allelu, alleluia (alleluia)

The Apostles' Creed * (Printed inside the back cover of the hymnal.)

Welcome to our WTKM radio and online worshipers, Good News and Prayer Petitions

Prayers of the Church

Response P: Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

Sharing the Peace

P: The Peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

(you are encouraged to turn to one another and share the peace of the Lord.)

Temple Talk- John Burton

Offering Hymn *

ELW # 708 "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love"

Offering Prayer *

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.

Amen.

MEAL

Thanksgiving *

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God. **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Preface *

P: Lord, it is indeed right and our joy that at all times and in all places we give thanks and praise to you. And so with the angels and archangels and with the church on earth and in heaven, we give glory to you O God, through Jesus Christ, as we praise your name and join in the unending hymn:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna, in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest (pg. 144 ELW)

The Words of Institution*

The Lord's Prayer *

Invitation to Communion

P: Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Hymn

Page 146 of hymnal

Distribution

Communion Hymn

ELW # 502 "The King Of Love My Shepard Is"

SENDING

Communion Blessing *

Prayer After Communion *

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.

Amen.

Blessing*

Now may the God of Hope, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you strength and joy in all circumstances. **Amen**

Sending Hymn *

ELW #677 "This Little Light of Mine"

Dismissal *

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Redeemer Announcements

- Today's Lector is Tom Hostad, and our usher is Donna Lee
- Next week's Lector is Kurt Hintz and our usher is Don Horen
- Pastor will be **in the office on Thursday October 29th** from 9:00am - 12:00pm. Appointments are appreciated, but not necessary. If you wish to meet with Pastor at other times, please contact him directly. Looking ahead, he will be in the office **November 5th** from **9am-12pm.** .
- Pastor will be "Conversations and Prayer" on **Thursday October 29th** at Harthaven apartments at 1:30pm.
- Conversations with God will be held on **Thursday, October 29** at 10am in the Gathering Room, the topic will be Luke 12:13-34.

Ministry Partners

- Special Giving for October is **Boy and Girls Club of America**
- Community Lunch will be served on **Saturday, October 31st**, 11:30am, at First United Methodist Church. Fellowship prior to lunch.

In the Nest:

- Casa Guadalupe English Language Learners "ELL" meets Monday & Wednesdays from 6-7:30PM.
- Al-Anon Meetings are held Thursdays at 7:00PM.
- Girl Scouts meet the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays.

The Needs of Our Partners:

Casa Guadalupe

- New or Gently Used CLEAN Winter Jackets and Boots
- Hats, Gloves & Scarves
- Blankets & Sleeping Bags
- Tents & Sleeping Mats
- Children's Winter Clothing
- Hygiene Kits (New items preferred)

**PLEASE JOIN US AFTER TODAY'S SERVICE FOR COFFEE AND SNACKS
IN THE GATHERING ROOM**