Covenant Lutheran Church
October 11, 2026
Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

GATHERING

Call to Worship

Welcome

Please stand

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.

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: *Shout to the Lord*
(Words printed on screens)

Prayer of the Day
Lord of the feast, you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Please be seated

THE WORD

First Reading: Isaiah 25:1-9

1 O LORD, you are my God;
I will exalt you; I will praise your name,
for you have done wonderful things,
plans formed of old, faithful and sure.
2 For you have made the city a heap,
the fortified city a ruin;
the palace of foreigners is a city no more;
it will never be rebuilt.
3 Therefore strong peoples will glorify you;
cities of ruthless nations will fear you.
4 For you have been a refuge to the poor,
a refuge to the needy in their distress,
a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat.
When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm,
5 the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place,
you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds;
the song of the ruthless was stilled.

6 On this mountain the LORD of hosts will make for all peoples
a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines,

of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear.
7 And he will destroy on this mountain
the shroud that is cast over all peoples,
the covering that is spread over all nations;
8 he will swallow up death forever.
Then the Lord GOD will wipe away the tears from all faces,
and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth,
for the LORD has spoken.
9 It will be said on that day,
"See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us.
This is the LORD for whom we have waited;
let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation."

R: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 23
(Read Responsively – Congregation in Bold)

1 The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.
2 **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures**
and leads me beside still waters.
3 You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
4 **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;**
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
6 **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,**
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:1-9
1 My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. 3 Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life.

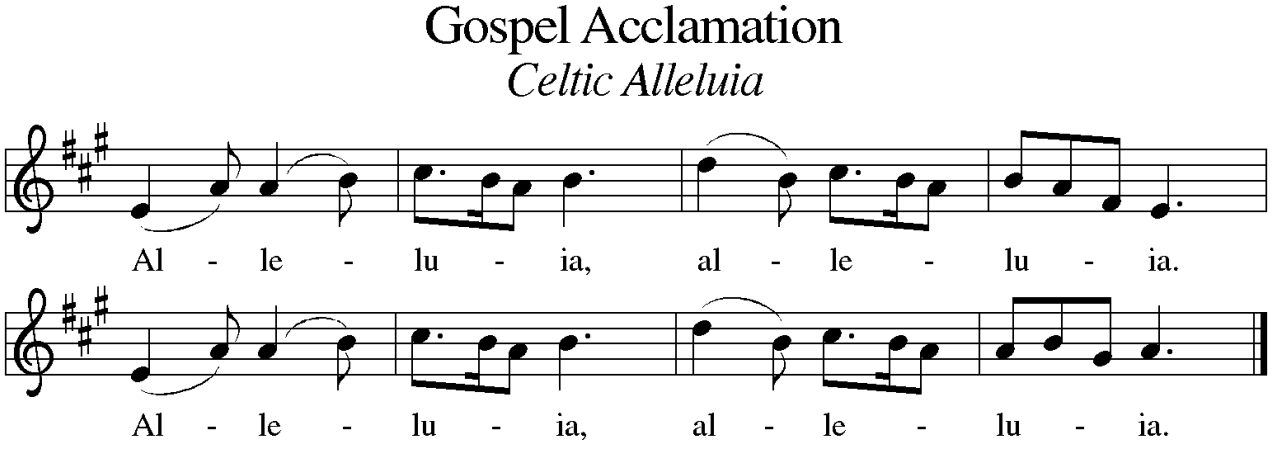
[4] Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. [5] Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. [6] Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. [7] And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

[8] Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. [9] As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

R: Word of God. Word of Life.
C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Please rise as we welcome the gospel together.

Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

[1] Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: [2] "The kingdom of heaven may be
compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. [3] He sent his slaves to call those
who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. [4] Again he sent other
slaves, saying, 'Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and
my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.'
[5] But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, [6] while the
rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. [7] The king was enraged. He sent his
troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. [8] Then he said to his slaves, 'The
wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. [9] Go therefore into the main streets, and
invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.' [10] Those slaves went out into the streets and
gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests.
[11] "But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not
wearing a wedding robe, [12] and he said to him, 'Friend, how did you get in here without a
wedding robe?' And he was speechless. [13] Then the king said to the attendants, 'Bind him hand
and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of
teeth.' [14] For many are called, but few are chosen."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day: *O Living Bread from Heaven*
ELW #542

Please Be Seated

The Message

Moment of Silent Reflection

Please Stand

Apostle's Creed
Let us confess our faith with confidence in the words of the 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 People: Assisting Minister
Responses:
Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Sharing of the Peace

Please Be Seated

Announcements

Time of Response

Offertory Song: *Psalm 23*
Covenant Praise Band

Offering Prayer: Assisting Minister
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.

Please Stand

THE MEAL

The Great Thanksgiving
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 our thanks and praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy

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

Please be seated.

Distribution of Communion

Please Stand

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion: Assisting Minister
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
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 Song: *This Little Light of Mine*
Covenant Praise Band

Dismissal: Assisting Minister
Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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