



October 18, 2026

The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Kenneth Bersche

Maggie Kent, Secretary

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“How Great Thou Art”

- ♪ O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
Thy pow’r throughout the universe displayed;
~Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee, How great Thou art! How great Thou art!
- ♪ When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees; When I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
And hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; ~Then sings...
- ♪ But when I think that God, His Son not sparing,
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in— That on the cross my burden gladly bearing
He bled and died to take away my sin; ~Then sings...
- ♪ When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in humble adoration
And there proclaim: “My God, how great Thou art!” ~Then sings....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 801—Text: Carl Gustaf Boberg, 1859–1940; tr. Stuart W. K. Hine, 1899–1989; Text: © 1949, 1953 The Stuart Hine Trust, admin. EMI CMG and Hope Publishing Co.

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Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

Ascribe to the Lord, O clans of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord glory and strength!

1 Chr. 16:28

The Lord is the strength of His people; He is the saving refuge of His anointed.

Psalms 28:8

Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; worship the Lord in the splendor of holiness.

May the Lord give strength to His people! May the Lord bless His people with peace!

Psalms 29:2 & 11

Ascribe power to God, whose majesty is over Israel, and whose power is in the skies.

Psalms 68:34

To Him belongs glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

1 Peter 4:11

Confession and Absolution

Let us now make confession of our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

O God our Father, we confess that we are by nature sinful, and we acknowledge that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have transgressed Your law and have brought injury to the lives of others, and we have not always kept the commitments we have made or fulfilled the responsibilities entrusted to us. We do sincerely repent of our sins. Have mercy on us, O Lord. Grant us Your grace and full forgiveness in Jesus Christ, our Savior. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit within

us, lead us to amend our lives that each day we may grow in righteousness and in godly living to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

A Time of Silence

Our gracious God hears our pleas and accepts our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ. To those who repentantly call upon Him, our Lord promises forgiveness, life, and salvation. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise

Music: "Away in a Manger", Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 364

- ♪ The trees of the forest will joyfully sing; Creation rejoicing with praises shall ring.
The Lord God is coming to judge in His might, And bring in His kingdom eternal and bright.
- ♪ The oceans and rivers will echo the sounds As music celestial on earth now abounds.
The Lord comes to rule all the nations in peace; His mercy and faithfulness never shall cease!
- ♪ Bring glory to God! Let all people rejoice! Sing forth His great kindness and lift ev'ry voice!
Extol His salvation in countless new ways With worship unending and limitless praise!

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Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. O God, the protector of all who trust in You, have mercy on us that with You as our ruler and guide we may so pass through things temporal that we lose not the things eternal; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Old Testament Reading *Please Be Seated*

Isaiah 45:1–7

¹Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have grasped,
to subdue nations before him and to loose the belts of kings,
to open doors before him that gates may not be closed:

²"I will go before you and level the exalted places,

I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron,

³I will give you the treasures of darkness and the hoards in secret places,
that you may know that it is I, the Lord, the God of Israel, who call you by your name.

⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob, and Israel my chosen,

I call you by your name, I name you, though you do not know me.

⁵I am the Lord, and there is no other, besides me there is no God;

I equip you, though you do not know me,

⁶that people may know, from the rising of the sun

and from the west, that there is none besides me; I am the Lord, and there is no other.

⁷I form light and create darkness;

I make well-being and create calamity; I am the Lord, who does all these things.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Epistle

1 Thessalonians 1:1–10

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

²We give thanks to God always for all of you, constantly mentioning you in our prayers, 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, brothers loved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because our gospel came to you not only in word, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction. You know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For not only has the word of the Lord sounded forth from you in Macedonia and Achaia, but your faith in God has gone forth everywhere, so that we need not say anything. ⁹For they themselves report concerning us the kind of reception we had among you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“Come, Thou Almighty King”

♪ Come, Thou almighty King, Help us Thy name to sing; Help us to praise;

Father all-glorious, O'er all victorious,

Come and reign over us, Ancient of Days.

♪ Come, Thou incarnate Word, Gird on Thy mighty sword; Our prayer attend.

Come and Thy people bless, And give Thy Word success,

And let Thy righteousness On us descend.

♪ Come, holy Comforter, Thy sacred witness bear In this glad hour!

Thou, who almighty art, Now rule in ev'ry heart,

And ne'er from us depart, Spirit of pow'r.

Please Stand

♪ To Thee, great One in Three, Eternal praises be Hence evermore!

Thy sov'reign majesty May we in glory see,

And to eternity Love and adore.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 905—Text: English, before 1760, alt.; Text: Public domain

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:15–22

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted how to entangle him in his words. ¹⁶And they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are true and teach the way of God truthfully, and you do not care about anyone's opinion, for you are not swayed by appearances. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰And Jesus said to them, “Whose likeness and inscription is

this?” ²¹They said, “Caesar's.” Then he said to them, “Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's.” ²²When they heard it, they marveled. And they left him and went away.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

Handbell Choir

“As We Gather at Your Table”

The Hymn

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

- ♪ Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee; Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise, Let them flow in ceaseless praise.
- ♪ Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love; Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee, Swift and beautiful for Thee.
- ♪ Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King; Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee, Filled with messages from Thee.
- ♪ Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold; Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose, Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.
- ♪ Take my will and make it Thine, It shall be no longer mine; Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne, It shall be Thy royal throne.
- ♪ Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store; Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee, Ever, only, all for Thee.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 784—Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–79; Text: Public domain

Proclamation of the Word

“The Insane Salvation of God”

Isaiah 45:1–7

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand Each petition is concluded with the following:*

Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Colossians 3:1

Let us give thanks to Lord our God.

It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Psalms 136

Proper Preface

Sanctus Hymn

Music: "Lamb of God", Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 550

♪ Oh, holy, holy is the Lord, The God by heav'n and earth adored.
We join the angels in their song, Their glorious praises to prolong.
How blest is He, who come to us, Lord Jesus Christ, God's only Son,
Hosanna with galactic space, Sing we, saved only by His grace.

Lord's Prayer

Words of Our Lord

The Peace of the Lord

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Agnus Dei

Music: "Lamb of God", Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 550

♪ Your only Son, no sin to hide. But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod, And to become the Lamb of God.
O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!
O wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 550 -Text & Tune: Twila Paris b.1958;
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Distribution Hymn *Please Be Seated*

"Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

♪ Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given Blessings countless as the sand
To th' unthankful and the evil With Your own unsparing hand.

♪ Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give You Gladly, freely of Your own.
With the sunshine of Your goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by You, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

♪ Wondrous honor You have given To our humblest charity
In Your own mysterious sentence, "You have done it all to Me."
Can it be, O gracious Master, That You deign for alms to sue,
Saying by Your poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?

♪ Lord of glory, You have bought us With Your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust You boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on You;
But, oh, best of all Your graces, With Your love our love renew.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 851 - Text: Eliza S. Alderson 1818-89; Public domain.

Dismissal

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn of Thanksgiving

Music: "Lamb of God", Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 550

♪ Lord, let Your servants go in peace; Your covenant shall never cease.
The promised Savior here we see; His blood and body set us free.
For all the nations He is light For Isr'el, glory in plain sight.
To Father, Son, and Spirit, sing- Three persons, yet forever One.

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Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on You with favor and + give You peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

"God of Grace and God of Glory"

♪ God of grace and God of glory, On Your people pour Your pow'r;
Crown Your ancient Church's story; Bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the facing of this hour, For the facing of this hour.

♪ Lo, the hosts of evil round us Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the living of these days, For the living of these days.

♪ Cure Your children's warring madness; Bend our pride to Your control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal, Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.

♪ Save us from weak resignation To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of Your salvation Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving You whom we adore, Serving You whom we adore.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 850—Text: Harry Emerson Fosdick, 1878–1969; Text: Public domain

Postlude