



21st Sunday After Pentecost – October 18, 2026 10 a.m. Worship at Zion's Lutheran Church

Welcome Friends and Guests: 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 this Sunday:

Worship – Pastor Lisa Rygiel, Mike McNeil & Cheryl Leef

Musicians – Connie Pallone & Mark Nelson

Ushers – Jody Alford & Cheryl Leef

Communion – John & Lisa Rygiel



ReconcilingWorks
LUTHERANS FOR FULL PARTICIPATION

Worship & Music: In boundless diversity, we all are made in God's image! If you are visiting or new to our faith family, please sign our guest book and feel free to come back and worship each Sunday at 10 a.m.

We use both the cranberry Lutheran Book of Worship and the purple *All Creation Sings* hymnals as indicated in the bulletin.

Communion: We celebrate open communion. This is Christ's table, all are welcome. You may come forward for the sacraments or cross your arms across your chest for a blessing. Our bread is gluten free and both wine and white grape juice (center of tray) are available.

Other: Restrooms are in the Fellowship Hall; our ushers can direct you.

Fellowship: Please join us after worship today for coffee and conversation in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.

Zion's Lutheran is a Reconciling in Christ (RIC) community.

~Gathering~
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Gathering of Prayers & Call to Worship

Each morning, God's grace awakens us, each evening,
God's peace cradles us.

Compassion is our constant companion, as we go through work, school, the day.

In every moment, God is present with us;
God whispers words which can change our lives.

**Justice is our faithful teacher,
pointing to where we can carry out fairness.**

When we find ourselves groping in the shadows,
God's light will provide a way home.

**We turn the corner, and hope is waiting for us;
we return home, and find a feast prepared.**

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin,
and heals our lives. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Have mercy, O God,
**against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin
and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart, give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast
us away but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.**

As tender as parent to child, so deep is God's compassion for you. As high as heaven is
above earth, so vast is God's love for you.

As far as east is from west, so far God removes your sin from you, renewing your life
through Jesus Christ. ✠ Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love. **Blessed be
God forever.**

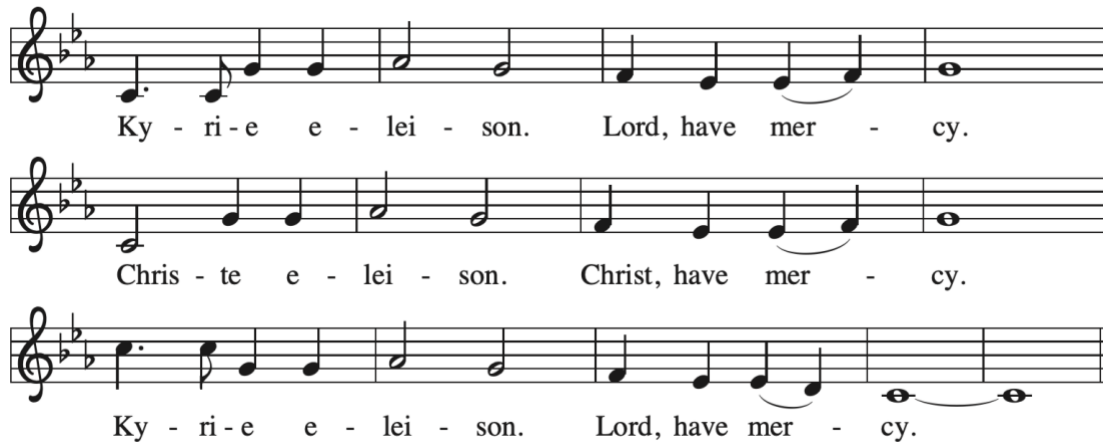
Gathering Hymn: #526 (cranberry hymnal) God is Here!

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



Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.**

~Word~

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

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.

God's Word invites us into life. **Thanks be to God!**

Responsive Reading: 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.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

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.

God's Word invites us into life.

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation

Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Repeat alleluia

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

The holy gospel according to Matthew chapter 22.

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: Pastor Lisa Rygiel

Hymn of the Day: #841 (cranberry hymnal) Lift Every Voice and Sing

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

Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry be with those who are considering lives of ministry.

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

We give you thanks for the majesty of our oceans. Protect the abundant life within them and sustain all those who work to preserve them.

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

We pray for peace and reconciliation among the nations; for political transitions around the world; for lawmakers and courts of law, for all affected by the spread of disease, and for safety amidst ongoing threats.

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

We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, sick, or suffering. Receive our prayers of gratitude, as well as our prayers spoken and unspoken, especially today we pray for...

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

We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church especially those whose labors are unseen, but the results of whose work is evident, Encourage them in their work of faith and labors of love.

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

We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you including those whom today we name in our hearts.

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

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

Peace

The spirit-filled peace of Christ be with you always! **And also with you!**

~Meal~

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

An offering is gathered for missions of the church.

You can give by check or cash (mail to 510 Pine Street), or online at:

<https://www.zionsluth.org/give>

Offertory: #1056 (purple hymnal) *God Bless to Us Our Bread*

Offering Prayer

God of goodness and growth...through Jesus Christ, our strength and our song. **Amen.**

Great Prayer of 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Thanksgiving at the Table

We praise you, all-holy God...And so, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for your Holy Spirit... We praise you, all-holy God, the Creator, the Son, the Holy Spirit, today, tomorrow, 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.

Invitation to Communion

God's love is wide. God's table is big. No one is excluded.

The gifts of creation for God's beloved creatures. Come and share.

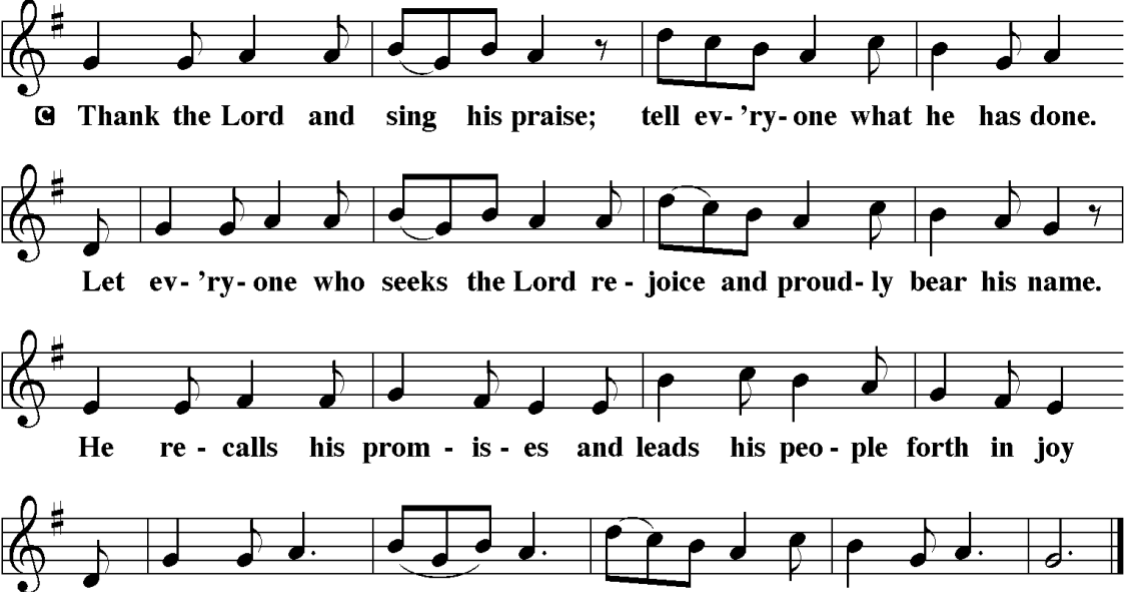
Our bread is gluten free & both wine and white grape juice are available.

God comes to us in worship and song.

Communion Song: Lamb of God

Communion Hymn: #1082 (purple hymnal) O God, You Search Me

Communion Song: Thank the Lord & Sing His Praise



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev- 'ry-one what he has done.
Let ev- 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re- joice and proud- ly bear his name.
He re- calls his prom- is- es and leads his peo- ple forth in joy
with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Communion Prayer

We thank you, O God, that you have strengthened our hearts through this feast of life and salvation. Shine the light of Christ on our path, that we may do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you, now and forever. Amen.

~Sending~

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Announcements & Special Blessings

Benediction

May God bless you with the assurance that you are chosen children of God, empowered and equipped by the Spirit to live as the Family of God in a world in desperate need of the good news. And may, the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and your minds in ☩ Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: #710 (cranberry hymnal) Let Streams of Living Justice

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is with You.

Thanks be to God.

~Announcements~

- + **Fellowship:** Join us after worship Sunday for coffee & conversation in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.
- + **We're Getting Ready for Thanksgiving:** As part of Thanksgiving preparations we have identified the menu, including those items that need to be prepared in advance, we are identifying people who will need meals delivered, as well as teams to help with delivery, food service, and clean up on Thanksgiving Day. If you can help, talk to Norine Hazen or Pastor Lisa.
- + **Zion's Book Club:** Our Adult Study is at 10:30 a.m. each Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall. Our next study is at 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 20 in the Fellowship Hall as we continue our discussion of the book, "What if Jesus was Serious about Prayer".
- + **Dinner & A Movie:** Mark your calendar for a special event at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 28, when Zion's will screen the movie *The Shack*. We will also have dinner and discussion. The Oct. 28 date allows people who wish to do so to read or listen to the book prior to the screening. If you need a copy of the book, let us know as many members have copies or downloads to share.
- + **Reformation Sunday:** Oct. 25 is Reformation Sunday. Plan to wear red as we acknowledge the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- + **We're Here for You:** For pastoral care, Pr. Lisa has office hours from 9 – 10:30 a.m. on Tuesdays and by appointment. Call Zion's at 719-846-7785 or send an email to zionsluth@gmail.com. While she is out of town, call any council member for assistance.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Permission to podcast stream the music in this service obtained from One License with license #A-732264.

Thanksgiving at the Table: Adapted from Pray, Praise, and Give Thanks: A Collection of Litanies, Laments, and Thanksgivings at Font and Table by Gail Ramshaw, copyright © 2017 Augsburg Fortress.

Call to Worship: from Lectionary Liturgies, by Thom M. Shuman and posted on Lectionary Liturgies, at <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/>. (c) Thom M. Shuman, used with permission.

Benediction: Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Discipleship Ministries, July 2026, and posted at <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/worship-planning/always-give-thanks/week-1-twenty-first-sunday-after-pentecost-year-a/week-1-twenty-first-sunday-after-pentecost-year-a-always-give-thanks-liturgical-resources>.