

COMMUNION

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER [TRADITIONAL]

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.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**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

BENEDICTION

HYMN #705 — *God of Grace and God of Glory*

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE — Jill Sousek



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A member congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



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21st Sunday after Pentecost

OCTOBER 18, 2026

WELCOME TO ZION

PRELUDE — Jill Sousek

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

The sign of the cross ☩ may be made in remembrance of Baptism.

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 for reflection and self-examination.

Compassionate God,
**we confess we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in
our hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness
strain relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show love to others. Turn our hearts
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.**

HYMN #825 — *You Servants of God*

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.**

WORD

FIRST READING — *Isaiah 45:1-7*

Thus says the Lord to Cyrus, the Lord's anointed, whose right hand I have grasped to subdue nations before him and strip rulers of their robes, to open doors before Cyrus — and the gates shall not be closed: 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, 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. For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen, I call you by your name, I surname you, though you do not know me. I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, so that they may know, from the rising of the sun and from the west, there is no one besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other. I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

SECOND READING — *1 Thessalonians 1:1-10*

Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, to the Thessalonian church in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. We give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, God has chosen you, 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. You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. 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 we have no need to speak about it. For the people of those regions report to us what kind of welcome we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols, to serve a living and true God, and to wait for God's Son from heaven, whom God raised from the dead — Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL — *Matthew 22:15-22*

The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So 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. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then Jesus said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." 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

THE SERMON — Pastor Scott Ludford

HYMN #871 — *Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good*

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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

... In the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE OFFERING