21st Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026 + 9:30am



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
2417 Drexel Avenue + Racine, Wisconsin 53403
(262) 634-7998
https://www.facebook.com/LCRRacine

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

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

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**
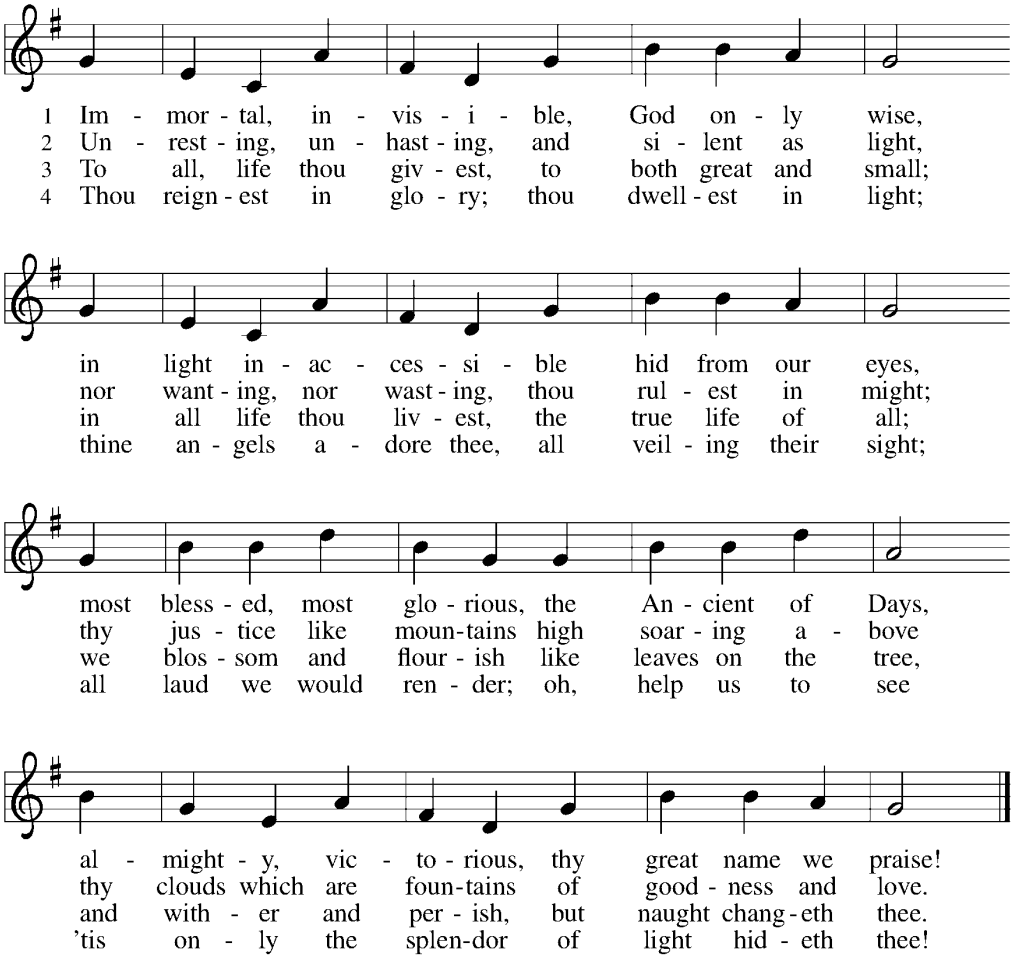
Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.
A brief silence.

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.**

Gathering Song ***"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*** *ELW #834*
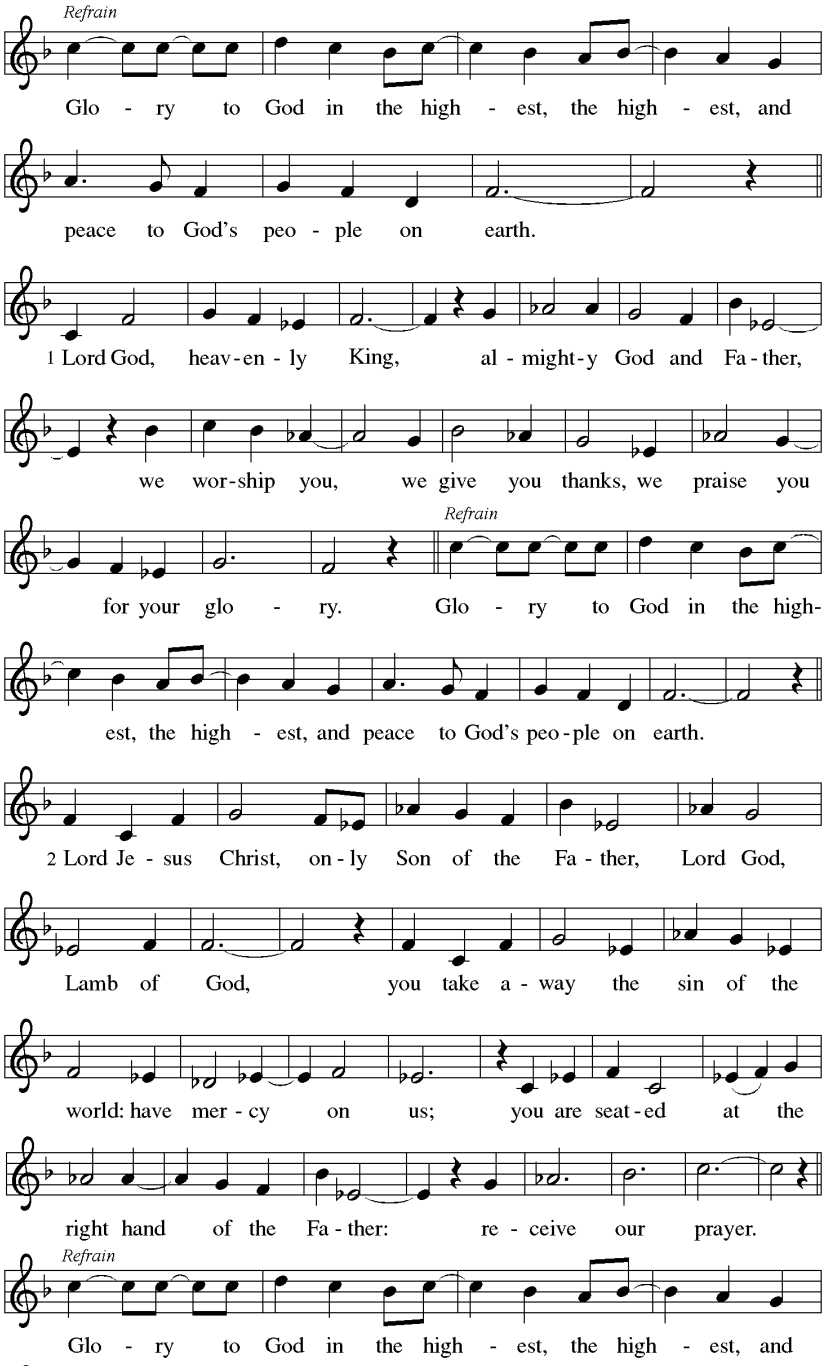


Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional
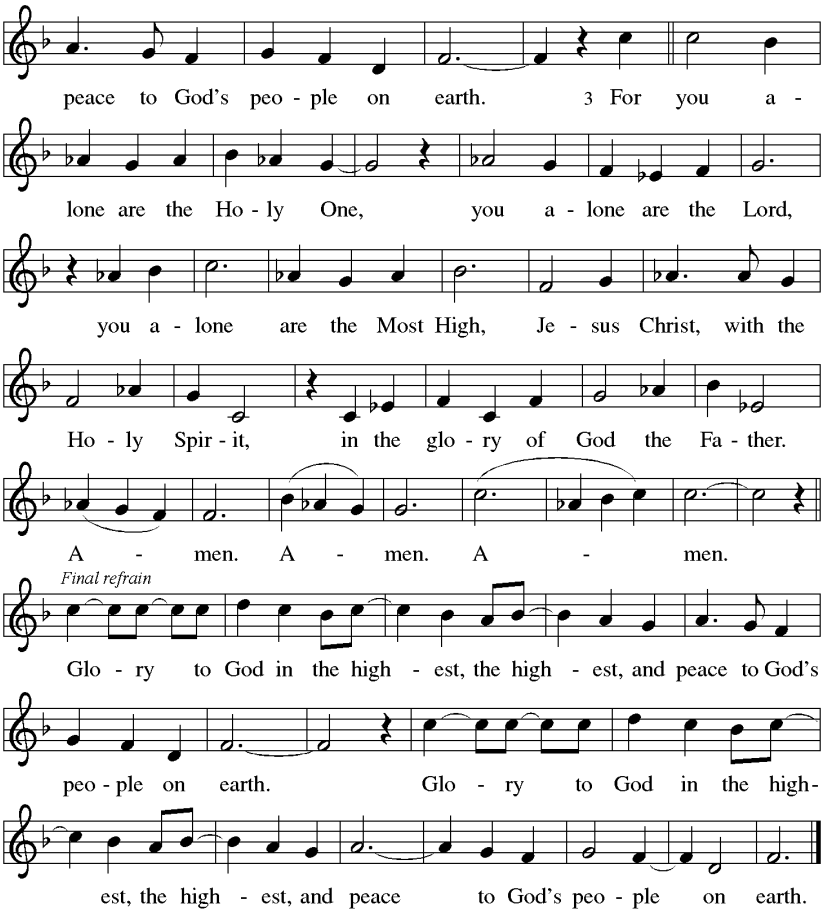
Greeting

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.

Hymn of Praise





Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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 — Exodus 33:12-23

Moses successfully interceded with God to accompany Israel to the promised land after their sin with the golden calf. In response to a request to display the divine glory, God recites a sentence that appears frequently in the Hebrew Scriptures: "I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious." Moses is not allowed to see God's face, but only God's back.

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.' 13Now 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."
14The Lord said, "My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest." 15And Moses said to the
Lord, "If your presence will not go, do not bring us up from here. 16For 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."

17The 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." 18Moses said, "Please show me your glory." 19And the Lord
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. 20But," the Lord said, "you cannot see my face, for no one shall see me and live." 21And the
Lord continued, "See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock, 22and 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; 23then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back, but my face shall not be
seen."

At the conclusion of the reading, the Assembly responds: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 99

Proclaim the greatness of the LORD our God. (Ps. 99:5)

1 The LORD is king; let the | people tremble.
  The LORD is enthroned upon the cherubim; let | the earth shake.
2 **The LORD, | great in Zion, is high a- | bove all peoples.**
3 Let them confess God's name, which is | great and awesome;
  God is the | Holy One.
4 **O mighty king, lover of justice, you have es- | tablished equity;**
  you have executed justice and righteous- | ness in Jacob.
5 Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and fall down be- | fore God's footstool;
  God is the | Holy One.
6 **Moses and Aaron among your priests, and Samuel among those who call upon your | name, O LORD, they called upon you, and you | answered them,**
7 you spoke to them out of the pil- | lar of cloud;
  they kept your testimonies and the decree | that you gave them.
8 **O LORD our God, you answered | them indeed;**

you were a God who forgave them, yet punished them for their | evil deeds.
9 Proclaim the greatness of the LORD and worship upon God's | holy hill;
for the LORD our God is the | Holy One.

Second Reading **1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

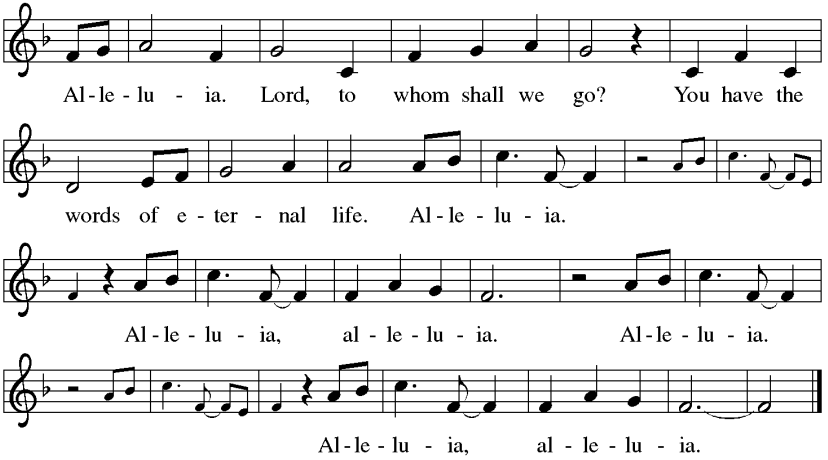
Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God, the Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

2We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly 3remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. 4For we know, dear family beloved by God, that God has chosen you, 5because 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. 6And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, 7so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 8For 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. 9For the people of those regions 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 10and to wait for God's Son from heaven, whom God raised from the dead— Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

At the conclusion of the reading, the Assembly responds: **Thanks be to God**

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel Announcement

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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.

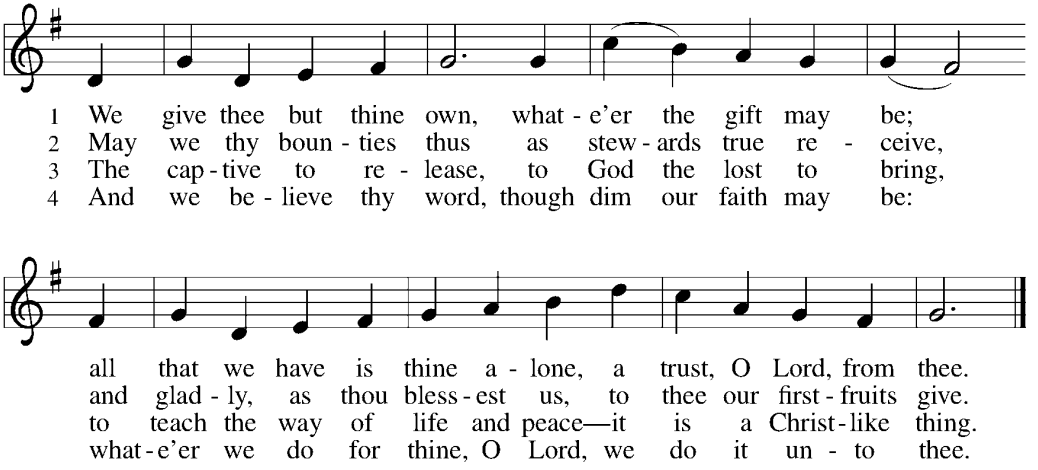
The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap ⌜Jesus⌝ in what he said. 16So they sent their disciples to
Jesus, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the
way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people
with partiality. 17Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" 18But
Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? 19Show me
the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. 20Then he said to them, "Whose head
is this and whose title?" 21They answered, "Caesar's." Then Jesus said to them, "Give therefore to
Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's." 22When 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*



Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.
Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

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.

**Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

Prayers of Intercession

The Assisting Minister leads the prayers of the people for the church, the world, and all people in need. At the end of each petition the Assembly responds: **your mercy is great.**

We remember our homebound members and all who have asked for our prayers: Erna Joswig, Joyce Owens, Dorothy Popadic, Pat Quale, Marty, Nancy Nelson, William Schultz Jr., John Falk, Carmen Falk, Lynn Hooper, Randy Weit, Aimee and Mark Hooper.

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.
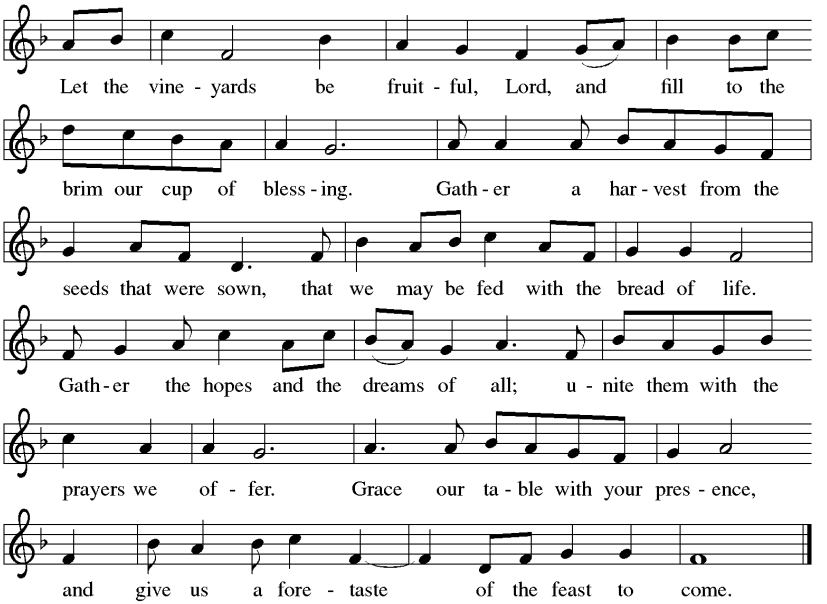
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

Your offering helps us carry on God's mission in our community! You may place your offering in the offering plate as it is passed, you may mail your offering to the church office, you can even text to give by texting the amount you wish to give to 262.592.5757, then follow the prompts. You may also scan the code to the right with your smartphone's camera to give on our website (www.racinelcredeemer.com). You can also sign up for automatic giving on our website as well! ***Thank you for your generosity!***

Offering Song



Offertory Prayer

Let us pray. 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.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

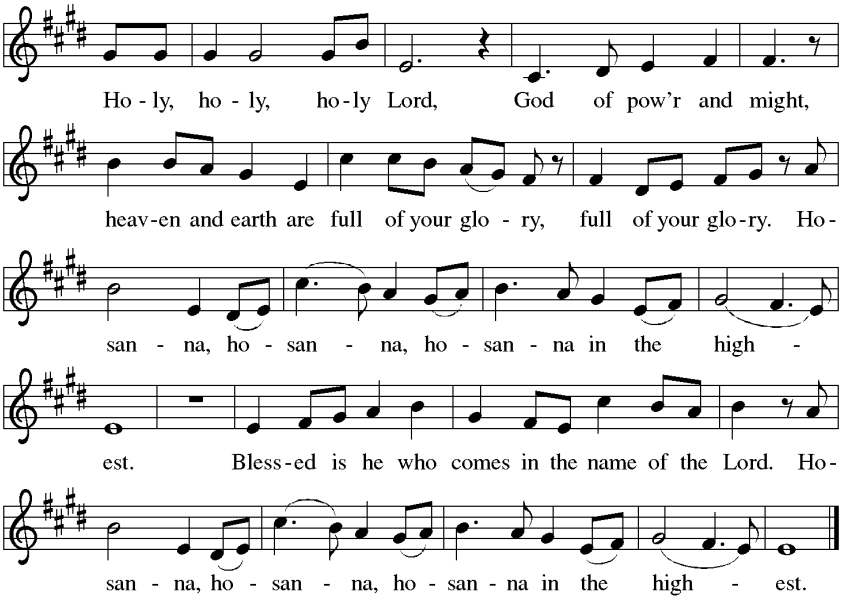
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed, right our duty and our joy….
…. we praise your name and join their unending hymn:.



The Presiding Minister prays giving thanks to God, for God's saving work throughout history.

The Assembly responds when prompted:

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

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

… all our sins and sorrows will be no more.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. *…*

… sharing your bounty with all the world.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit. *…*

At the conclusion of the prayer, the assembly responds: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

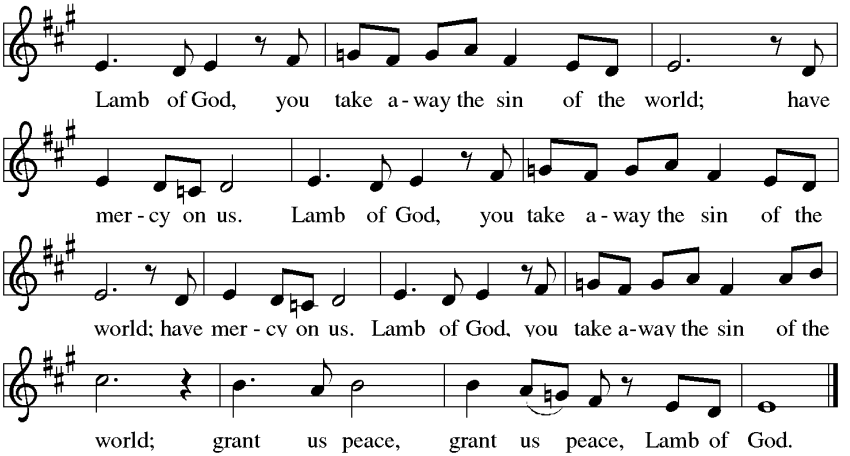
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Invitation to Communion

Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, come, all who are hungry, come.

Distribution of Communion

If you are worshipping with us at home, you are invited to partake in Communion as well! All you need is bread of any kind and wine or juice of any kind. As you receive the bread: 'This is the Body of Christ given for you.' As you receive the wine or juice: 'This is the Blood of Christ shed for you.' If you are worshipping with more than one person, please serve one another as you able using the above words



Communion Song ***"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!"*** *ELW #413*

Words and music on page 14

Table Blessing

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. 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.
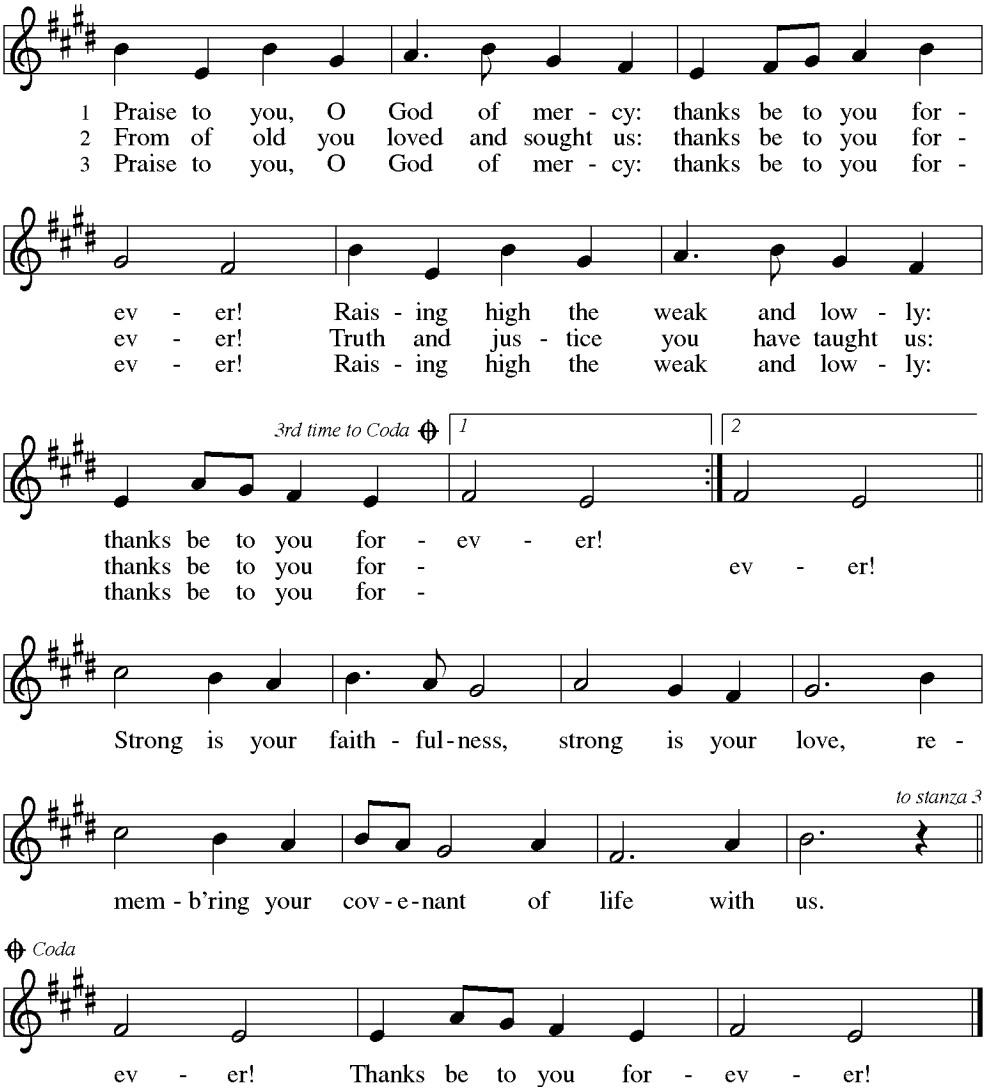
SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

Blessing

The holy Three, the holy One increase your hope, strengthen your faith, deepen your love, and ✠ grant you peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn ***"Praise to You, O God of Mercy"*** *ELW #208*



Text and music: *Now the Feast and Celebration*, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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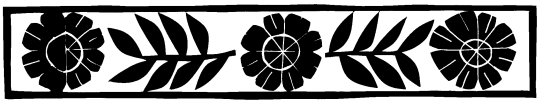
Announcements

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

We gather today on the ancestral lands of the Potawatomi, Ho-Chunk, Myaamia, Očhéthi Šakówi, Kickapoo, and Peoria peoples. We honor and acknowledge the traditional stewards of this land, recognizing their enduring connection to this region. As we come together in worship, let us commit ourselves to respecting their history and culture, and work toward healing and justice for Indigenous communities. May we be mindful of our role in creating a more equitable future for all.



Serving Today

Altar Flowers:	Lori & Dan Rennock
	In Celebration of Our Anniversary
Assisting Minister:	Sean Fair
Reader:	Sheila Fair
Usher:	Jim Kasprovich
Altar Guild:	Linda Bagley & Marilyn Rentz
Musician:	Paul Berge
Pastor:	The Rev. Matt James

This Week @ Redeemer

Sunday:	Worship – 9:30am
Monday:	GriefShare – 10—11:30am
Wednesday:	Book Club – 1pm @ Inclusive Bean &
	6pm @ Tulip Tavern
	Choir Rehearsal – 7pm
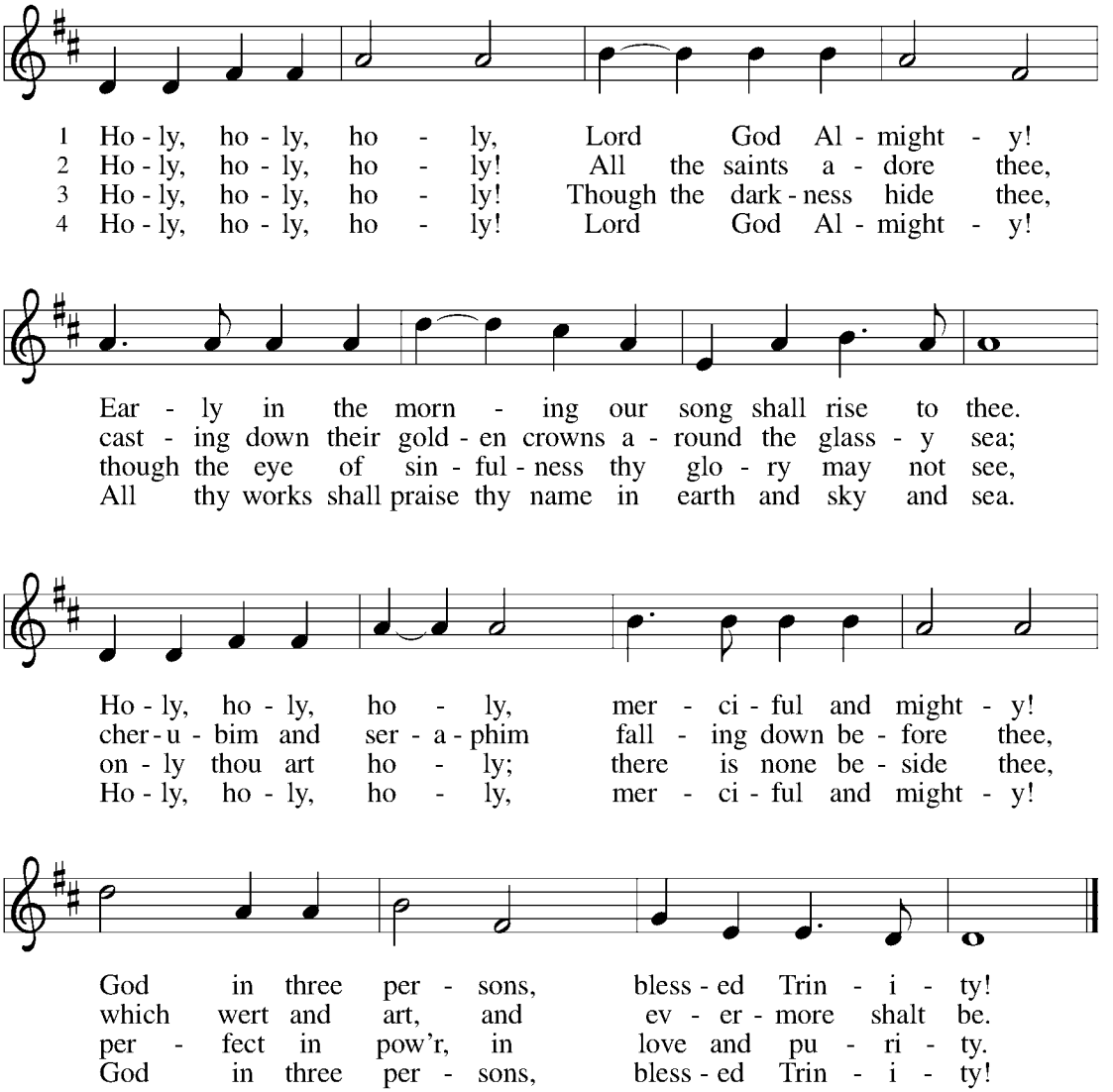
Celebrations this Week

Birthdays:	Marion Rorek & Michelle Sanchez (10/19)
Wedding Anniversary:	Ann & Steve Hooper (10/18),
	Lori & Dan Rennock (10/20),
	Katie & Sean Gorall (10/25)

Texts for Next Sunday, October 25th, Reformation Sunday/Tanzania Celebration Day
Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36

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Communion Song ***"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty!"*** *ELW #413*



Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, alt.
Music: NICAEA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876