Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost



October 18, 2026

WELCOME!

If you are a visitor, please sign the guest book in the narthex. If you are seeking a church home, we joyfully invite you to join with us; please speak to me, Pastor Jami Possinger.

Holy Communion is open to all baptized believers who trust that the Lord is present for them in His Supper.

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices to fully enter into this time of worship.

Faith Lutheran Church
550 Rt. 940 | PO Box 228
Blakeslee, PA 18610
Office 570-646-0309

Email: faithoffice@faithlutheranblakeslee.org **Website:** faithlutheranblakeslee.org
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/Faith-Lutheran-Church-Blakeslee-PA-1721550018126312

Minister: ..... Pastor Carey Miller
Lector ..... Rick Halko
Greeters/Ushers: ..... Phil Newlander
Communion Asst./Clean up: ..... Ben Mroz, III. /Peggy Rapp
Music: ..... Molly Finkbiner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All Saints Day: order forms are due back tomorrow, Oct. 19, 2026.

Bulletins: donated by Cheryl Ray. *"The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native born. Love them as yourself."* Leviticus 19:34.

Altar Service Signup: Volunteers are needed to set-up, bake bread, and clean up after communion. Please email Jan Frantz at Boris_fan@yahoo.com to help.

Bulletin Sponsors and Flower Donations: Sign-up sheets for 2027 are on the table in the foyer entrance of the church. In-house bulletin for $10 and $10 towards silk flowers, or you may bring your own fresh flowers. **Please complete the requisition form with your dedication note.**

Faith Fellowship Team: Our mission is encouraging interaction, building relationships, and creating a sense of belonging within the congregation and with the local community. If you're interested in becoming part of the Faith Fellowship Team, please contact Sara Cornell at 570-472-5560 or at saracornell10@gmail.com.

MEETINGS/EVENTS

AA Meetings: Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday at 12 p.m.

American Red Cross Blood Drive: Nov. 18, 1 p.m.-6 p.m. Please call 800-733-2767 to pre-register.

Bible Study: Sessions on Sundays, 8 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Studying Joshua. Please call Tom Hutton if you are interested in attending. 570-972-6331.

Bible Study: Wednesdays, 11 a.m. to Noon with Pastor Jami.

Choir Rehearsals: Sundays from 8:30 – 9:15 a.m. New members welcomed.

Faith Book Club: Our current title is, "Whistler," by Ann Patchett. Discussion of the book will take place on October 25, 2026, at Murphy's Loft after worship service.

Faith Library: Please see one of the "Little Librarians" or Sara Cornell with any donations or questions.

Faithful Community Quilters: Second Monday of the month, 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Free Community Lunch: First Tuesday of each month. (Nov. 3.) 11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Five Loaf House,133 Firehouse Road, Pocono Pines.

Holy Grounds Coffee Hour: Fellowship will be held after worship on the second Sunday of each month. Volunteers to host are needed—please sign up on the sheet in the back of the church.

Pastor Jami Possinger has weekly office hours. Confidential email: pastor@faithlutheranblakeslee.org or private cell phone: 610-216-9951

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.

PRELUDES: **"**Immortal;" "Cwm Rhondda"

Please rise as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
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 **"God is Here!"** **WOV 719**



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



HYMN OF PRAISE





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.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING 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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**



PSALM: Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

Ascribe to the LORD honor and power. (Ps. 96:7)

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.

SECOND READING: 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.

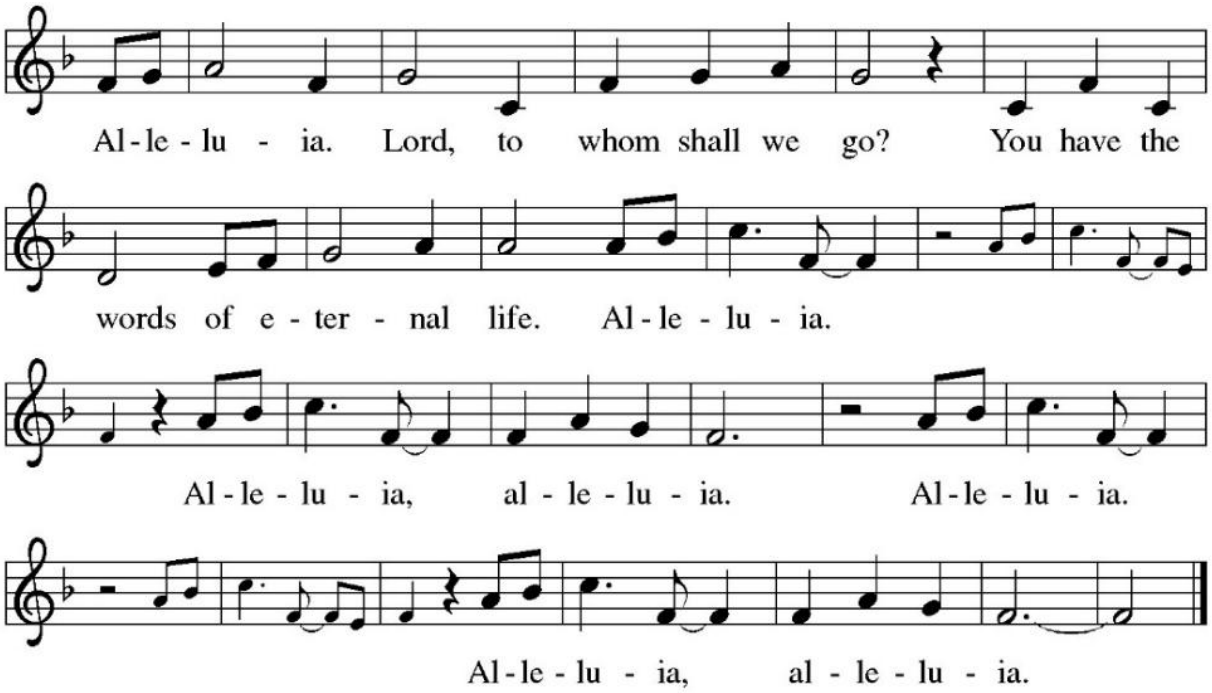
2 We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly
3 remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4 For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, 5 because 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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able.



GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to **Matthew 22:15-22**

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.

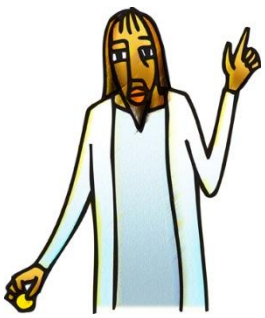
15 The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. 16 So they sent their disciples
to him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach
the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard
people with partiality. 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.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S TIME

SERMON



HYMN OF THE DAY **LBW 410**

We Give Thee but Thine Own



5 The captive to release,
the lost to God to bring,
to teach the way of life and peace—
it is a Christlike thing.

6 And we believe thy word,
though dim our faith may be:
whate'er we do for thine, O Lord,
we do it unto thee.

APOSTLES' 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

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

A brief silence.

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Your mercy is great.**

PRAYER LIST

Jim H.; Megan; Larissa; Denis H.; William; Richard Z.; Danielle S.; David S.; Michael K.; Gail and Bob C.; Shirley S.; Justin E.; Ed. T.; Dale H.; Tom M..; Tom S.; Sabrina Mendez & Family; St. John, Pen Argyl.

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. **Your mercy is great.**

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



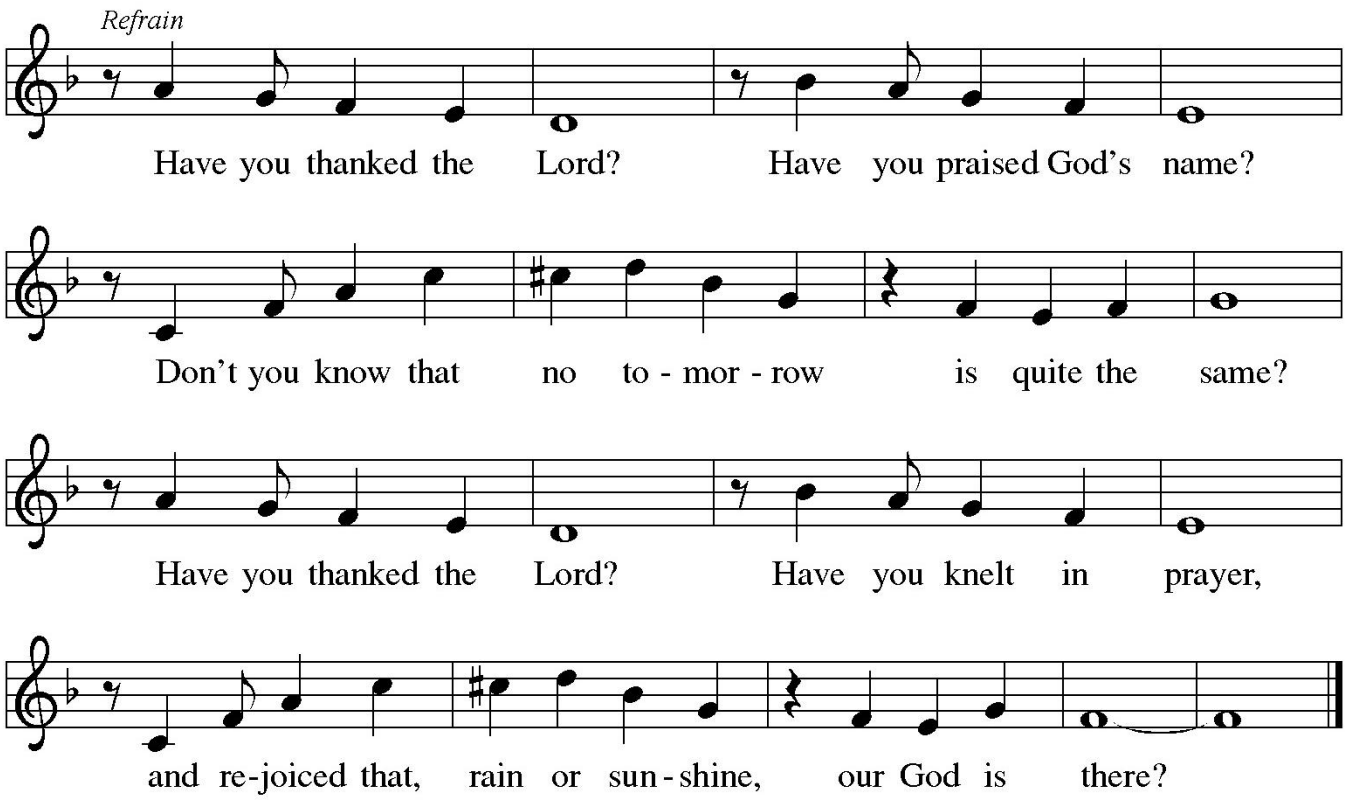
THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING MUSIC: "Azmon," Charles Callahn, p*layed by Molly Finkbiner.*

OFFERTORY SONG

Have You Thanked the Lord?



OFFERING PRAYER

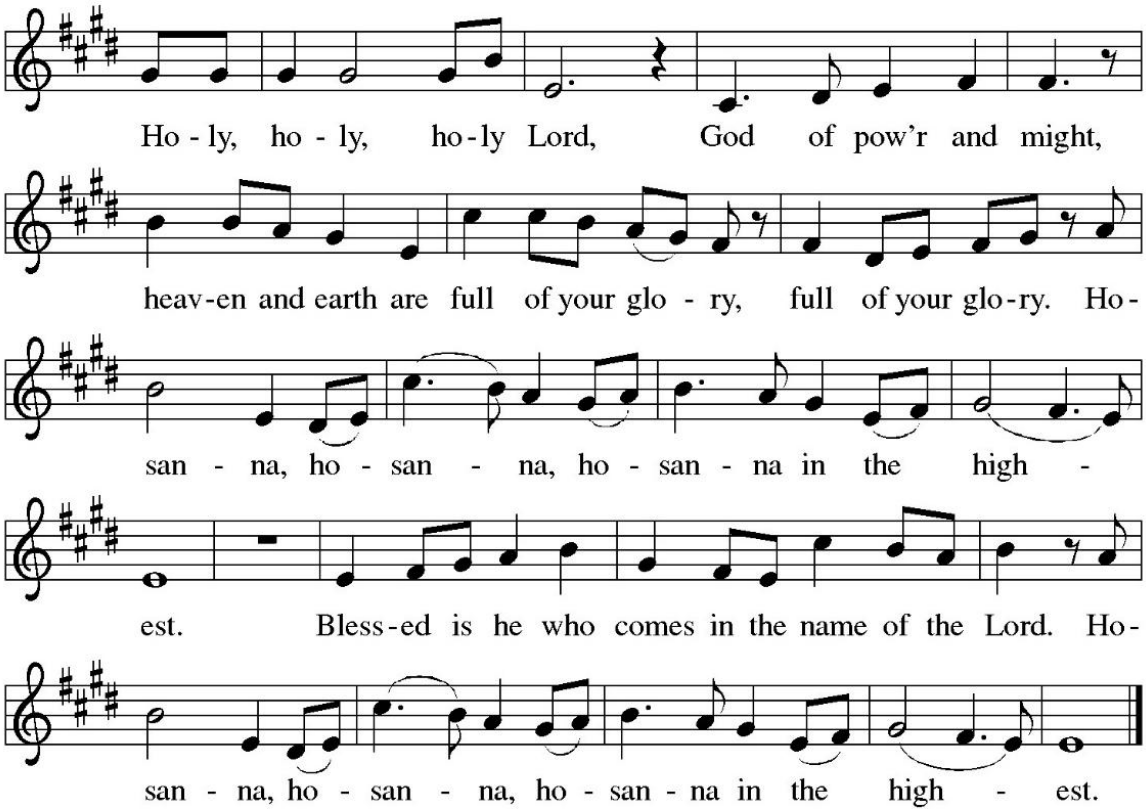
God of creation, all blessings are from you. Make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.	**And also 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 him thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in your truth. Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**



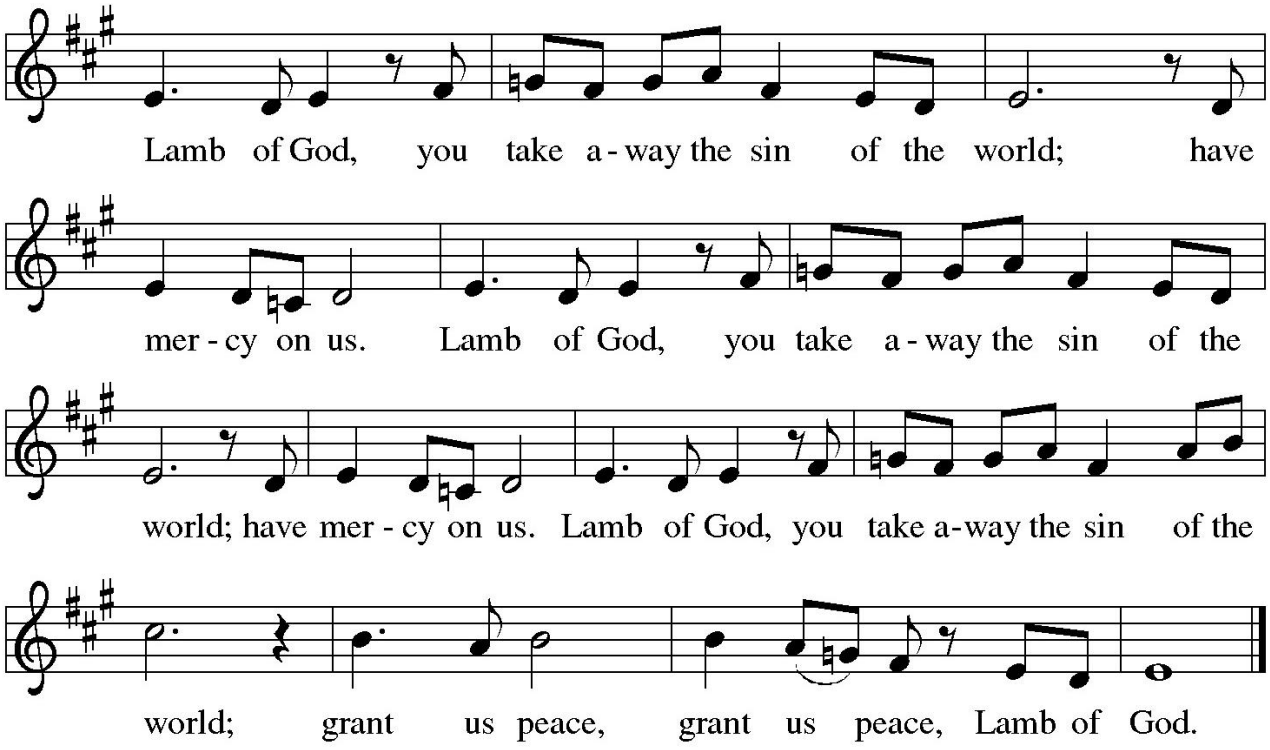
LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

LAMB OF GOD



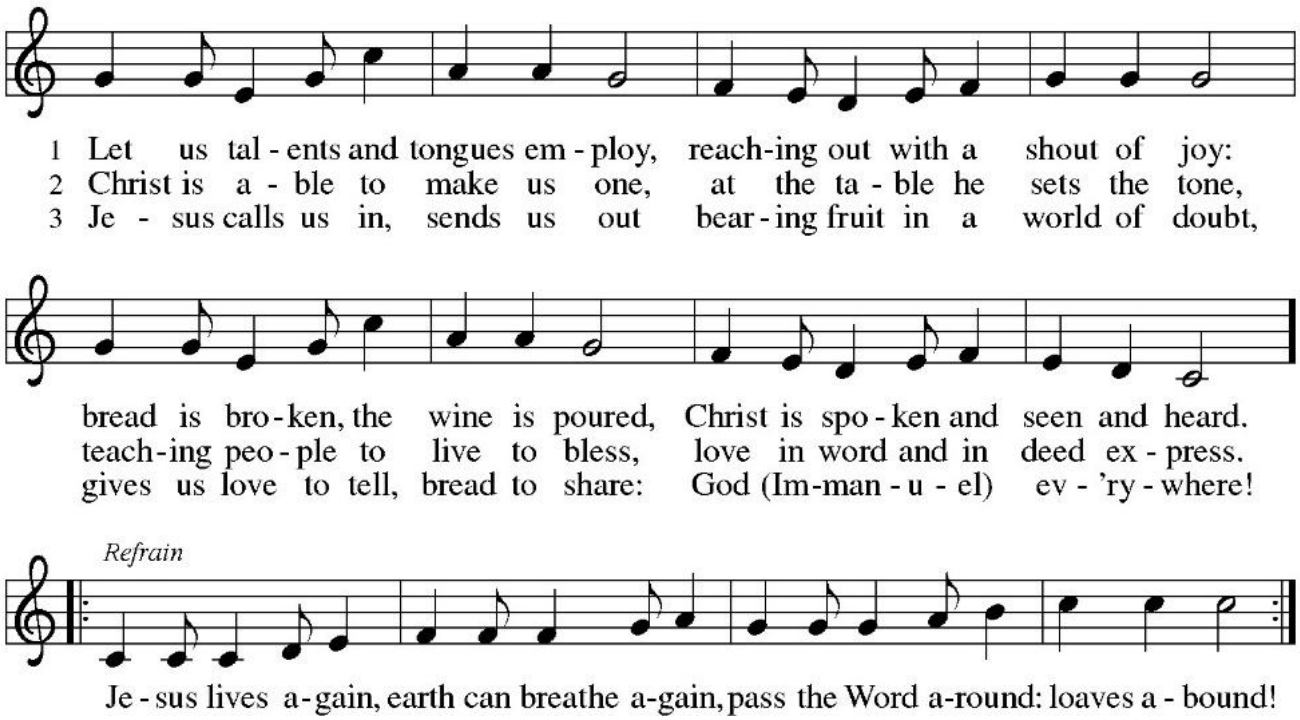
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

SONG AFTER COMMUNION

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



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

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

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

The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise LBW 526



DISMISSAL

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**



October 18th, 2026 – Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude:

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Gathering Song:

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Hymn of the Day:

We Give Thee But Thine Own, Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt., Tune: Mason and Webb, Cantica Lauda, 1850. © Public Domain.

Offering Music:

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Communion Music:

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Sending Hymn:

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise, Text: W. Chalmers Smith, 1824-1908, alt., Tune: Welsh folk tune. © Public Domain.

Postlude:

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Service Music:

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What's in Your Wallet? Not Enough.

Say the word *stewardship* in some congregations and people are protectively guarding their wallets faster than you can say "pledge card"! Unfortunately, too often we associate stewardship exclusively with issues of money. The good news is that God wants our whole lives, wallets and all! Nevertheless, this week is prime time for stewardship campaigns in congregations across North America. Today's gospel provides an ideal time to reflect on stewardship of all sorts—time, talent, and financial treasures.

The Pharisees approach Jesus in a thinly veiled attempt to trap him on issues of financial obligations to the Roman government. Their question of Jesus, simplified to the extreme, is, "Who gets your wallet?" If Jesus answered one way, he would be guilty of treason. If he answered the other way, he would have been considered guilty of heresy in the eyes of the religious leaders. Jesus responds by issuing a challenge of his own: "Give to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's" (Matt. 22:21). This statement challenges us to ponder: If God created the world and everything in it, doesn't everything belong to God? God wants a whole lot more than just your wallet. God wants your life, wallet and all!



All Saint's Day Remembrance

Sunday, November 1, 2026

Your name: _____

I would like to buy ____qty. white roses/$5 each in memory of:

1._____

2._____

3._____

4._____

5._____

Please order your altar flowers in memory of your loved one(s) by ***Sunday, October 19, 2026.***

_____***Qty x $5.00 = $***_____

Payment Date: _____ ☐ ***Cash*** ☐ ***Check***

