

The Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

10/18/2026

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#841 "Lift Every Voice and Sing"](#)

- P** Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: [ELW#825 “You Servants of God”](#)

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

- P** Let us pray. Sovereign God,
- C** **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

- L** A reading from Isaiah: ¹Thus 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: ²I will go before you and level the mountains; 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 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶so 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. ⁷I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

- L** The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96:1-9

L ¹Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

C ²**Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**

L ³Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.

C ⁴**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

L ⁵As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.

C ⁶**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

L ⁷Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

C ⁸**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**

L ⁹Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

L A reading from First Thessalonians: 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 always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly 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 and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because 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. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For 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. ⁹For 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 ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

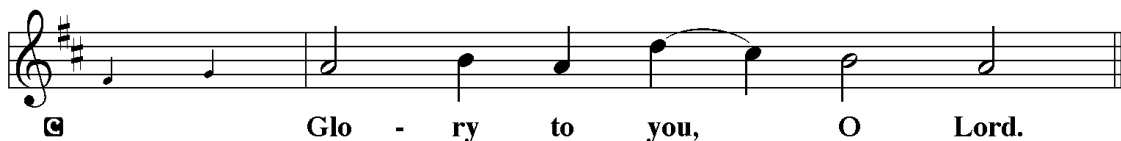
Please stand, as you are able.

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

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

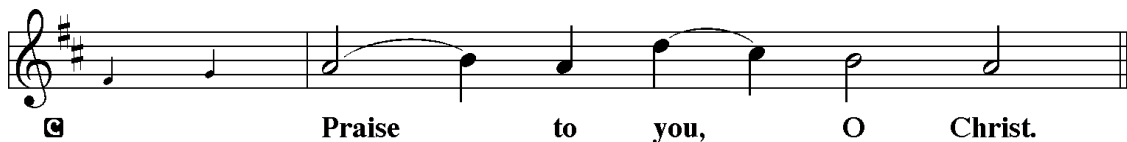
GOSPEL READING Matthew 22:15-12

L The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.



P ¹⁵The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" ²¹They 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." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

L The Gospel of the Lord.



HYMN OF THE DAY: [ELW#686 "We Give Thee but Thine Own"](#)

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

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

A brief silence.

- L** 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.
- C** **Your mercy is great.**
- L** 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.
- C** **Your mercy is great.**
- L** 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.
- C** **Your mercy is great.**
- L** 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. 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 We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church. Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. 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...*
- *For midterm elections and for democratic elections around the world...*
- *For Christa Pike and all those impacted by the death penalty...*
- *For victims of a school roof collapse in Pakistan...*
- *For Pope Leo XIV and his cancer diagnosis...*
- *For those in the path of Hurricane Simon and all those affected by natural disasters...*

L We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you. 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 The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

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

*The Offering is received and is presented at the altar.
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C Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
 fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -
 nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us - ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



P The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The thanksgiving continues with the preface; the congregation responds:

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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 acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

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.

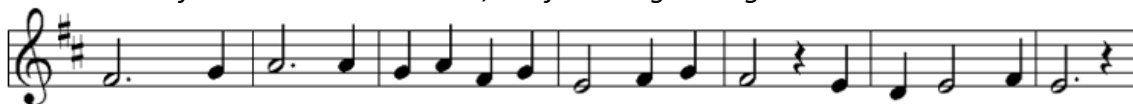
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

P The gifts of God for the people of God. Come, for the table is now ready.

C **Thanks be to God.**

After all have communed, the following is sung:



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Please stand, as you are able.

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C **Amen**



C Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

P Let us pray. Almighty God,

C you gave your Son both as a sacrifice for sin and a model of the godly life. Enable us to receive him always with thanksgiving, and to conform our lives to his; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. 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#713 "O God of Every Nation"](#)

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/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291

ANNOUNCEMENTS and Upcoming Events

- Tuesday, Oct 27, 10 am – Shock Trauma Presents – Fall Prevention Class at Epiphany – all are welcome
- Sunday, Nov 22, World Hunger Sunday and Annual Congregational Meeting
- Sunday, Nov 29, Opening of the Navity Village
- Saturday, Dec 5, 10 am – Putting up the greens
- Saturday, Dec 5, 5 pm – Family Craft Night
- Sunday, Dec 20, 6 pm – Chocolate and Carols

READER SCHEDULE

First Sunday	Heidi and Bob
Second Sunday	Julie and Dave
Third Sunday	Ron
Fourth & Fifth Sunday	Greg

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