

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE *You Servants of God* SHAW

CONFESSION 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.
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.

HYMN #825 *You Servants of God* LYONS

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together. 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.

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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God

PSALM 96: 1-9 (sing responsively)



- 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 a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong 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 hon- | or 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 beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, | all the earth.

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.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22: 15-22

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.

SERMON Fruitful in Every Good Work [2026-27 Stewardship Emphasis]
So, What Does Belong to God? Rev. Christian Dittmar

APOSTLES' CREED

With voices united, let us confess our faith

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 PRAYERS

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

A brief silence.

...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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PASSING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING (8:15) *Surely it is God Who Saves Me*
(10:45) *Joyful Ringers Simple Gifts*

CHERWIEN

COTA

OFFERTORY #481 *Come to the Table of Mercy* COME TO THE TABLE



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. 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

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.

Detailed description: This block contains a musical score for the hymn 'GREAT THANKSGIVING'. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure. The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are: '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.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

It is indeed right.....we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS [HOLY, HOLY, HOL Y]

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,

heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Detailed description: This block contains a musical score for the hymn 'SANCTUS'. It consists of four staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure. The notes are mostly quarter and eighth notes, with some rests. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,', 'heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.', 'Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes', and 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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!

AGNUS DEI [LAMB OF GOD]



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. 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 #580 *How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord* REPTON

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE *Allegro* BLEWITT

Commonwealth Is God's Commandment



- 1 Com - mon - wealth is God's com - mand - ment; com - mon goods are meant to share.
- 2 Shar - ing lav - ish gifts and bless - ings, love that not one mite with - holds,
- 3 Gen - ders, rac - es, tribes, and na - tions, hear the Ho - ly One who calls,



Ta - bles set and doors wide o - pen wel - come an - gels un - a - ware.
stretch out arms to friends and stran - gers: God has sheep of man - y folds.
bid - ding all to work to - geth - er, bridg - ing lives and breach - ing walls.



Plead for the peace of all cre - a - tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.



Shan - ti, pax, sha - lom, mas - la - ha: com - mon good is ho - ly ground.

This hymn's refrain includes words meaning *peace* from other religious traditions. Shanti (Sanskrit) is pronounced "shahn-tee" and is used in Hindu and Buddhist traditions. Pax (Latin) is pronounced "pahks." Shalom (Hebrew) is pronounced "shuh-lom": and means peace, wholeness. Masiaha (Arabic) is pronounced "muhs-iah-hah" and means reconciliation.

Hymns in Our Service Today

#825 You Servants of God

ACS 1036 (pg 11) Commonwealth Is God's Command

#580 How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord



To give electronically scan the QR code above with your phone's camera to visit our online giving page. Your contribution is greatly appreciated.



Sunday Worship 8:15 & 10:45

Christ invites you to this table

Welcome to First Lutheran Church.

During our services of Holy Communion, we follow Jesus' teachings that all people are welcome to his table. This meal of faith, hope, and love is meant for all people for the forgiveness of sins. Feel free to come forward and receive the bread, or wheat-free and gluten-free wafer, along with a small cup of wine or grape juice. If you wish to receive a blessing instead of communion, simply cross your arms over your chest as a sign of your preference

WE ASK EVERYONE to complete the "Footprints" and list if you are communing or have a prayer request. You may write your prayer request(s) on the back. Please check YES for the name to be included in the bulletin or NO if you want the name to be known only to the prayer teams. We strive for confidentiality, so be sure you have the person's permission, or use only the first name. There are activity bags for our young worshippers. Please ask an usher for assistance.

THE ALTAR FLOWERS THIS MORNING are given to the glory of God by the Routsons and Devra Hall, in loving memory of Nathan.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY! Congratulations and best wishes to Carroll and Edna Gossard on the celebration of their 70th Anniversary today!

A CARD WRITING MINISTRY has been set up on a table outside the Narthex! The Social Ministry Committee encourages everyone to write a note to an At-Home member, to a member having a birthday, or just to someone you haven't seen in a while! Addresses for At-Home members and a list of monthly birthdays is available on the table. If you put the card in the basket available, the mailing will be handled by the office!

TRUNK OR TREAT

Trunk or Treat will take place **TODAY** Oct 18th, 4 – 5:30pm. If you have any questions feel free to contact Julie Buck!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

A congregational meeting will be held November 15th after the ThankOffering Service. There will be only one service that day. The purpose of the meeting is to elect council members for the next term. There will be 4 open slots available to run for this year, and more information on candidates will be available soon on the bulletin board! A preliminary budget will also be available at the meeting

MILITARY MINISTRY Social Ministry is trying to keep the Military Ministry active and going. Beverly Horn had given it up due to her illness. She is starting to feel better and is contemplating trying to pick it up again, but would appreciate help as she would not be able to take it on by herself. This would involve contacting families of our military and getting updated photos and addresses. Please pray about trying to help with this project and contact Beverly Horn 567 305 0378 if you are willing to assist with this very valuable ministry. Thank you.

SACRED DAILY During Pastor Tucker's sabbatical there will not be a pastor to lead Sacred Daily. The chapel will still be available Mondays through Thursdays at or about 11:30 a.m. for private or group praying of Noon Prayer. The order of service and Bibles are in the chapel pews.

THE NEW 2027 FLOWER CHART is up in the hallway, across from the church office. There is a full year of Sundays that need flowers to brighten not only the altar, but also either your home or the home of a shut-in. Please consider this ministry as a way to share God's love for His people.

OPEN POSITION: The position of Building Manager is available. Duties include opening and closing the church building, and the keep up and maintenance of the building. If interested, please contact Pastor Tucker or Casey Cox.

HOLY LAND COOPERATIVE VISITING

On **October 25, 2026**, during both services, we will hear about the Christians of the Holy Land, and in the narthex there will be a display of olive wood religious handicrafts from Bethlehem available for a donation. The olive wood carvings include Nativity sets, crosses, Christmas ornaments, candle holders, angels and others. They are carved by Christian families from Bethlehem who rely on their crafts for their daily bread. More than 70% of the Christian Community in the Holy Land depends upon tourism as their only source of income. Tourism in Bethlehem has plummeted and access to other sources of income have been sharply restricted due to the ongoing conflicts, which has made it very difficult for the Christian families to survive. The Christian population of the Holy Land was 30% in the last century, but today it is less than 1%. If this continues, soon we will find no Christians in the land of Christ, which could cause tragic consequences to our faith and holy sites. A Christian family from Bethlehem will tell us the story of the Christians of the Holy Land and present these carvings after the services.