Covenant Lutheran Church
October 18, 2026
Twenty-first 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: *Lift Every Voice and Sing*
ELW #841

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

THE WORD

First Reading: Exodus 33:12-23
12 Moses said to the LORD, "See, you have said to me, 'Bring up this people,' but you have not let
me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, 'I know you by name, and you have
also found favor in my sight.' 13 Now if I have found favor in your sight, please show me your
ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider, too, that this nation is your
people." 14 He said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." 15 And he said to
him, "If your presence will not go, do not bring us up from here. 16 For how shall it be known
that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we
shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth."
17 The LORD said to Moses, "I will also do this thing that you have asked, for you have found
favor in my sight, and I know you by name." 18 Moses said, "Please show me your glory." 19 And
he said, "I will make all my goodness pass before you and will proclaim before you the name,
'The LORD,' and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious and will show mercy on whom I will
show mercy. 20 But," he said, "you cannot see my face, for no one shall see me and live." 21 And
the LORD continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, 22 and while
my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I
have passed by; 23 then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall
not be seen."

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

Psalm 96:1-13
(Read Responsively – Congregation in Bold)

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: Thessalonians 1:1-10
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.

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
Music © 1985 Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker, admin. OCP Publications, Inc. 5536 NE Hassalo, Portland, OR 97213.
All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

[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.

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

Hymn of the Day: *Here I Am, Lord*
ELW #574

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: *Goodness of God*
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: *I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me*

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

Postlude

Liturgy and Music from Evangelical Lutheran Worship and SundaysandSeasons.com Copyright 2021. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress License #020027 and CCLI License #81835, and SongSelect® Terms of Use.