

The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

10/11/2026

Greg Fetzer, Pastor

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for our sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

GATHERING HYMN: [ELW#479 "We Come to the Hungry Feast"](#)

P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: [ELW#863 “My God, How Wonderful Thou Art”](#)

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. Lord of the feast,

C **you have prepared a table before all peoples and poured out your life with abundance. Call us again to your banquet. Strengthen us by what is honorable, just, and pure, and transform us into a people of righteousness and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

FIRST READING Isaiah 25:1-9

L A reading from Isaiah: ¹O Lord, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure. ²For you have made the city a heap, the fortified city a ruin; the palace of foreigners is a city no more; it will never be rebuilt. ³Therefore strong peoples will glorify you; cities of ruthless nations will fear you. ⁴For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm, ⁵the noise of foreigners like heat in a dry place, you subdued the heat with the shade of clouds; the song of the ruthless was stilled.

⁶On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. ⁷And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the covering that is spread over all nations; ⁸he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he

will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. ⁹It will be said on that day, “See, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited; let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation.”

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

L ¹The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

C ²**The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

L ³You restore my soul, O Lord, and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

C ⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

L ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

C ⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

SECOND READING Philippians 4:1-9

L A reading from Philippians: ¹My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

²I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. ³Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my coworkers, whose names are in the book of life. ⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let

your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

⁸Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. ⁹As for the things that you have learned and received and heard and noticed in me, do them, and the God of peace will be with you.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as you are able.



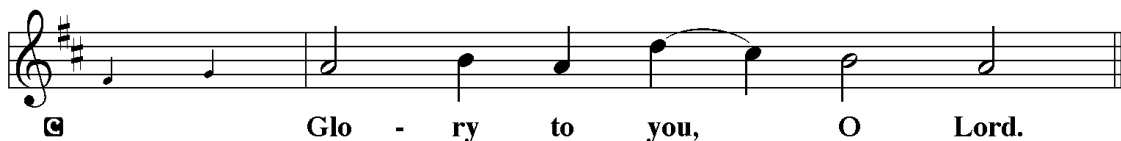
The musical notation consists of two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a common time signature 'C' and contains the melody for 'Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?'. The second staff continues the melody for 'You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.' and ends with a double bar line.

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

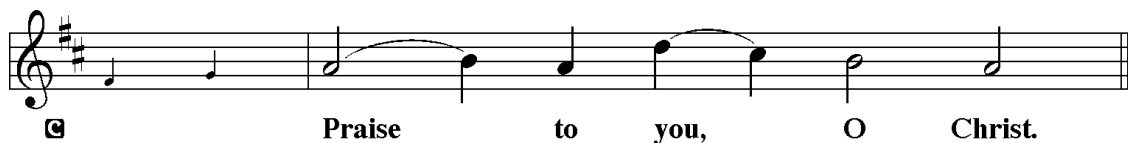
GOSPEL READING Matthew 22:1-14

L The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.



P ¹Once more Jesus spoke to them in parables, saying: ²“The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. ³He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. ⁴Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ ⁵But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, ⁶while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. ⁷The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. ⁸Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. ⁹Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ ¹⁰Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad, so the wedding hall was filled with guests. ¹¹“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, ¹²and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. ¹³Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ¹⁴For many are called, but few are chosen.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.



HYMN OF THE DAY: [ELW#502 “The King of Love My Shepherd Is”](#)

SERMON: [\(Sermon Audio Link\)](#)

Please stand, as you are able.

- P** Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

OFFERING*: [\(On-Line giving Link\)](#)

The Offering is received and is presented at the altar.



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take



- L** Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

- L** Holy God, we remember your promise of unity on your holy mountain. Empower the World Council of Churches and all those working across religious difference, that the world may know your undivided love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

- L** We remember your promise of green pastures and quiet waters. Preserve all places of natural beauty and restore our relationship with the land. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

- L** We remember your promise to wipe away every tear. Heal and console all who are sick or suffering. We pray for Barbara Ash, Heidi Brackbill, Rebecca Brennan, the Elshafei family, Jeff Fultz, Bob Hardy, Mark Hughes, Charlotte Leer, John McCarthy, Wendy Neumann, Rick Newman, Peter Olsen, Kessa Rome, Claudia Schober, Esther Trautwein, and Pastor Jack. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

- L** For whom or what else shall we pray?

- For all those affected by war and armed conflict around the world, especially in Iran, Gaza, Ethiopia, Syria, South Sudan, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Ukraine, and Myanmar...
- For the three-year anniversary of the attacks in Gaza...
- For elections and political transitions around the world...

- *For lawmakers and courts of law...*
- *For all affected by the spread of disease...*
- *For safety amidst ongoing student protests in France...*
- *For flooding in Spain and all affected by natural disasters...*
- *For all in the path of Tropical Storm Isaias...*
- *For Nobel Prize recipients and all gifts of discovery, research, and curiosity...*

L We remember your promise to swallow up death forever. We give thanks for those who have gone before us. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

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

C **Amen**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C **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

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C **Amen**

SENDING HYMN [ELW#546 "To Be Your Presence"](#)

P Go in peace. Love and serve God and neighbor.

C Thanks be to God.

*Offering to be sent to
Robert Brackbill
10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church
9122 Sybert Drive
Columbia Hills
Ellicott City, MD 21043
<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithe/give-one-time/2627291

ANNOUNCEMENTS and Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, 10/27 10 am, Shock Trauma Presentation on Preventing Falls
- Sunday, November 22, after the service - Annual Congregational Meeting
- Nativity Village to open on Sun, Nov. 29 after the service (1st Sunday of Advent)
- Saturday, Dec. 5 10:00 am - Putting up the greens
- Saturday, Dec. 5 5:00 pm - Family Craft Night

READER SCHEDULE

11-Oct	Ron
18-Oct	Julie and Dave
25-Oct	Greg

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