TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
21st Sunday after Pentecost
October 18th, 2026

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.

PRELUDE

WELCOME

***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.

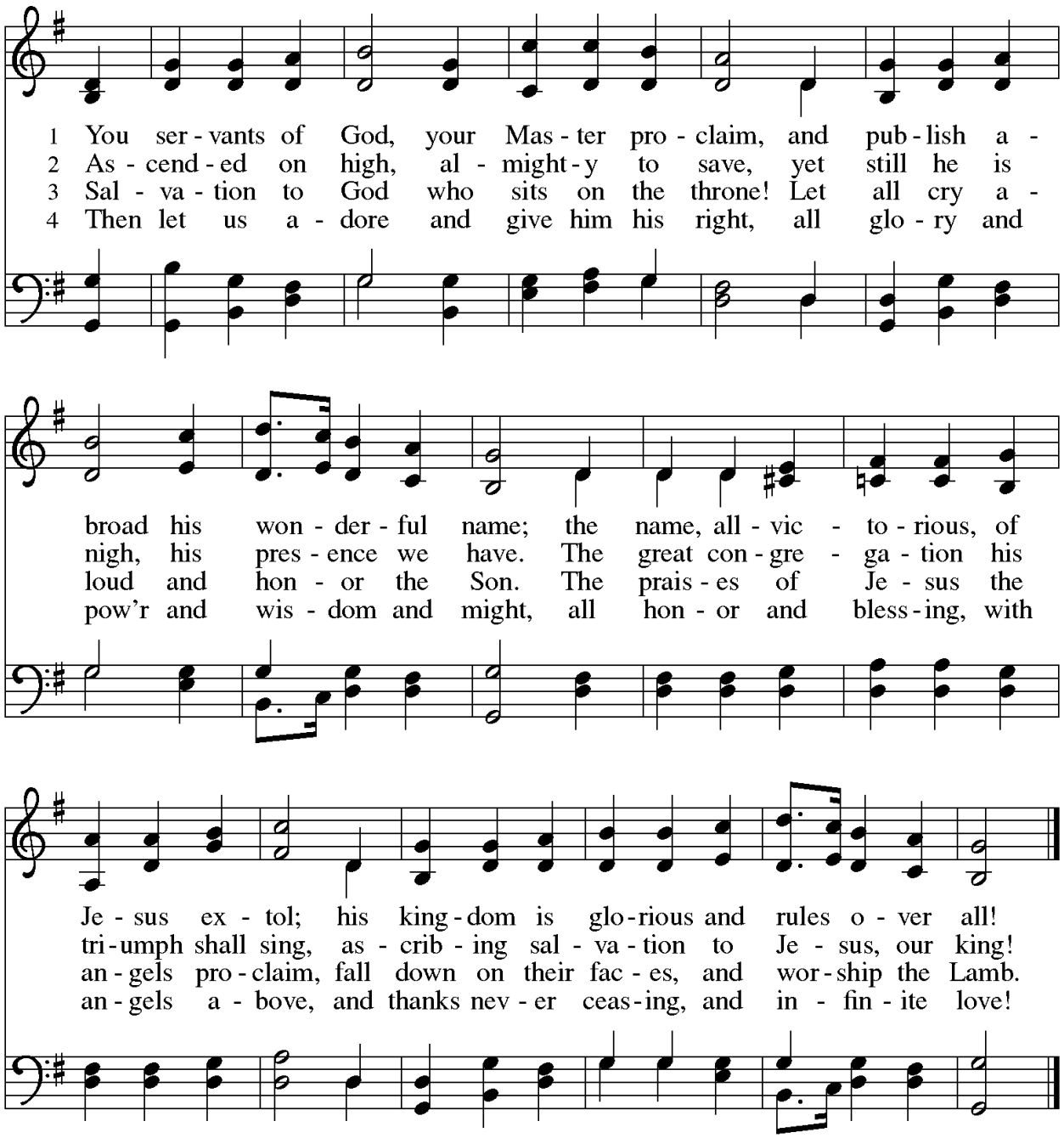
Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

***GATHERING HYMN** **v 1,2,4** **ELW 825**

You Servants of God



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.

***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

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.

A reading from Isaiah:

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.

A Word for God's people.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 96:1-9{10-13}

Ascribe to the Lord honor and power. (Ps. 96:7)

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. R
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. R
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. **R**

SECOND READING: 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.

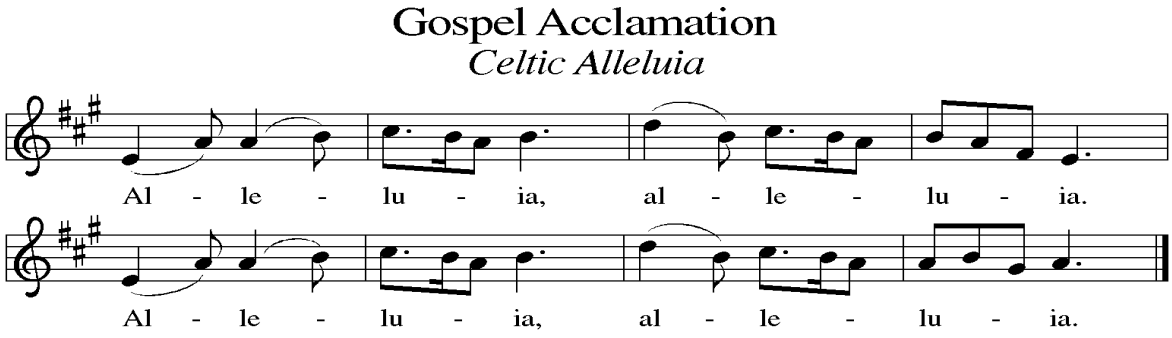
A reading from Thessalonians:

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.
A Word for God's people.
Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Verses may be sung by a leader. Then the alleluia is repeated.

Music: Fintan O'Carroll and Christopher Walker
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***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 Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

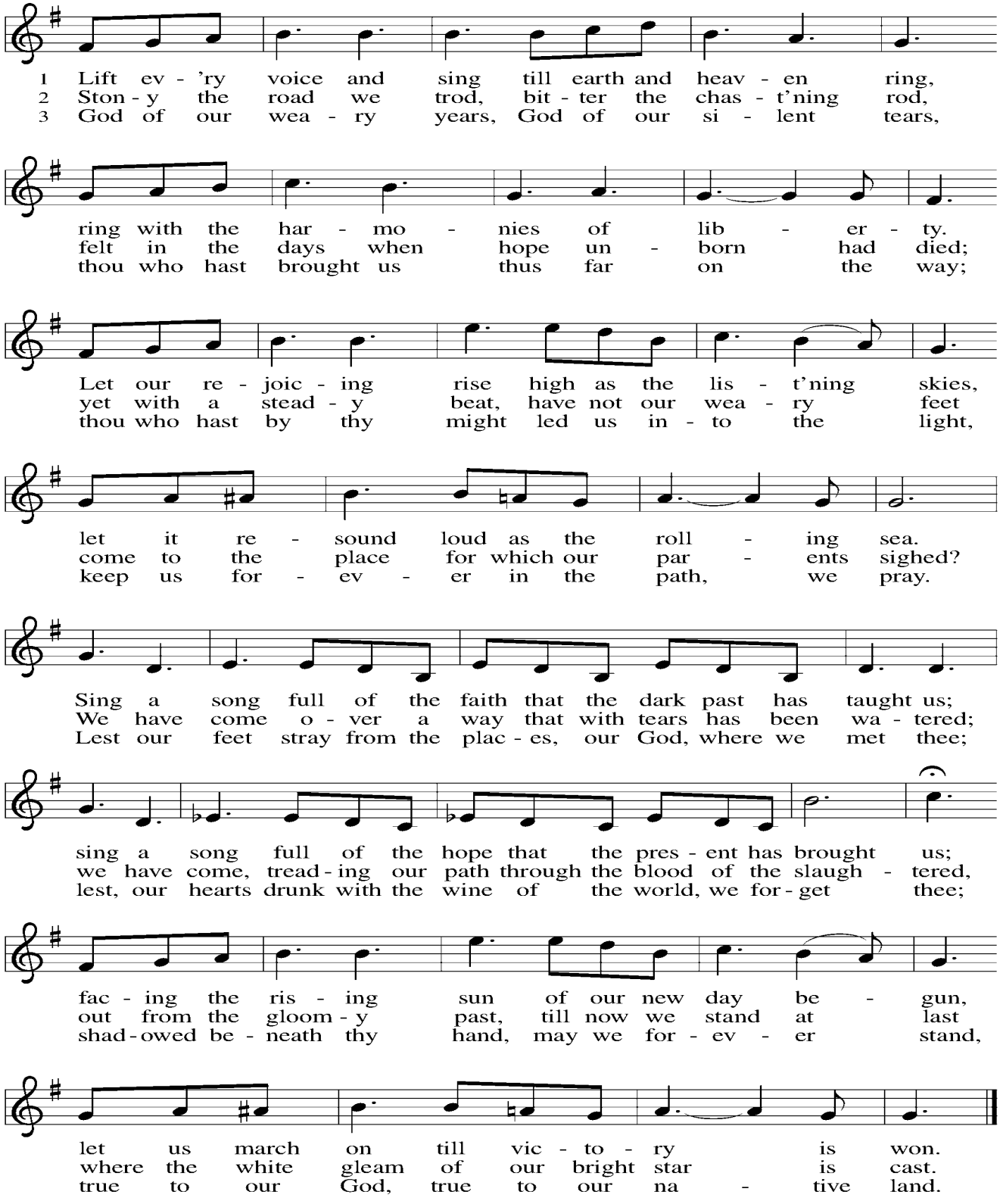
Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** **V 1,2,3** **ELW 841**

Lift Every Voice and Sing



Text: James W. Johnson, 1871–1938
Music: LIFT EVERY VOICE AND SING, J. Rosamond Johnson, 1873–1954

***APOSTLES CREED**
I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

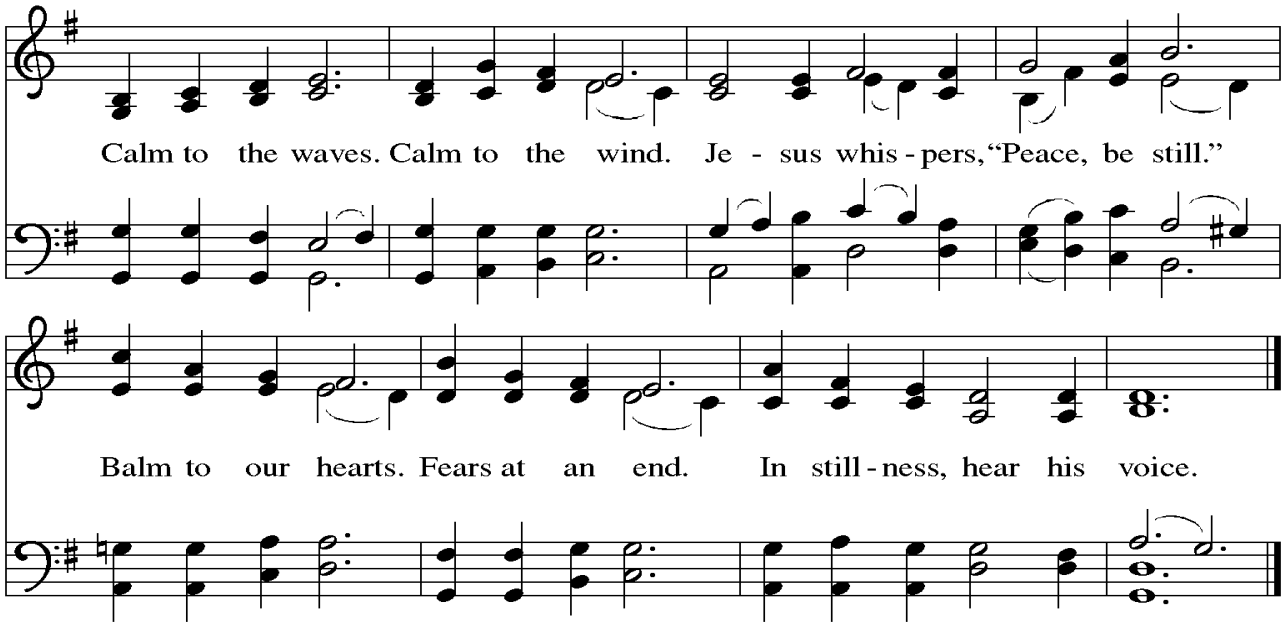
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of 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.

PRAYER REQUESTS

PRAYER REFRAIN **ELW 794**

Calm to the Waves



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953
Music: CALM SEAS, Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.
A brief silence.

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. 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 seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who hold positions of authority around the world, that they act with compassion, seeking the good of all. 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. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of our congregation, of our sister congregation St. John Lutheran in Baroda and their supply pastors and of First Congregational. Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

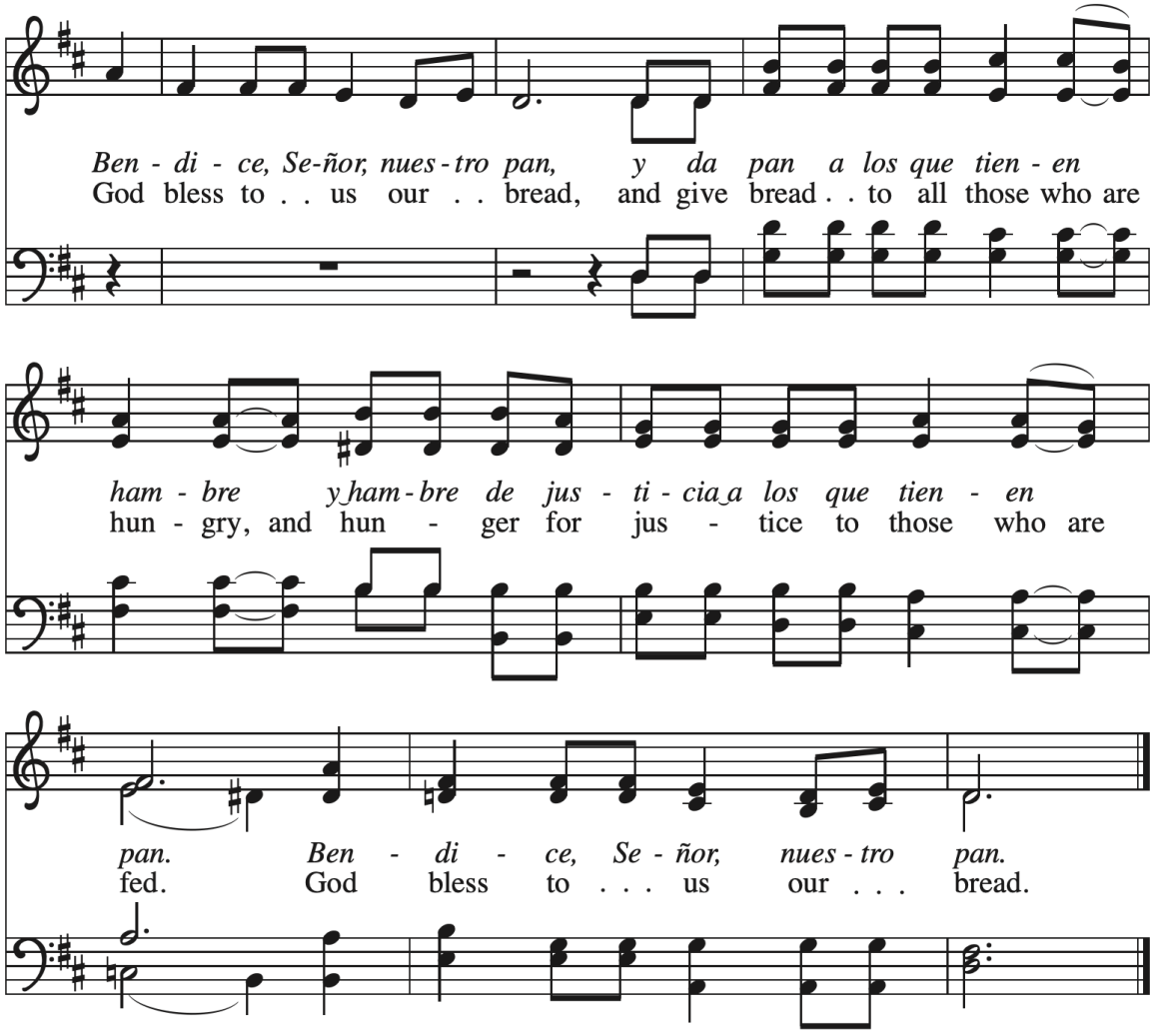
PEACE The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

You are invited to share your offering as you enter the sanctuary. An offering plate is located in the center aisle near the back the sanctuary.

OFFERING PEFORMANCE: "Seek Ye First" by Karen Lafferty performed by Trinity Choir

***OFFERTORY** **ELW 472**

God Bless to Us Our Bread



Text: Argentine traditional, collected by Federico Pagura, 1923–2016; tr. John L. Bell, b. 1949
Music: BENDICE NUESTRO PAN, Argentine melody, collected by Federico Pagura; arr. John L. Bell
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***OFFERING 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.

*** THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

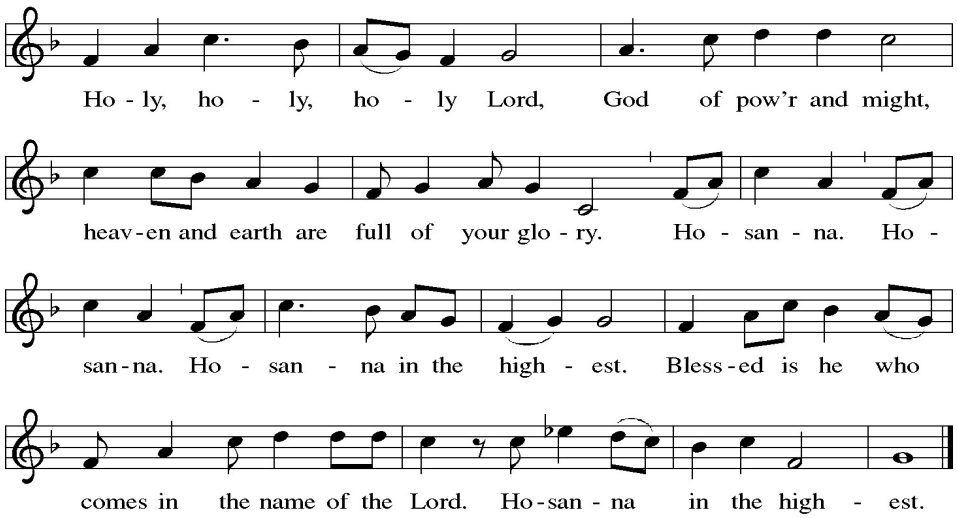
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.
Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray...
Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

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

***COMMUNION**

This is God's table. All are welcome. Please take a small cup as you come forward and find a space around the altar rail. Non-alcoholic grape juice is in the prefilled glasses and there is gluten-free bread available. If you do not wish to commune, you are still invited forward for a blessing. If it is easier to remain in your seat for communion, please let the usher know and we will bring communion to you.

***TABLE BLESSING**
May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.

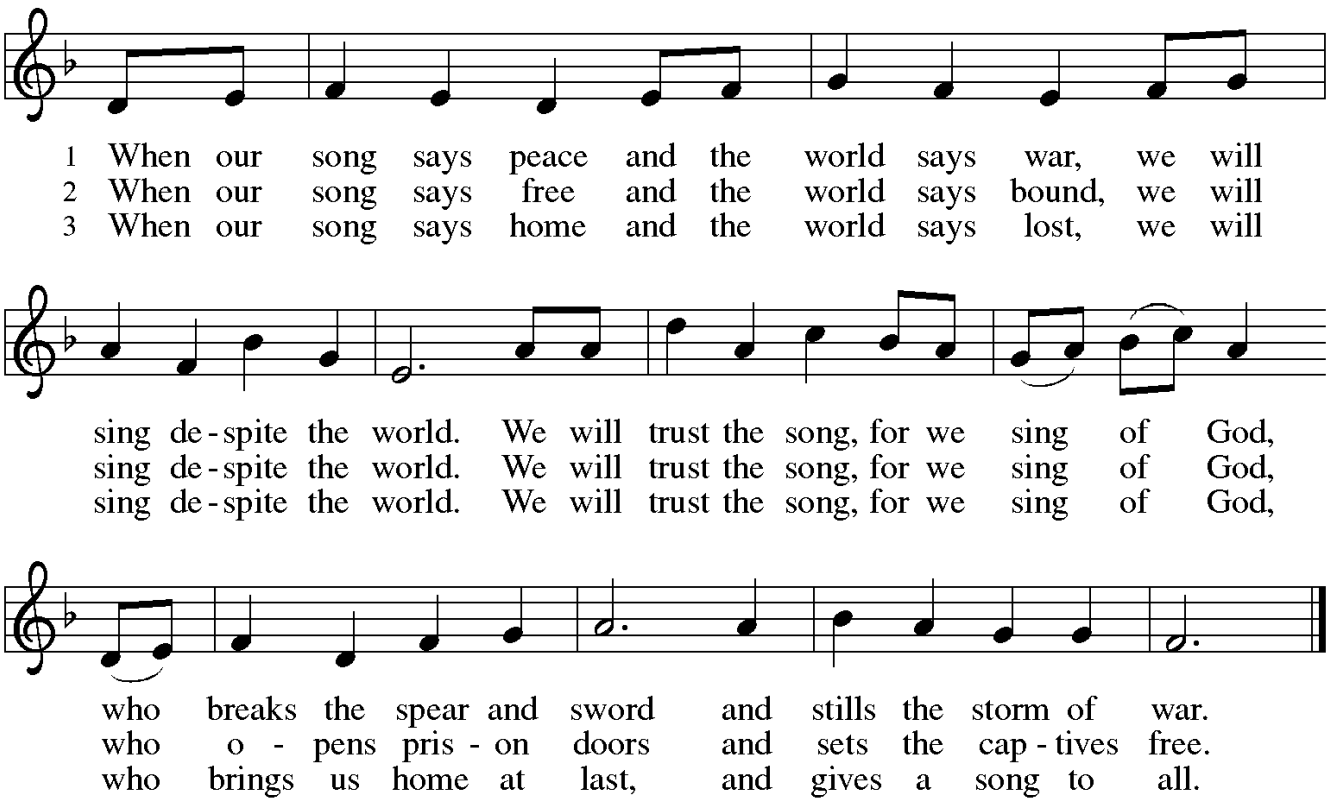
***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**
Let us pray

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.

***BLESSING**
The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.
The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.
The God of grace ☩ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

***SENDING HYMN** **v1,2,3** **ELW 709**

When Our Song Says Peace



Text: Richard Leach, b. 1953
Music: JENKINS, Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962
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***DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.
POSTLUDE

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TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH
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Battle Creek, MI 49014
269-963-5356
tlcbattlecreek.org

Welcome! We believe God created all of humanity in God's image. Since every person is made in the image of God, every person is part of God's family. Whatever your gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, race, income, mental or physical ability, age, religious background, nationality, or political ideology, you are welcome here. Diversity of skills, gifts, talents, opinions, and experiences are strengthened in the body of Christ. "For all of you are one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:28b).

The Council has a goal of better advertising Trinity and all the things going on in our congregation. One way to reach this goal is to increase our presence on Facebook by having more folks see our posts. If you are on Facebook and you have not already followed Trinity, please do so and then "Like", "Comment" and "Share" our weekly service and any other happenings. THANKS!!

Coins For Coats are due today. We are collecting coins (bills too) to be donated to the Charitable Union for their annual coat distribution for kids on October 27 and 28 at Full Blast. Grab a baggie to insert your coins/bills/check from the offering plate in the back of the sanctuary so that we can get the money to the Charitable Union tomorrow, October 19.

Bible Techniques Class starts this week!! It's a way to read and study the Bible by yourself. Tish Gancer will be leading the three weekly sessions starting this Thursday. The cost of the book is $9. See Tish for your copy and to let her know you'll be attending.

Next week is **Intention Sunday** when we make our pledges of not only our financial support for Trinity but also our time & talents. As per our tradition, there will be cake!!

Contact Info: For emergency pastoral care contact:
Pr. Ed Ruble, St. Peter Lutheran Church
Cell: 269-569-4721
Email: pastor@saintpeterbc.org

Our thanks to all those who give of their time, talent, and prayers for our church and God's work in the world. Assisting in worship today:

Preaching: Pastor Erick Johnson
Lay Assistant: Gloria Kolodizieizyck
Sound Board: Staff
Streaming: John Kolodizieizyck
Music Director: Ronnie Cung

THIS WEEK AT TRINITY

October 18 – October 25, 2026

TODAY: 11:00 am Worship, Coffee Hour
MONDAY: 10:30 Yoga
TUESDAY: 10:30 Yoga
WEDNESDAY: 10:30 Yoga 12 AA, 6:30 Choir
THURSDAY: 10:30 Bible Techniques Class
FRIDAY: 10:30 Yoga
SATURDAY:
NEXT SUNDAY: 11:00 am, Worship, Coffee Hour, Reformation Sunday, **Intention Sunday**

Readings for next Sunday: **Leviticus 19: 1 - 2, 15 - 18; Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 1: 1- 10; Matthew 22: 15 - 22**

PRAYER REQUESTS Prayer requests are gathered from the spoken prayer requests during worship and can also be added by calling or emailing to office@tlcbattlecreek.org. Prayer requests will stay on the list for three weeks and can be renewed:

October 11: Tresa: Angie, Herself; **Janelle:** Tina Gale, Linda Stacey; **Connie:** Joe; **JoAnn:** Stephen, Herself, Celebration of 50th Anniversary; **Tish:** Bible Techniques Class

October 4: Tresa: Angie, Jim, Beth, Marilyn; **Eileen:** David, Dianne, Viola

September 27: Mark Johnson; **Janelle:** Family of Charles Rothwell, Wayne; **Eric:** Brenon, Chuck; **Tresa:** Herself

September 20: Gloria: Wayne; **Mary:** Tish, Charlene; **Connie:** Mary; **Eileen:** Family of Billy Blackburn; **Tresa:** Anyone with unspoken needs & concerns.

The Franklin Food Pantry desperately needs to have its shelves restocked. The items needed are: Canned goods, soups, fruits, vegetables; also, cereal, juice, boxed milk, toilet paper and soap. Cash donations are also appreciated. Please drop off any donations at church placing them in the wagon in the narthex. Thanks!