21st Sunday after Pentecost



October 18, 2026

ST. JOHN'S
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
4629 Aspen Hill Road, Rockville, Maryland 20853
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

a Reconciling in Christ Congregation

Gathering

Welcome & Announcements

Prelude

*Confession & 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.

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

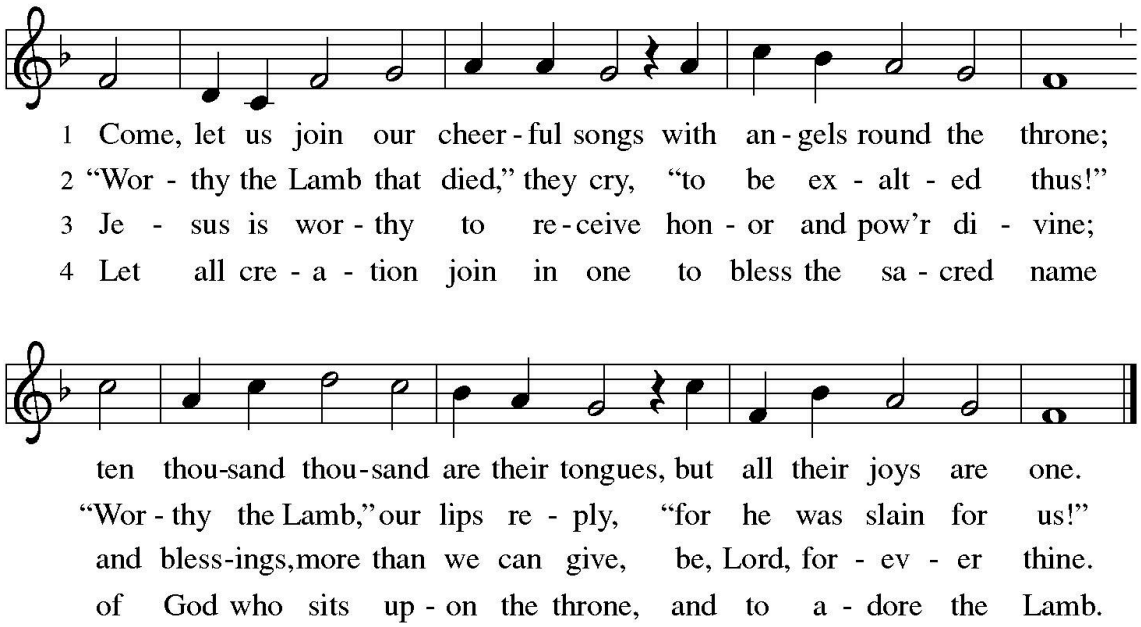
God of Grace and God of Glory



Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

*Greeting
P: The grace … with you all.
C: **And also with you.**

*Hymn of Praise



* Prayer of the Day

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]
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 a- | mong 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 hon- | or 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 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 peoples with equity."

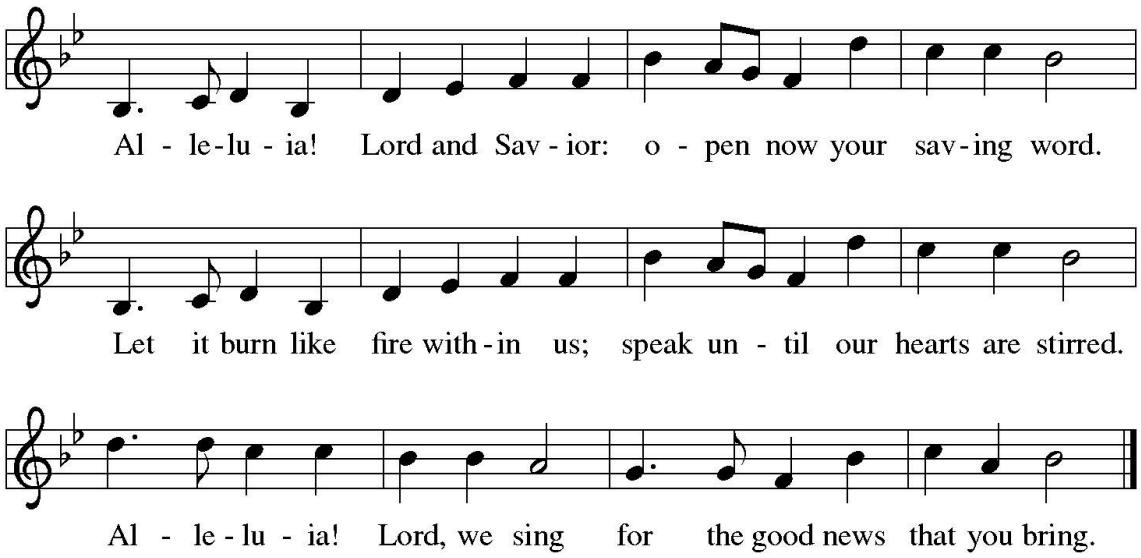
11 Let the heavens rejoice, and let the | earth be glad; let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful and all that | is therein.
12 Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your com- | ing, O Lord, for you come to | judge the earth.

13 You will judge the | world with righteousness and the peoples | with your truth.

<u>Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10</u>

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

*Gospel Acclamation



*Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22
The holy Gospel according to...
Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day

When Our Song Says Peace



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

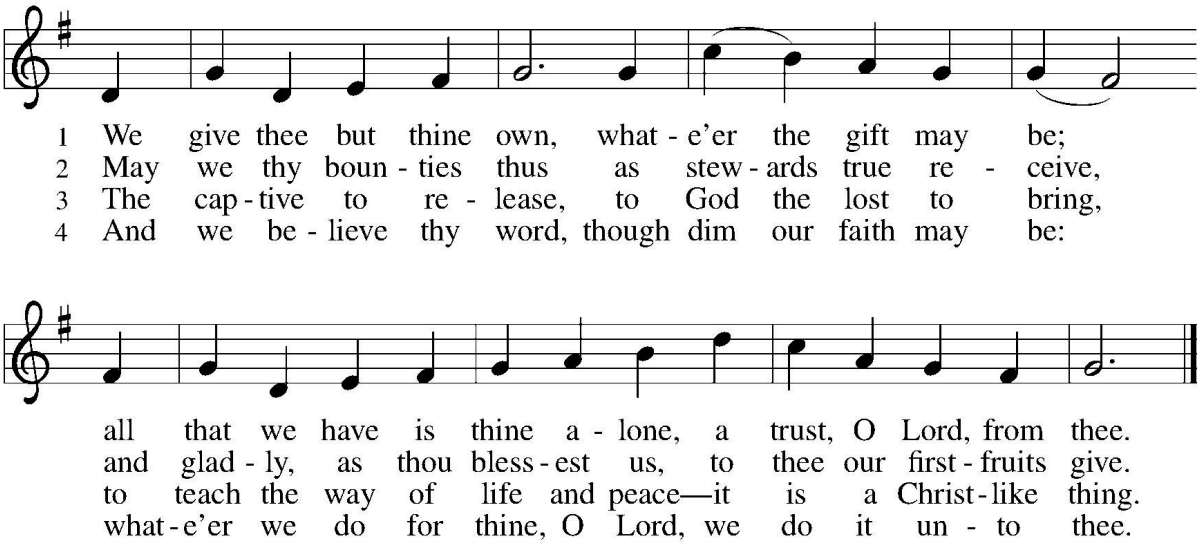
… hear us, O God,
C: your mercy is great.

*Peace

Meal

*Offertory

We Give Thee but Thine Own



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

*Offering Prayer

*Great Thanksgiving

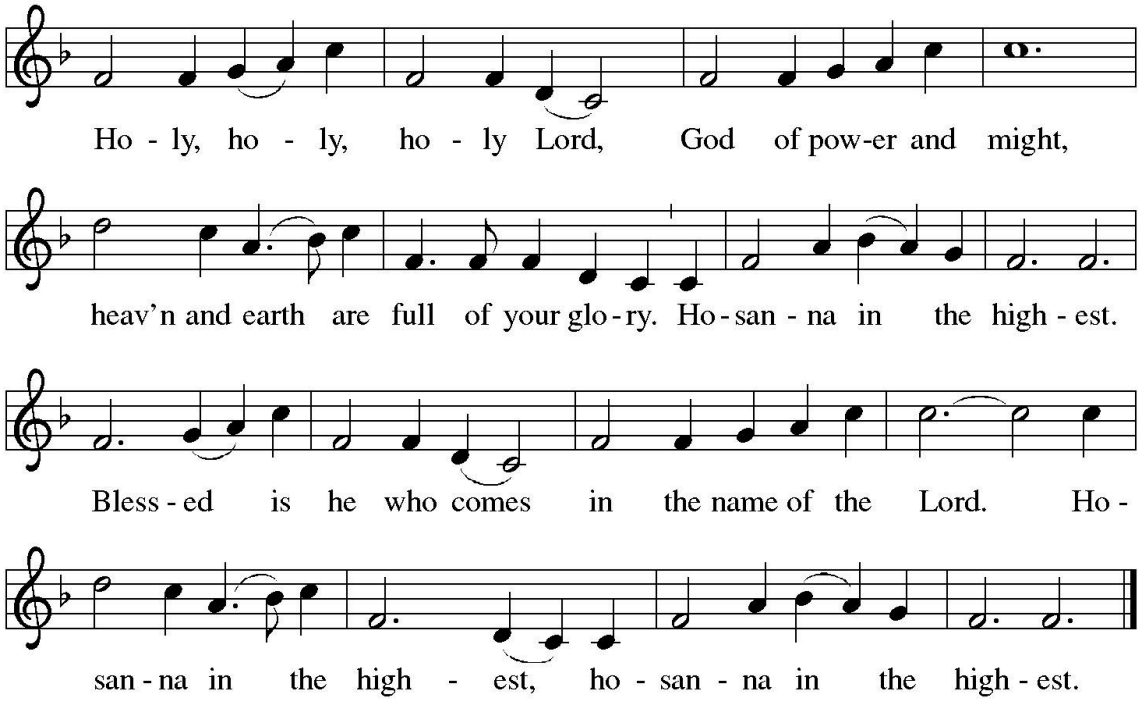
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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… join their unending hymn:

*Sanctus



*Eucharistic Prayer

*Lord's Prayer

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.

Lamb of God



Communion Hymn

God Is Here!



Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000
Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991
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*Post-communion prayer

Sending

*Blessing

*Sending hymn:

You Servants of God



Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: LYONS, attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737–1806

*Dismissal

Go in peace. Be led forth in peace.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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