

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Holstein, IA

October 18, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

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.

GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

silence for reflection

God, we hear your call to discipleship,

but we listen to other gods.

We feel the pull of your Spirit,

but we turn to other pursuits.

We see our own lack of meaning,

but we look in places that are empty.

God, forgive our sin

and cleanse us from the thoughts that destroy us

and the actions that betray us.

Our God is a great God and knows our every need. God has forgiven our sin and cleansed us from the thoughts and actions which pull us apart. Jesus, in his death on the cross, has paid the eternal price for our daily relationship with God. Through the Holy Spirit we are called and enlightened so we can truly be disciples living in the power and victory of the grace of God.

Amen.

Opening Hymn

Praise to the Lord

#858

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.

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.

Presentation of Bibles to 7th grade students

WORD

Isaiah 45:1-7

¹Thus 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: ²I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; ³I 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶so 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. ⁷I 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 96:1-13

- 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.

1 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.

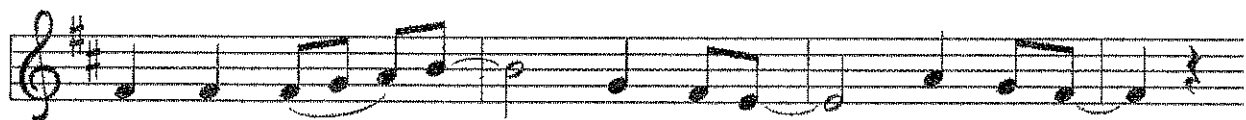
² We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³ remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁴ For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵ because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

The Word of the Lord.

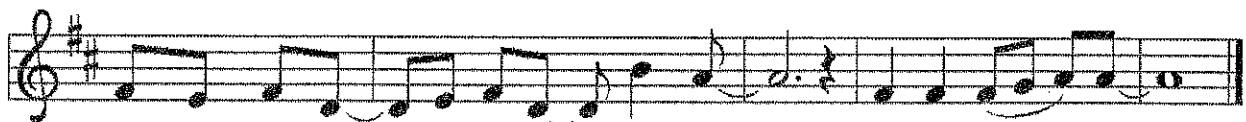
Thanks be to God.

Children's Message

Gospel Acclamation



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

Matthew 22:15-22

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

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.

Message Vicar Millie Anderson

Hymn of the Day

Take My Life, That I May Be

#583

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

Sharing the Peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

MEAL

Children's Offering / Offering

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.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

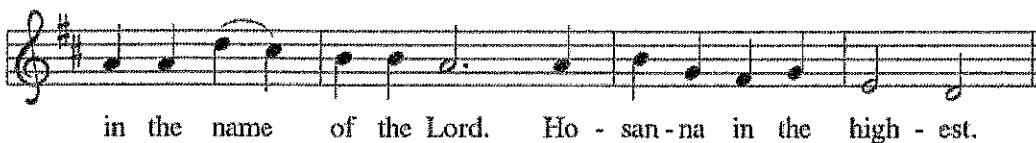
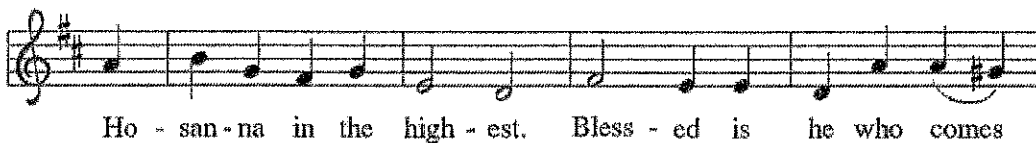
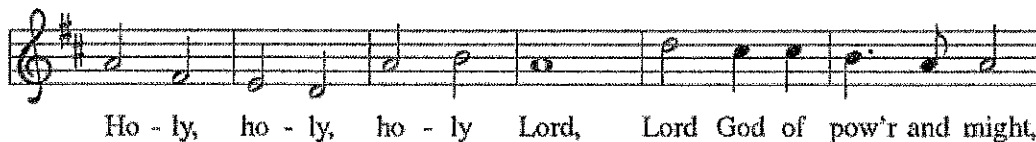
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface *It is indeed... we join in their unending praise:*



Word 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.

Invitation to Communion

Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Distribution

****Distribution of the Sacrament****

*All who trust in Christ's word are welcome to the table of this holy supper,
where our Lord is truly present, offering his gifts of forgiveness and eternal life.*

*Please tell the server if you desire grape juice as an alternative to wine,
or if you require a gluten-free wafer.*

Please join in singing –

Here Is Bread

#483

O God, You Search Me

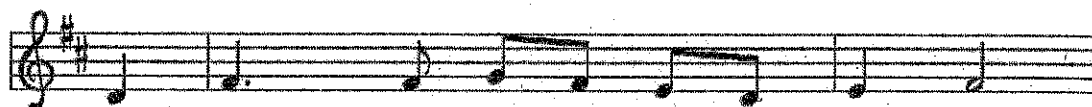
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Prayer After Communion

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.**

Communion Hymn

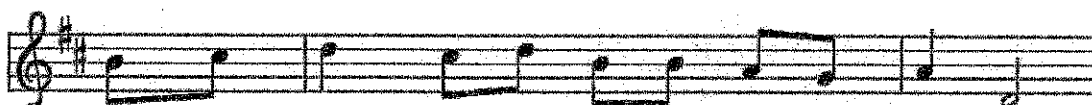
O God, You Search Me



1 O God, you search me and you know me.
2 You know my rest - ing and my ris - ing.
3 Be - fore a word is on my tongue, Lord,
4 Al - though your Spir - it is up - on me,
5 For you cre - at - ed me and shaped me,



All my thoughts lie o - pen to your gaze.
You dis - cern my pur - pose from a - far,
you have known its mean - ing through and through.
still I search for shel - ter from your light.
gave me life with - in my moth - er's womb.



When I walk or lie down you are be - fore me:
and with love ev - er - last - ing you be - siege me:
You are with me be - yond my un - der - stand - ing:
There is no - where on earth I can es - cape you:
For the won - der of who I am, I praise you:



ev - er the mak - er and keep - er of my days.
in ev - 'ry mo - ment of life or death, you are.
God of my pres - ent, my past, and fu - ture, too.
e - ven the dark - ness is ra - diant in your sight.
safe in your hands, all cre - a - tion is made new.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: O GOD, YOU SEARCH ME, Bernadette Farrell

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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.

Closing Song

Give Thanks

Refrain: Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One;
Give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ His Son. **(repeat)**

Verse: And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich"
because of what the Lord has done for us; **(repeat)**

Refrain

Verse

Give Thanks.

Give Thanks, Smith, 1978 Integrity's Hosanna! Music CCLI License #833795

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude



*Today's altar flowers are from Connie & Bob Butcher
In loving memory of Family*



Worship Participants

Ministers:	All the members
Vicar:	Emily Anderson
DYME:	Jim & Kris Kistenmacher
Organist:	Sharen Borchers
Pianist:	Kris Kistenmacher
Lector:	Adam Bisenius
Deacons:	Susan Endrulat and Marvin Todd
Greeters:	Cole Norris & Lenita Nannenga
Acolytes:	Gabe and Kaleb VanHouten
Sound & Video:	Randy & Kathy Vollmar
Coffee Hosts:	Kathy & Jerry Sindt Barb Stratton

St. Paul Church Calendar

SUNDAY, October 18 ~ 21st Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion Bible presentation to 7 th grade students
10:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Coffee & Fellowship
5:30 PM	Shepherd's Table Free Community Meal at St. Paul

WEDNESDAY, October 21

NO LOGOS

4:30 PM	Ham Dinner at Holstein United Methodist Church
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SUNDAY, October 25 ~ Reformation / Confirmation Sunday

9:00 AM	Worship with Confirmation
10:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Coffee & Fellowship