TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST



CAESARAVGVSTVSDIVIF
PATERPATRIAE

CAESAR AVGVSTVS
Most High Emperor

DIVI F[ILIUS]
Son of God

PATER PATRIA
Father of the Nation

October 18, 2026

10:00am

Land Acknowledgment
We recognize that we gather on the ancestral lands of the Ojibwe, Ho Chunk, and Dakota. We acknowledge their leaders, past, present, and emerging.

Gathering

Prelude Praise God, Ye Christians *Johann G. Walther*

Welcome

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.
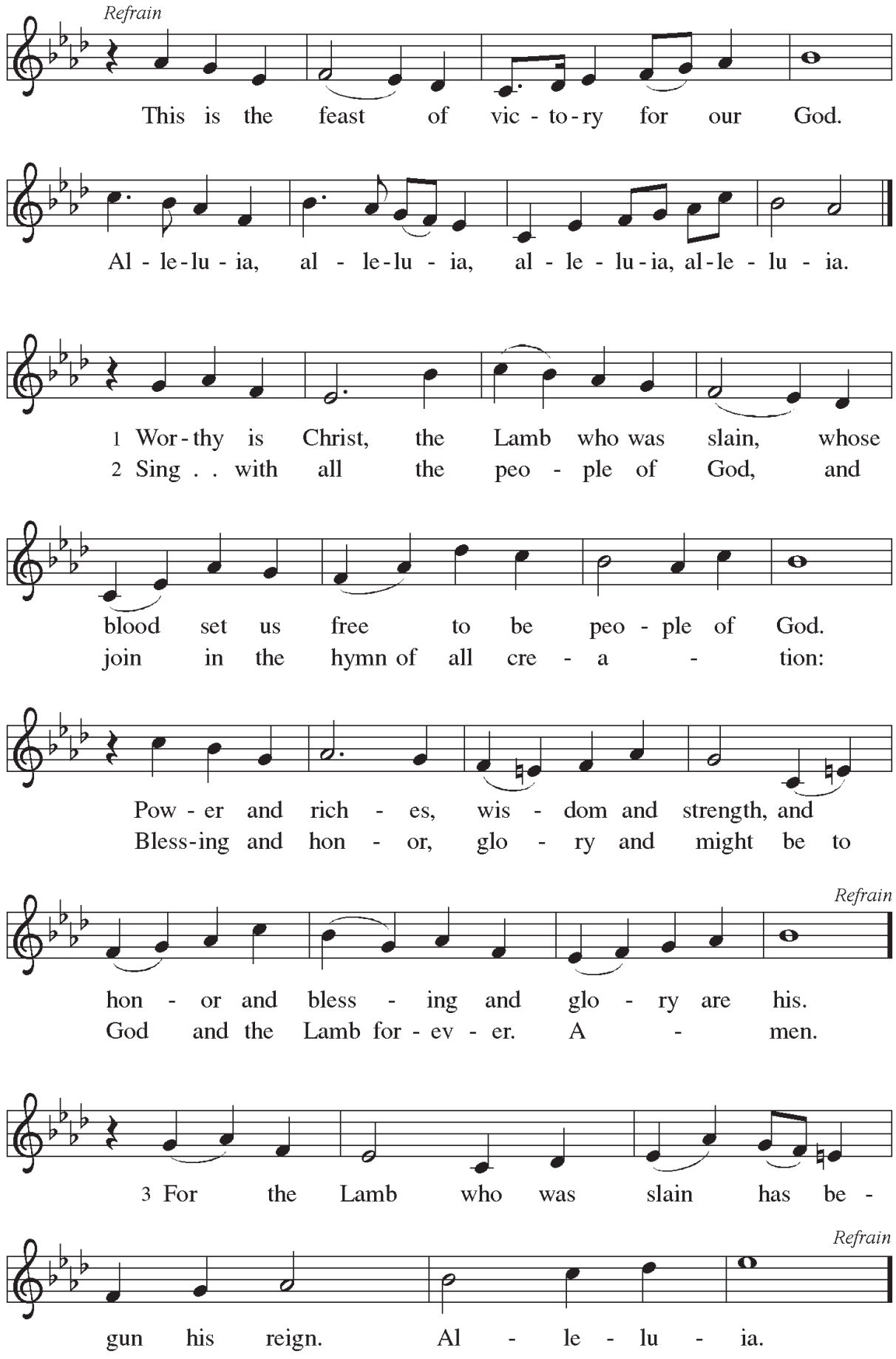
Compassionate God,
we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts 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.

Opening Hymn God Is Here (verses 1 & 4) *#526*

Apostolic 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



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

Word

Children's Message

The First Reading is from Isaiah, Chapter 45.

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!

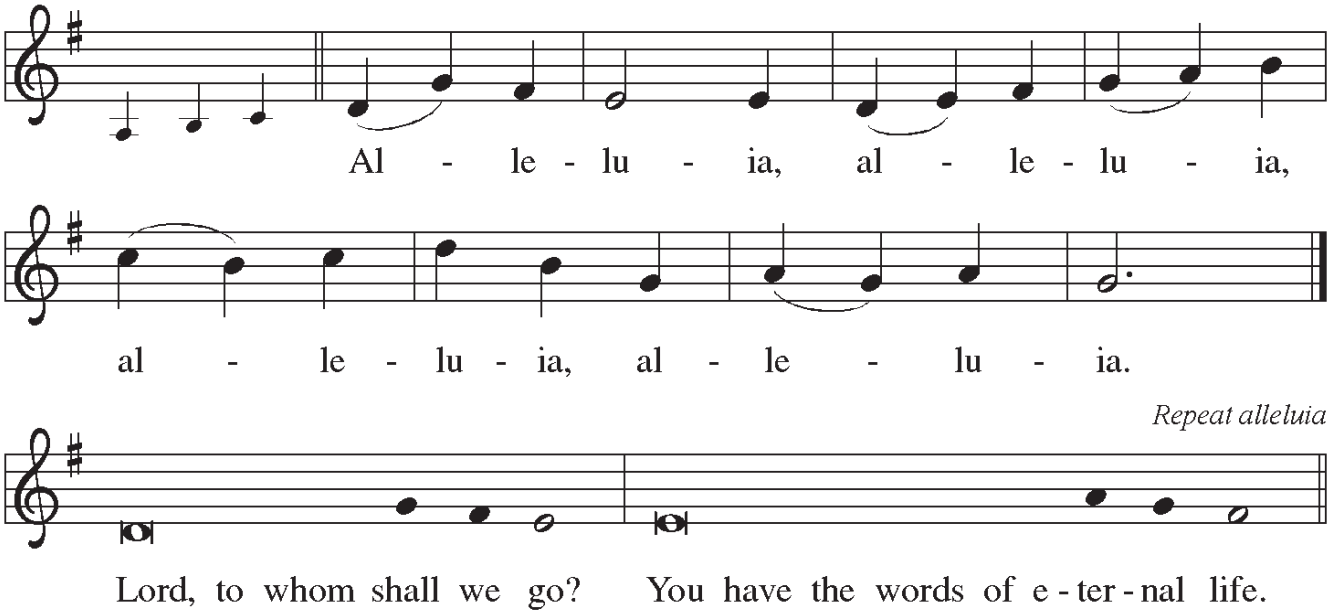
The Second Reading is from First Thessalonians, Chapter 1.

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 in 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!

Anthem Let Us Break Bread Together *arr. Robert DeCormier*

Gospel Acclamation



The Holy Gospel for today is from Matthew, Chapter 22.
Glory to you, O Lord.

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 Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Hymn Take My Life That I May Be *#685*

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 the Church
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.

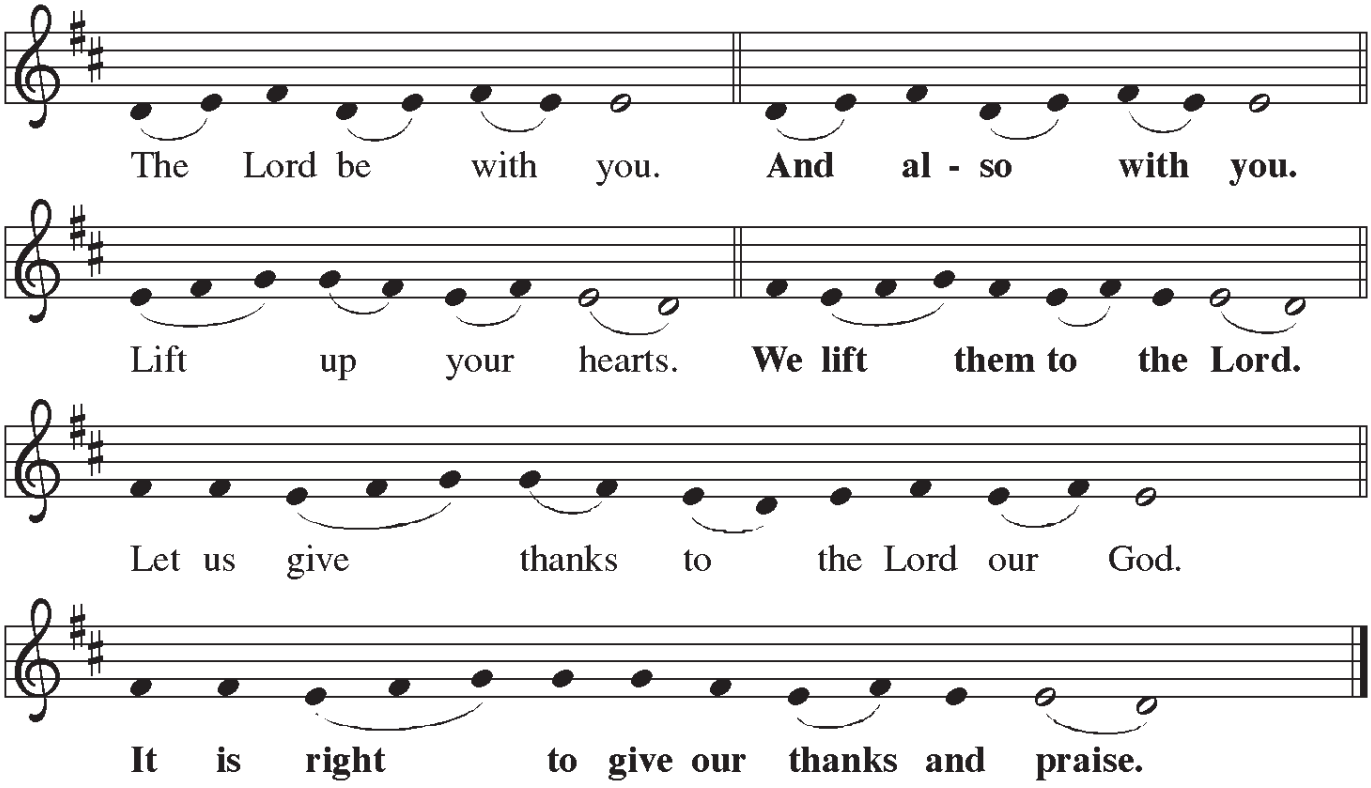
Peace

Meal

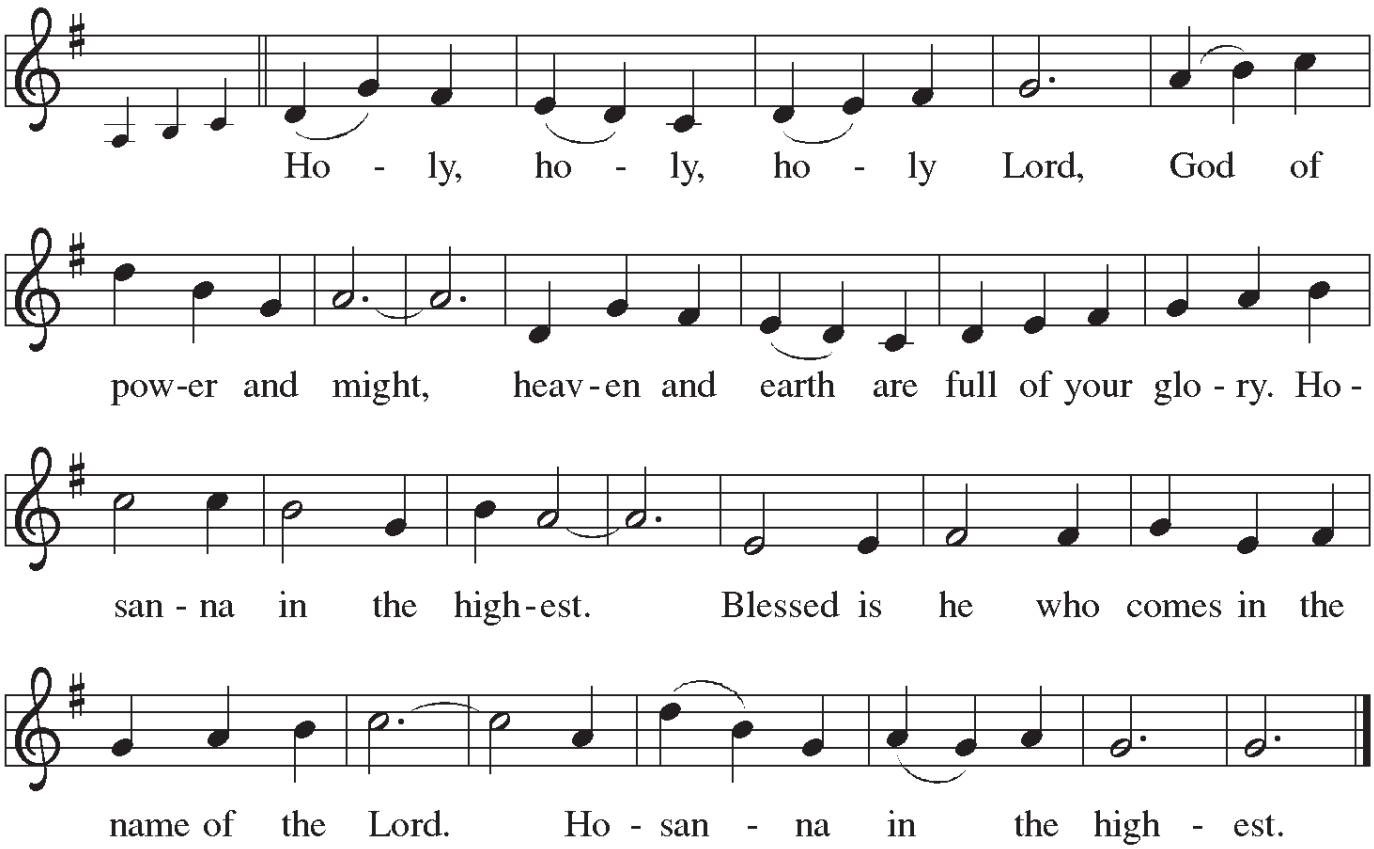
Offering I Have Hoped in You, Lord *J. S. Bach*

Offering Prayer
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



It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Eucharistic Prayer

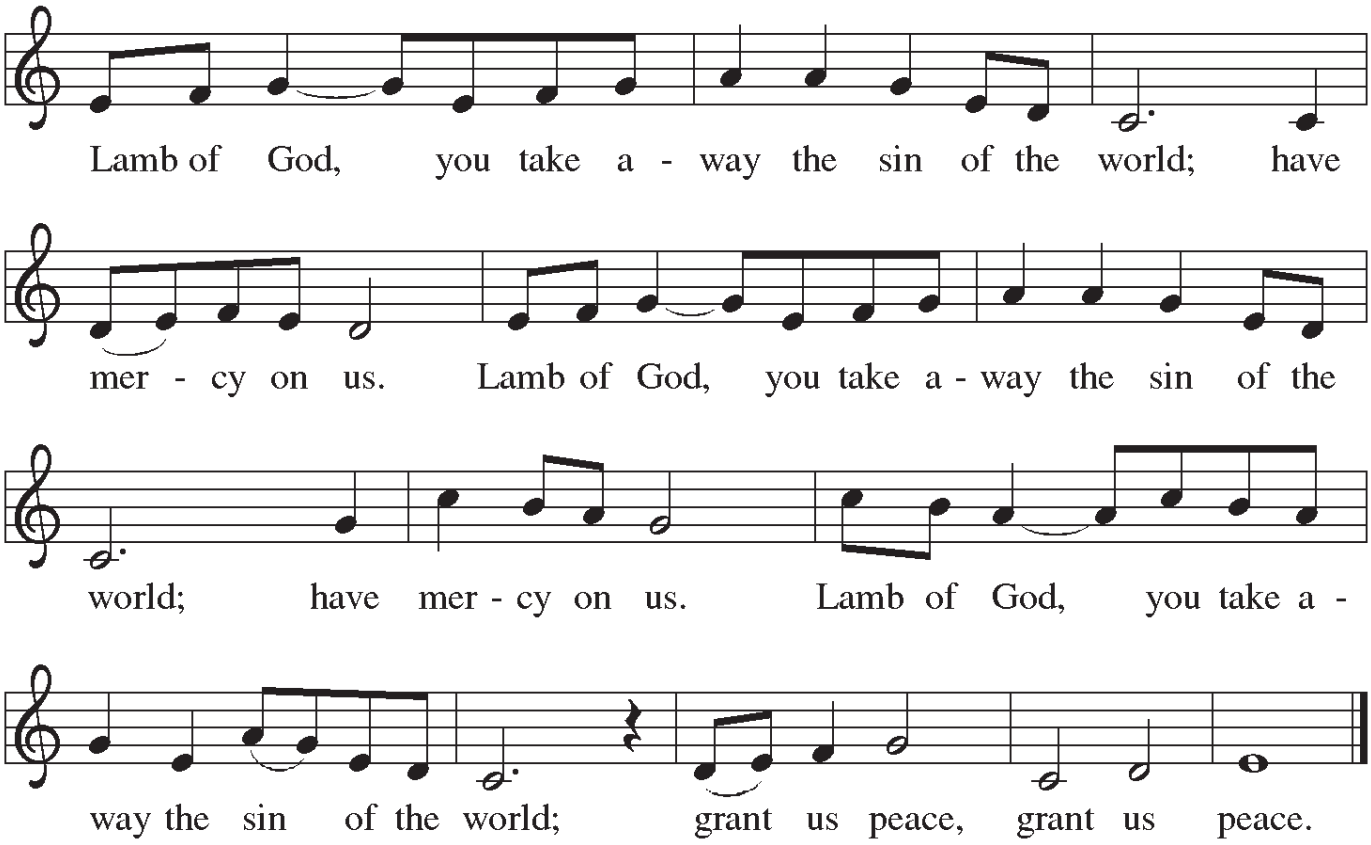
Words of Institution

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.

Communion

Our communion bread is gluten free and the communion cups with clear liquid have grape juice instead of wine.



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.

Sending

Blessing

Sending Hymn Lord of All Hopefulness *#765*

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude Sonata 2: Fugue Felix Mendelssohn

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

2026-10-18

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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Lord of All Hopefulness, 765 Text © Oxford University Press 1931

Let Us Break Bread Together, arr. De Cormier ©1969 Okemo Music, published by Lawson-Gould Music

Minister: Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones
Assisting Minister: Arthur Grothe
Reader: Evan Casto
Organist: Elaine Mann
Choir Director: Dr. Ryan Rogers
Pacibells Director: Karen Lionberger

Weekly Calendar

Sunday (18th)
Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am
Fall Arts Celebration – 12noon
Lutheran Cemetery Cleanup – 1pm

Monday
Scouts – 6pm

Tuesday
Grace Pacers – 9:30am
Prayer Group – 11am
ADRC – Strong Bodies – 1pm
Church Council – 7pm

Wednesday
Crafters – 9am
Text Study – 12noon
AA meeting – 7pm
Choir Rehearsal – 7pm

Thursday
Unique Boutique Setup – 12noon
Pacibells Rehearsal – 6pm

Friday
Unique Boutique Setup – 10am

Saturday
Unique Boutique – 8:30am

Sunday (25th)
Reformation Sunday
Coffee Hour – 9:30am
Worship – 10am

Other groups using the building this week: Grace Lutheran Foundation, Brighter than Sunshine, Grace Rising Wellness, ECWiT, Theater Guild, Randall Park Neighborhood Association

Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet at 10 AM on Monday, October 12, 2026, in the Lounge at Grace. It is a morning filled with fun, fellowship, food and our Bible Study. We invite all women to join. No prep is needed, as we read, study and discuss together this month's bible study from the Gather magazine.

Stewardship Reminder

Please fill out your pledges and time and talent sheets and turn them into the office by November 15. Extra forms are available in the back of the Narthex. Thank you.

And, congratulations, to Elaine Berg, for winning the stewardship word contest.

Altar Flowers

Altar flowers this week were donated by Tom Tealey in memory of his mother Evelyn Tealey's birthday on October 19, and in memory of Jim Page for his birthday on October 17 given by his daughter Jodi Schleusner and his grandchildren Emily, Jacob, and Alli. Thank you.







Unique Boutique

The crafters's Unique Boutique craft sale is coming up on October 24. In addition to all the items the crafters have made themselves, they are also looking for donations of any treasures members are looking to part with. If you have something you would like to donate to the sale, please price it and leave it on the parlors stage beginning October 19.

The crafters are also looking for baked goods from our members. If you would like to donate baked goods for the Unique Boutique, you can drop them off on Friday, October 23 between 10am and 2pm, or on Saturday, October 24, between 8 and 8:30am. Please price any items you bring in. Thank you for your generosity.

Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday : 10AM — 2PM
Phone: 715–832–9713
PO Box 965, Eau Claire, WI 54702
202 W Grand Ave, Eau Claire, WI 54703
Email: info@grace–church.org
Rev. Dr. Phil Ruge–Jones: pastorphil@grace–church.org

Services are live streamed Sundays at 10am on:

- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheraneauclaire/
- Youtube embedded in our website: https://grace–church.org/our–ministry Bulletins may also be found on the same page.

Recordings of worship services are broadcast Sundays 10:30am on WQOW Channel 18, Cable 9, 618HD (every other week)

Past services are posted at "Grace Lutheran Church ELCA Eau Claire Wisconsin" YouTube page — http://grace–church.org/our–ministry

Do you have information for the bulletin and Grace at a Glance? Deadline is Wednesday by 2:00 p.m. by emailing Andrew at info@grace–church.org or by calling the office at 715–832–9713