



WELCOME TO WORSHIP
Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026
8:00 AM Traditional Worship

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman
Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz
Lector: Kris Adams **Acolyte:** Gretchen Wethal
Ushers: Jeffrey Morgan, Jerry Graffin, Jerry Buskager & Mark Holzhuter
Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

In today's 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.

CALL TO WORSHIP

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

C: Amen.

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.

Stand

HYMN: “We Praise Oh God” #870 ELW

**vs. 1: We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.
We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.**

**vs. 2: We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;
through trial and tempest our guide you have been.
When perils o’ertake us, you will not forsake us,
and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.**

**vs. 3: With voices united our praises we offer
and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.
With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.
To you, our great redeemer, forever be praise!**

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: page 120 ELW (*front of the hymnal*)

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have Mercy

L: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the lord.

C: Lord, have mercy

L: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let
us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord,

C: Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: page 122 ELW (*front of hymnal*)

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia

**vs. 1: Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his. Refrain...**

**vs. 2: Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:**

**Blessing, honor, glory, and might,
be to God and the Lamb forever Amen. Refrain...**

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

**C: 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.

Sit

READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

¹⁻⁷ God's Message to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom he took by the hand to give the task of taming the nations, of terrifying their kings—
He gave him free rein, no restrictions: "I'll go ahead of you, clearing and paving the road. I'll break down bronze city gates, smash padlocks, kick down barred entrances. I'll lead you to buried treasures, secret caches of valuables—Confirmations that it is, in fact, I, God, the God of Israel, who calls you by your name. It's because of my dear servant Jacob, Israel my chosen, That I've singled you out, called you by name, and given you this privileged work. And you don't even know me! I am God, the only God there is. Besides me there are no real gods. I'm the one who armed you for this work, though you don't even know me, so that everyone, from east to west, will know that I have no god-rivals. I am God, the only God there is. I form light and create darkness, I make harmonies and create discords. I, God, do all these things.

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Alleluia!" page 124 ELW

**Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia**

The Gospel is announced...

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 22nd Chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵⁻¹⁷ That's when the Pharisees plotted a way to trap him into saying something damaging. They sent their disciples, with a few of Herod's followers mixed in, to ask, "Teacher, we know you have integrity, teach the way of God accurately, are indifferent to popular opinion, and don't pander to your students. So tell us honestly: Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

¹⁸⁻¹⁹ Jesus knew they were up to no good. He said, "Why are you playing these games with me? Why are you trying to trap me? Do you have a coin? Let me see it." They handed him a silver piece. ²⁰ "This engraving—who does it look like? And whose name is on it?" ²¹ They said, "Caesar." "Then give Caesar

what is his, and give God what is his.”²² The Pharisees were speechless. They went off shaking their heads.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Stand

HYMN: “Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring” #691 ELW

**vs. 1: Accept, O Lord, the gifts we bring
to place upon your table.**

**We do not worship as we ought
but only as we're able.**

**vs. 2: The vines were planted, seeds were sown.
They grew in your good pleasure.
What once was common, daily food
becomes a holy treasure.**

**vs. 3: Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares
we lift in prayer before you.
Lord, by your grace now come to us,
as humbly we adore you.**

APOSTLE’S 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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence

P: Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church. Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you. 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.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERTORY

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: God of creation,

C: 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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! The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

People are invited to sing while others come forward to commune. The hymns are: "For the Bread Which You Have Broken" ELW #494; "One Bread, One Body" ELW #496

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace till life everlasting.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Sustaining God,

C: 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

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.

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN: "O God of Every Nation" #713 ELW vss. 1; 2 & 4

**vs. 1: O God of ev'ry nation, of ev'ry race and land,
redeem your whole creation with your almighty hand;**

**where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us and heal our strife-torn world.**

**vs. 2: From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station and blindness to your way,
deliver ev'ry nation, eternal God, we pray.**

**vs. 4: Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious when truth and love shall reign,
and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.**

POSTLUDE