

Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost - October 18, 2026

Connecting people to people • people to faith • faith to life

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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.



SERVING TODAY: *Presider/Preacher: Pastor Chad Huebner; Organist: Bekah Davenport; Choir Director: Christian Yoder; Accompanist: Donnalee Yoder; Viola: Lydia Kress; Autoharp: Kayden Brafford; Asst/Lector: Chad Kopenski; Time with Children: Puppets!; Acolyte: Elizabeth; Tray Server: Chris Snoddy; Greeters: Nick Claussen, Pam Cochran; Ushers: Dan Snoddy, Tammy Thompson; Livestream: Marilyn Shealy*

WELCOME

(PLEASE POWER OFF OR AIRPLANE MODE YOUR DEVICES)

Here in Athens, in SE Ohio, we are occupying the traditional homeland of the Shawnee people. Before the Shawnee, this land was occupied by the Osage people, and by the Adena, Hopewell, and Fort Ancient cultures.

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
whose compassion endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done
and by what we have left undone.**

We have squandered your bountiful gifts.

**We have considered
the blessings of the harvest our due.**

**We have been indifferent
in planning and planting
for the future needs of your Church.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us,
cause gratitude to ripen in our hearts,
and wisdom to mature in our minds,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy,
loved us even when we were dead in sin,
and made us alive together with Christ.

By grace you have been saved.

In the name of + Jesus Christ,
your sins are forgiven.

Almighty God strengthen you
with power through the Holy Spirit,
that Christ may live in your hearts
through faith.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

You Servants of God (ELW 825)



- 1 You ser-vants of God, your Mas-ter pro-claim, and pub-lish a-
- 2 As-cend-ed on high, al-might-y to save, yet still he is
- 3 Sal-va-tion to God who sits on the throne! Let all cry a-
- 4 Then let us a-dore and give him his right, all glo-ry and



broad his won-der-ful name; the name, all-vic-to-rious, of
nigh, his pres-ence we have. The great con-gre-ga-tion his
loud and hon-or the Son. The prais-es of Je-sus the
pow'r and wis-dom and might, all hon-or and bless-ing, with



Je-sus ex-tol; his king-dom is glo-rious and rules o-ver all!
tri-umph shall sing, as-crib-ing sal-va-tion to Je-sus, our king!
an-gels pro-claim, fall down on their fac-es, and wor-ship the Lamb.
an-gels a-bove, and thanks nev-er ceas-ing, and in-fin-ite love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.

Music: LYONS, attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737–1806

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.

Kyrie

(tune: *My Father, How Long*)

Leader sings parts marked "A"

Congregation sings parts marked "C"



A: We — pray for peace, O Lord, make plow-shares of our swords, make plow-shares of our



swords, hear us when we cry to you. C: Lord, have mer-cy on — us, have



mer-cy on us, Lord, have mer-cy on — us, hear us when we cry to you.



A: Christ, make us grow in grace un - til we see your face, un - til we see your



face, hear us when we cry to you. C: Christ, have mer-cy on — us, have



mer-cy on us, Christ have mer-cy on — us, hear us when we cry to you.



A: De - fend your Church, O Lord, and root it in — your word, and root it in — your



word, hear us when we cry to you. C: Lord, have mer-cy on — us, have



mer-cy on — us, Lord, have mer-cy on — us, hear our cry. A - men.

(VERSES 1 & 4 ONLY)

Canticle of Praise, "O Sing of God's Great Victory!"

(tune: *The Shepherd's Daughter
and the King*)



1. O sing of God's great vic - to - ry! Je - sus' blood has set us free!
2. This is the feast of vic - to - ry Of the glo - rious Lamb a - bove.
3. O is it not a mys - ter - y That our Lord a Lamb should be,
4. All hon - or, bless - ing, glo - ry, might Sing the hosts to Christ on high,



Let all his crea - tures join our songs, For to Christ the throne be - longs
Now all God's peo - ple gath - er 'round For the ban - quet of God's love.
Who on the cru - el cross was slain, But a - rose in heav'n to reign.
All pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom strength. Now let all on earth re - ply:



Sing we al - le - lu - ia, prais - es to the Lord. Al - le - lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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.

TIME WITH CHILDREN

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

A reading from Isaiah.

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

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.

GRADUAL HYMN (Verse 1 only)

1. O God, whose Word well - plant - ed Yields fruit a hun - dred - fold,
2. O God of seed and har - vest, Of — sun and soil and rain,
3. O God, Your fi - nal har - vest Of — his - t'ry's an - cient field

We praise your grac - es grant - ed To — those who sowed of old,
At - tend the Word we sow lest Its — plant - ing be in vain.
Will test with Truth the proud - est That hu - man work can yield.

Who by their wit - ness scat - tered Good seed up - on the soil
Send show - ers of Your Spir - it, Bright sun - shine of Your Grace,
Op - pres - sion's blight will van - ish, Fair free - dom's fruits in - crease;

Where oth - ers, reap - ing, gath - ered The har - vest of their toil.
That — mul - ti - tudes who hear it Your Gos - pel may em - brace.
And — love and joy will flour - ish To — clothe the earth with peace.

GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

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.

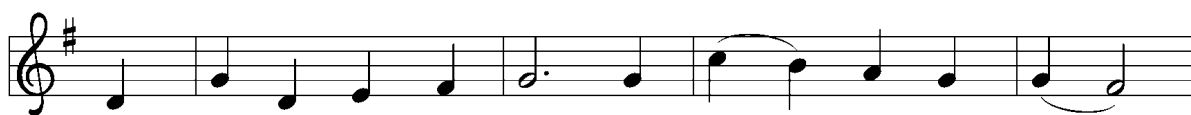
The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Give Thee but Thine Own (ELW 686)



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.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God, we come into Your presence
with praise and thanksgiving for Your faithful love.
As You welcome us, so You welcome our prayers.
We bring them to You with confidence, knowing that You will hear and answer.

We pray for the world You created, and the people who share it with us:

- for countries caught up in war or violent conflict,
 - for regions of the world struggling with increased illness because we cut funding for health care
 - for those whose homes and lives are threatened by natural disaster;
- For these and all the other areas in our world where there is need and despair,
Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for our country and for its people:

- for our government leaders, federal and local,
 - for our judicial system, police forces and military,
 - for our cities, towns, and rural communities,
 - for employers and employees, for young and old,
- For all who are part of this great country,
Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for our local community—the people of this city and county,

- for those who are unemployed,
- for those in prison,

- for those who are hungry,
- for those who are alone and afraid,
For all our neighbors, both known and unknown to us,
Lord, hear our prayer.

We pray for this congregation—our siblings in Christ,
- for those who are ill.
- for those whose loved ones are ill,
- for those who are anxious about the future,
- for those struggling with their faith,
- for those who minister among us,
- for those who mourn,
For all Your people in this place, especially those we name now, either aloud or in our hearts...
Lord, hear our prayer.

Pour out Your Spirit on us!
Fix our hearts and minds on what is true, honorable, and right.
Give us the joy and peace that comes from knowing and doing Your will.
Keep us faithful to the call we have received in Christ Jesus, our Lord,
extending Your loving invitation to the world around us.
In Jesus' name. **AMEN**

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

OFFERING – THANK YOU! YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES OUR MINISTRY POSSIBLE.

Giving is easy online through our website at <https://www.clcathens.org/give>
There you will also find instructions on how to text to give or download our church app!

MUSICAL OFFERING

An Offertory

CLC Choir

OFFERTORY



1. Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring To place up - on your ta - ble.
2. The vines were plant - ed, seeds were sown. They grew in your good plea-sure.
3. Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares We lift in pray'r be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought But on - ly as we're a - ble.
What once was com - mon, dai - ly food Be - comes a ho - ly trea - sure.
Lord, by your grace, now come to us As hum - bly we a - dore you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious God,
You bless us with gifts of guidance, new life,
growth in grace, and fruitful labor.
Accept the first fruits of time and toil,
field and orchard we offer here.
Bless and multiply these gifts to our nurture
and the care of your creation;
for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **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.

PROPER PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.
Through your Son, you taught us that true riches are to be found in loving you
rather than earthly treasure.

For your glory, and to give us the fullness of life and salvation, Christ emptied himself upon the
cross and was raised in power to sit at your right hand.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join in adoring song:

(VERSES 1&3 ONLY)

Sanctus

(tune: *Shady Grove*)

Verses (sung by leader)



1. Long, long a - go in Je - ru - sa - lem, as the scrip - tures do re - cord, I -
2. High on a throne sat the might - y Lord, robes flow - ing through the hall, while
3. O what a sight it — was to see and — O what a sound to hear. The



sa - iah to the tem - ple came to see the ho - ly Lord.
six - wing - ed an - gels flew a - bove. I - sa - iah heard them call.
tem - ple door - posts shook and quaked, and smoke was in the air.

Refrain (sung by all)



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, God's



glo - ry fills the whole wide earth, God of pow - er and might.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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,

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Just as this broken bread was first scattered on the hills, then was brought together and became one, so let your Church be brought together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours are the glory and the power through Jesus Christ forever. Amen.

Thanks be to God.

AGNUS DEI



1. O Lamb of God, _____ to earth you came _____ To
2. O Lamb of God, _____ the on - ly Son, _____ To

save us all _____ from grief and shame. — Shorn of your life, — up -
us show mer - cy, Ho - ly One. — You save the world — from

on the tree — You hung in deep hu - mil - i - ty. —
all its sin. — Lord, give to us your peace. A - men. —

COMMUNION

(Whatever the state of your faith today, ALL are invited to the Lord's table. No Exceptions. To receive communion, come forward at the ushers' direction and take a place at the altar rail. You may stand or kneel as you wish. You will first receive the bread, then you may choose either red wine or white grape juice in a small glass, or sip wine from the chalice. If you choose a small glass, you will place it in the empty tray carried by the acolyte. After receiving the bread and wine, you will return to your seat.)

COMMUNION HYMN (Sung during the distribution)



1. We praise you for the life that stirs When spring-time warms the
 2. We praise you for the sum - mer sun, For rip'n - ing grain and
 3. We sing your praise for au - tumn's glow, For har - vest yield from
 4. We sing your praise thru' win - ter's night When earth in fro - zen
 5. We praise the Fa - ther, praise the Son, And praise the Spir - it,



sleep - ing earth; But most, we praise the Grace that lures Our
 length - ened days; But most, we praise you for the Son Whose
 spring - time seed. Up - on our hearts your grace be - stow Till
 si - lence lies, For pro - mise of re - turn - ing light, For
 with the throng Of saints and an - gels joined as one In



slum-b'ring souls to love and mirth, Our slum-b'ring souls to love and mirth.
 Lightbrings heal - ing in his rays, Whose Lightbrings heal - ing in his rays.
 faith bears fruit in lov - ing deed, Till faith bears fruit in lov - ing deed.
 life in Christ that nev - er dies, For life in Christ that nev - er dies.
 grate - ful, ev - er - last - ing song, In grate - ful, ev - er - last - ing song.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION (Verse 1 only)

1. O Lord of the blossom, O God of the seed, O gracious pro -
2. O Lord of the har-vest, O God of the feast, Where sor - rows are

vi - der for all hu-man need, You have nour-ished our faith at your
van-quished and joys are in - creased, Where the tree of life grows in your

ta - ble of grace, And nur - tured new life in the light of your face.
or-chards a - bove, We'll join in the cho-rus in praise of your love.

O Lord of the grain - field, O God of the vine, You've fed us your
Sing praise to the Fa - ther, Sing praise to the Son, Sing praise to the

pres-ence in bread and in wine. In com-mun - ion you've blest to us
Spir - it. Praise God, Three in One! You have made us one peo - ple you've

ar - bor and plow, And shown us the Gos - pel, your Word for us now.
fed by the hand, O Lord of the heav-ens, O God of the land.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we give thanks for your pruning, planting, and nurture. We rejoice that you have used the harvest of field and vineyard to renew and sustain us. Lead us as we go from this life-giving meal into lives of grateful service to you and your cherished creation; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG***God of Grace and God of Glory (ELW 705)***

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.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.