



WELCOME TO WORSHIP
Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026
9:15 AM Worship Lite

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman
Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz
Lector: Michael Warwick **Acolyte:** Millie Brabender & Anna Foltz
Ushers: Stephen Peterson
Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

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

GATHERING SONG: “Give Me Oil in My Lamp”

#158 Life Songs vss. 1, 2 & 4

Vs. 1: Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning.

Give me oil in my lamp, I pray.

Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning.

Keep me burning till the break of day.

Vs. 2: Give me love in my heart, keep me sharing.

Give me love in my heart, I pray.

Give me love in my heart, keep me sharing.

Keep me sharing till the break of day.

Vs. 4: Give me faith in my heart, keep me praying.

Give me faith in my heart, I pray.

Give me faith in my heart, keep me praying.

Keep me praying till the break of day.

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.

LITANY

P: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

C: a people holy to the Lord our God.

P: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.
C: **Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.**

P: One does not live by bread alone,
C: **but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.**

SONG OF PRAISE: “Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing” #886 ELW

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.**

GOSPEL SONG: “Halle, Halle, Hallelujah” #172 ELW

Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 22nd Chapter
C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

Narrator: 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,

Pharisees (All): **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?**

Narrator: 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,

Pharisees (All) Caesar.

Narrator: “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

CHILDREN’S WORD / THE WORD

Stand

SONG OF THE WORD: “What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine” #774 ELW

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.**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERING SONG: “Make Me a Servant” #137 Life Songs
Make me a servant, humble and meek
Lord, let me lift up those who are weak
And may the prayer of my heart always be
Make me a servant Make me a servant
Make me a servant today

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

Music is played as those who wish to come forward for communion come forward and kneel at the communion rail. Others are invited to commune in your pew.

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.

POSTLUDE