

Faith Lutheran Church

21st Sunday after Pentecost

October 18th, 2026



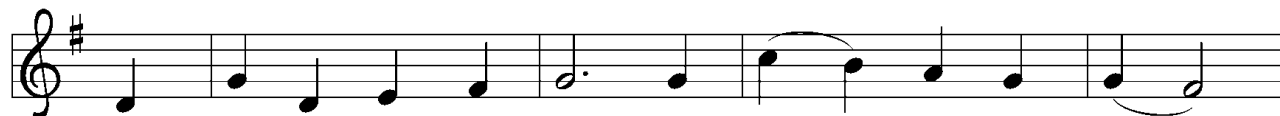
Introduction

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.

Gathering

Gathering Hymn

ELW 686 "We Give Thee but Thine Own"



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

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.

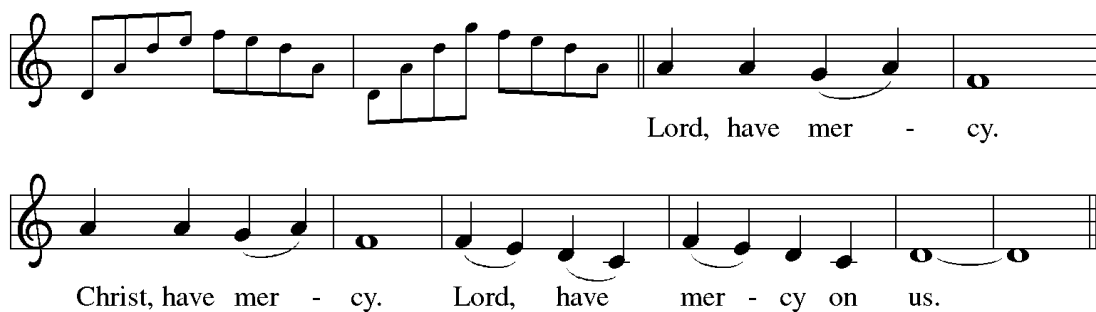
Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

Kyrie

ELW 158



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.

Children's Sermon

Word

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.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

- 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 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.
- [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 peo- ples 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 com- ing, 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 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.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 22nd chapter. 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 & Silent Reflection

Hymn of the Day

ELW 583 "Take my life, that I may be"

Refrain/Estribillo



To - ma, oh Dios, mi vo - lun - tad, y haz - la tu - ya, na -
Take my life, that I may be con - se - crat - ed, Lord,



da más; to - ma, sí, mi co - ra - zón
to thee; take my mo - ments and my days;



y tu tro - no en él ten - drás. ten - drás.
let them flow in cease - less praise. less praise.



1 Que mi vi - da en - te - ra es - té
1 Take my hands and let them move
2 Take my sil - ver and my gold,
3 Take my voice and let me sing
4 Take my will and make it thine;



con - sa - gra - da a ti, Se - ñor;
at the im - pulse of thy love;
not a mite would I with - hold;
al - ways, on - ly for my King;
it shall be no lon - ger mine;



que a mis ma - nos pue - da guiar el im -
take my feet and let them be swift and
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry
take my lips and let them be filled with
take my heart, it is thine own; it shall



pul - so de tu a - mor.
beau - ti - ful for thee.
pow'r as thou shalt choose.
mes - sag - es from thee.
be thy roy - al throne.

Prayers of Intercession

Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The prayers conclude:

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Meal

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Offering

"For Jesus, the quality of the gift is not how large it is, but the proportion you give and the heart with which you give it." There are many options for giving including plate giving, text to give (833-686-4752) or through our website.



Offertory Hymn

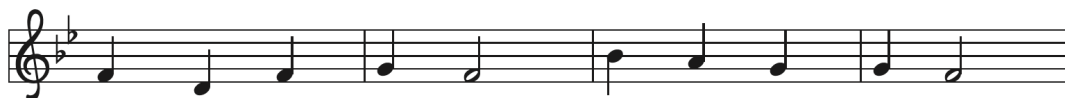
ACS 1059 "Come Now, You Blessed"



1 "Come now, you bless - ed, eat at my ta - ble,"
2 When did we see you hun - gry or thirst - y?
3 "When you gave bread to earth's hun - gry chil - dren,
4 Christ, when we meet you out on life's road - ways,



said Je - sus Christ to the righ - teous a - bove.
When were you home - less, a strang - er a - lone?
when you gave wel - come to war's ref - u - gees,
look - ing to us in the fac - es of need,



"When I was hun - gry, thirst - y, and home-less,
When did we see you sick or in pris - on?
when you re - mem - bered those most for - got - ten,
then may we know you, wel - come and show you



sick and in pris - on, you showed me your love."
What have we done that you call us your own?
you cared for me in the small - est of these."
love that is faith - ful in word and in deed.

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.

Thanksgiving for the Word

... We praise your eternal Word.
We praise your eternal Word.

... We praise Jesus, your Word.
We praise Jesus, your Word.

... We pray for the Spirit of your Word.
We pray for the Spirit of your Word.

To you be honor and praise and glory, today and forever.
Amen.

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.

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 Hymn

ELW 705 "God of grace and God of glory"



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

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Faith Lutheran Church is a community living in God's love which embraces and welcomes every person as part of God's Beloved Community. We celebrate each person created in God's image as we strive for justice, peace, and racial equity in our community and the wider world. We openly welcome and affirm all persons of every race, age, socioeconomic class, culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, physical and mental ability, marital and family status, background, and experience. We seek to live as a community of God's people that values each person's voice, gifts, and full participation in all areas of the congregation's life and worship. We embrace the work of the Holy Spirit moving in and through us as we care for the earth and all of God's people.

FAITH ACTIVE IN LOVE

Gathered as a community living in God's love we serve all people, care for the earth and embrace the work of the Holy Spirit.

Faith Lutheran Church will be recognized as a community of spiritual growth, a place of acceptance and inclusion, a gateway for environmental stewardship, a creator of partnerships and an advocate for social justice and peace.

WORSHIP LEADERSHIP this Sunday includes:

Leading and Preaching	<i>Seminarian Tom Schoofs</i>
Organist/ Pianist	<i>Stephen V. Hibbard</i>
Reader	<i>Joyce Caldwell</i>
Greeter	<i>Ruth Gollnick</i>
Ushers	
Live Stream	<i>The Milam Family</i>

Sunrise Circle is in need of sheets!

The Sunrise Circle is in need of sheets for their quilting. If have any sheets or would like to donate some for their use, please let them know. If you have questions or would like more information, please see the quilters or contact Ruth Gollnick

October Mission of the Month

Lutheran Campus Ministry in Greater Milwaukee

Lutheran Campus Ministry is a community for college students who want to grow closer to God and one another through worship, discipleship, connection and service. LCM is located at the Corner House across the street from the UW Milwaukee Student Union. The Corner House is a Reconciling in Christ congregation and students of all sexual orientations, gender identities and expressions, nationalities, ethnicities and dis/abilities are welcome.

Pastor Eli Henry was called to the Corner House in 2025 and is starting his second year of leadership. The Corner House hosts several weekly events open to all students including Sunday evening worship and dinner, Monday morning breakfast and Wednesday evening Bible Study. In addition to the regular weekly activities, social events are scheduled throughout the year.

The Corner House also offers students the opportunity to take on leadership roles within the ministry. Known as Peer Ministers, these students plan, coordinate and lead the various events and take an active role in worship. Students can also live at the Corner House. Julia Gergens of Faith is both a Peer Minister and resident of the Corner House.

Pastor Eli and the peer ministers will be at Faith on **October 11th** to participate in worship and lead the forum time after service. Please plan to join us to learn more about the Corner House and its many ministries.

As a non-traditional congregation, the Corner House relies heavily on donations to fund its many ministries. For example, a donation of \$25 helps keep the kitchen stocked with coffee, tea and snacks, \$50 helps serve free breakfast to hungry college students, \$100 supports retreats, conferences and speakers, and \$500 helps keep the Corner House living community affordable for students. Any amount, large or small, is very appreciated. Please consider a gift to the Corner House Mission of the Month this month to help this ministry to continue to grow and thrive!

Reading the Bible SDRAWKCAB (Backwards)

Sunday Adult Forum- November 1st and 8th at 11:00am

Led by Terry Groh

It has often been taught (and thought) that the Old Testament is prophetic (a forecaster) of Jesus' life and ministry as recorded in the New Testament Gospel narratives.

These forums will explore the concept that the Gospel accounts are woven through with reflections (looking back) at Israel's history. The early church may

have expressed and validated their belief in the personhood of Jesus by allusions of him to the great religious heroes of their past. It was rooted in the understanding that God was working during the early church age, in the same way he had with their ancestors.

The first Sunday, November 1, will introduce the overall concept by comparing New Testament stories and texts with those in the Old Testament.

The next Sunday, November 8, with the same sdrawkcaB (backward) looking focus, the forum will cover the life and ministry of Jesus, the miracles, passion accounts, the betrayal, trials, crucifixion and burial.

Do you See What I See?

This Faith community represents a lineage of religious beliefs and expressions, a blend of religious traditions from those who came before us and shared their insights and understanding of God, the Christian life and faith with that of our own time. The banner design is an attempt at producing a visual metaphor for the history of the ministry of Faith Lutheran Church. The seven decades of ministry by Faith Church are represented through the application of layers upon painted layers of the words “Faith” “70”. Some patterns of ministry occurred early on in our history. Some patterns applied later are very distinctive, other aspects of our ministry have faded into the background. Some aspects of current or past ministry might even be viewed as downright backwards. None-the-less, what we are now is an expression of Faith which is a mix of old and new, that of our predecessors (the first layers, earliest layers) and that which we are now (the latest layers). Some generations' ministry may appear strong and bold while others weak and faint. Some are easy to discern, while others not so clear and again, even backwards. But altogether, the sainted members of the past and we as the current community of Faith are making our mark(s) in time. – Terry Groh

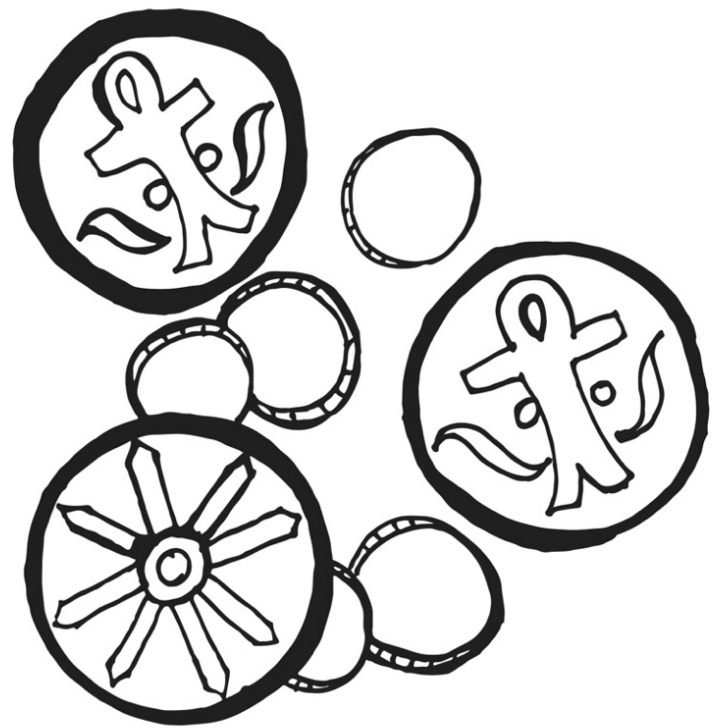
Financial Update

Thank you for Growing in Faith as we carry out our congregation's mission together. You are making a difference in our community and world! Here is a summary of progress toward our financial goals for this year. If you have questions about our finances, please contact our Treasurer Tim Gergens or any of our Church Council members. Your gifts make this ministry possible- thank you.

	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>
	<i>8/31/2026</i>	<i>8/31/2026</i>	<i>8/31/2025</i>
Income	\$149,838	\$155,500	\$148,675
Expenses	\$161,534	\$165,096	\$159,345

Undivided Loyalty

When Jesus holds up a coin in the marketplace and asks the Pharisees and Herodians, “Whose head is this and whose title?” (Matthew 22:20), he is asking a question not about money, taxes, or the Roman Empire—at least not directly. It is likely that the emperor’s title, printed on that coin, proclaimed the emperor’s divinity: an implicit question of loyalty. And when Jesus asks his hearers to give “to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s and to God the things that are God’s” (v. 21), he invites his hearers to decide where they will place their loyalty. What will they give to God? What belongs to the emperor?



We might ask ourselves the same question: Where do we place our loyalty? Where do we place our trust? In Jesus, we see an example: Jesus is loyal to us. Jesus is loyal to us when he teaches. Jesus is loyal to us when he bends down to wash his disciples’ feet. Jesus is loyal to us when he goes to the cross, dies, and rises again for us and for our salvation. Jesus is always loyal to us. Jesus is generous with us in pouring out grace upon grace for us. And we respond to Jesus’ loyalty and generosity with loyalty and generosity of our own.

Throughout our lives, we are empowered by the loyalty and generosity of Jesus to give to God the things that are God’s. We offer our resources for the good of our neighbors. We offer our time, investing in the work of the gospel in our communities and beyond. And we offer our very selves, pledging our undivided loyalty to Jesus, who is loyal to us first.

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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