



SHEPHERD OF THE PRAIRIE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Morning Worship

October 18, 2026

9:00 a.m.

The 21st Sunday after Pentecost

2026 Stewardship Emphasis - Whose Image Do We Bear?

Children and Family Ministry - Jill Gillming

(please rise in body or spirit)

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

Opening Hymn *You Servants of God* ELW 825

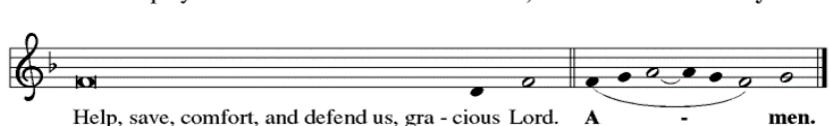
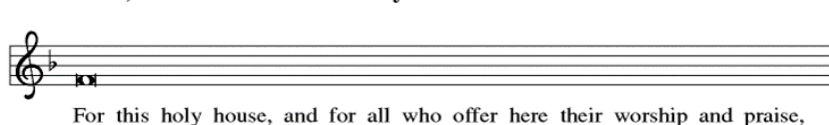
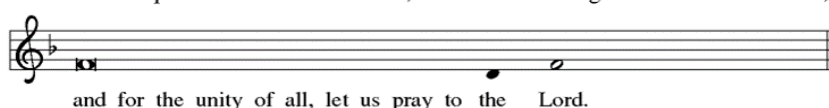
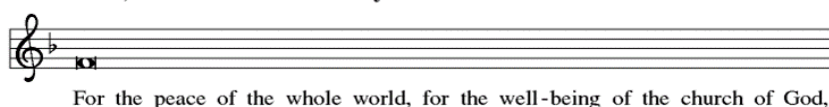
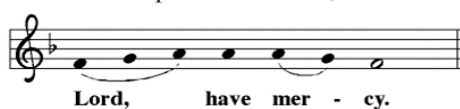
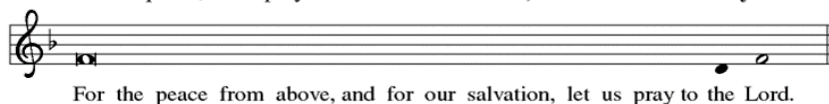
Greeting

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

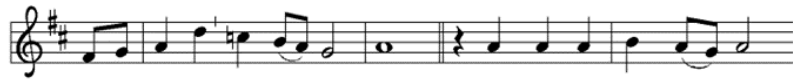
(ELW p. 138)



Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and

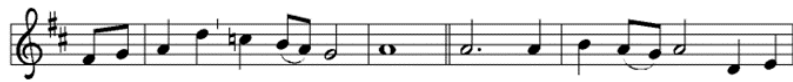


strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia,
 al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
 slain has be-gun his reign. Al-le-lu-ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le-lu-ia.

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.

(you may be seated)

Reading 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Reader: The Reading today is from 1 Thessalonians 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.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, 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. 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, 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.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

Congregation: **Thanks be to God!**

Psalm *Reader:* The Psalm today is from Psalm 96

Sing to the LORD a new song;
sing to the LORD, all the earth.

**Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

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

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

As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

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

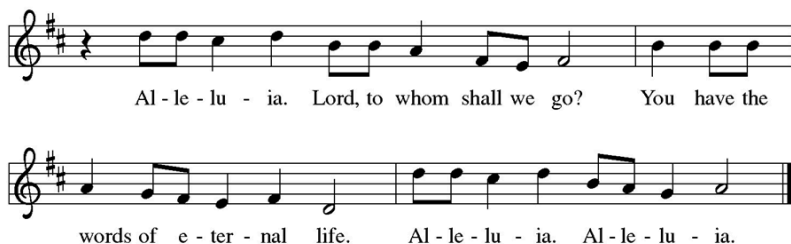
Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

**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.**

(please rise in body or spirit)

Gospel Acclamation

(ELW p. 142)



Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

Preacher: The Gospel according to

Matthew the 22nd chapter

Congregation: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. 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. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” 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.” When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

Preacher: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

(you may be seated)

The Message

Pastor Mark Boster

(please rise in body or spirit)

Hymn of the Day

Look Who Gathers at Christ's Table ACS 977

The Apostles' Creed

Prayers of the Church

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

A brief silence.

Gracious God, you have given us a place in your family. Bless your church throughout the world and this congregation of Shepherd of the Prairie. Let our welcome reflect the welcome we have received in Christ. Help us make room for newcomers, listen to unfamiliar voices, and share your love beyond our walls. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Generous God, everything we have comes from you. Free us from the fear that we do not have enough or that our gifts do not matter. Shape our stewardship as a grateful response to grace. Guide our giving, our serving, and our daily choices so that the gifts entrusted to us become blessings for others. Hear us, O God

Your mercy is great

God of all nations, every person bears your image. Guide leaders and public servants toward justice, peace, and the common good. When differences divide us, keep us from dismissing one another. Give us courage to defend the dignity of those who are overlooked and compassion to hear stories different from our own. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of our daily lives, work through us in our homes, workplaces, schools, and neighborhoods. Bless teachers and students, parents and children, workers and retirees, caregivers and volunteers. Show each of us one concrete way to offer your love this week: a call, a meal, a listening ear, a shared skill, or an invitation to sit beside us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Compassionate God, draw near to those who are ill, grieving, anxious, or weary. Remember those who feel forgotten, those facing financial hardship, and those carrying burdens they cannot name. We pray especially for those we name aloud or hold in our hearts. Hear us, O God

Your mercy is great.

Eternal God, we give thanks for the saints who shared their gifts and taught us your generous love. Comfort all who mourn with the promise of Christ's resurrection. Keep us in that hope until we gather with all your people at your everlasting feast. 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 the Peace of Christ

Presiding Minister:

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation: **And also with you.**

Greet one another: **"Peace be with you."**

(you may be seated)

Offering

Fairest Lord Jesus

Hand Bell Choir

(please rise in body or spirit)

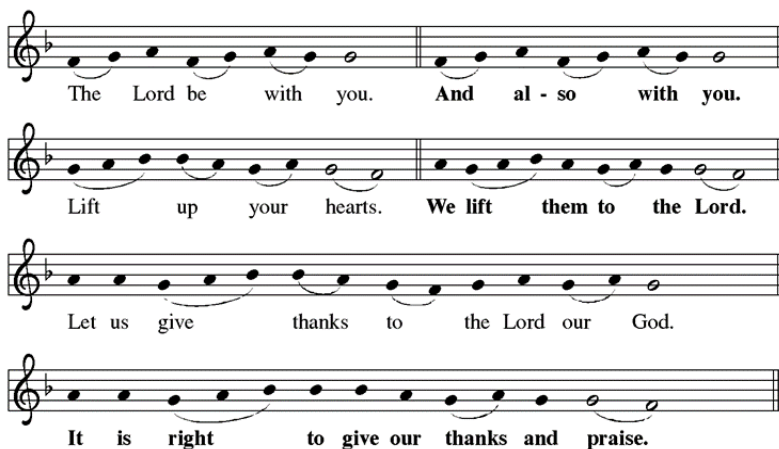
Offering Prayer

Assisting Minister: Let us pray together.

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.

Great Thanksgiving

(ELW p. 144)



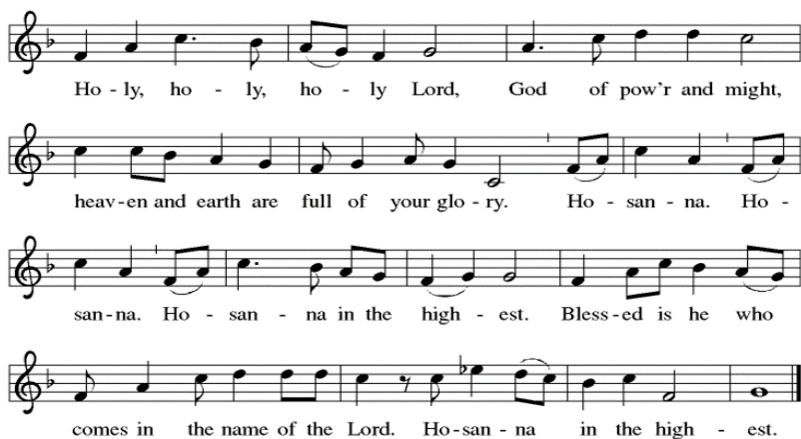
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

Presiding Minister: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

(you may be seated)

Invitation to Communion

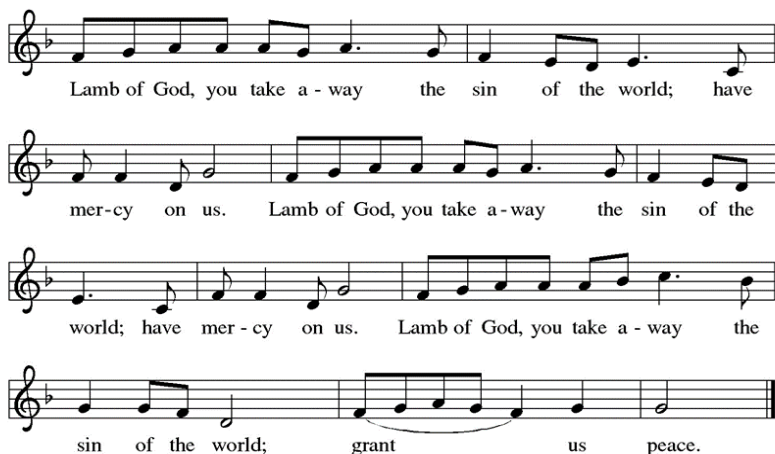
Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Communion Distribution

Distribution Music

"Lamb of God"

(ELW p. 146)



Here Is Bread

ELW 483

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 685

(please rise in body or spirit)

Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

Amen.

Prayer

Assisting Minister: Let us pray together.

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.

Community Moment

Benediction

Sending Hymn

God of Grace and God of Glory ELW 705

Dismissal

Go in peace. Walk in love. Put your faith into action!
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

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