

The Beginning of the End >



Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
Give to God What is God's

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church | *Jordan, Minnesota*

October 18, 2026

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship today! In our service, we gather before our almighty and saving God to offer him our worship and praise. We also assemble to hear God’s holy and powerful word and celebrate his life-giving sacraments. Through these means, God strengthens our faith and walks us ever closer to our eternal home with him.

TODAY’S THEME

In the 250th anniversary year of the signing of the Declaration of the Independence of the United States of America, Americans are realizing that our freedoms are not guaranteed forever. What can we do with the limited time we have left to preach the gospel and administer the sacraments without governmental interference? We can do exactly what Jesus advised, giving to God what is God’s. We can thank Jesus for fulfilling all righteousness for us, leaving us free to serve our neighbors. God does not need our good works, but our neighbors do. God’s Word informs our choice of political activities as we seek to be faithful to our calling as Christian citizens.

CLOSE COMMUNION

Following the guidance of Scripture, we invite those who are members of this congregation or one of our sister WELS congregations to join us as we celebrate the Lord’s Supper this morning. Those who are members of other church bodies are asked to speak with the pastor before attending the Lord’s Supper. With this practice, it is not our intent to judge hearts, but to remain faithful to the truth of God’s Word. Thank you for respecting our practice regarding the Lord’s Supper.

Guest Pastor.....Jack Heichelbech
Organist.....Lois Zander

775 Before You, Lord, We Bow

CW 775

Stand

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

Amen.

Confession

CW 172

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

CW 172

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

CW 176



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth. Lord God,



heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we



wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your



glo - ry. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and



peace to his peo - ple on earth.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. You are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his



peo - ple on earth.

For you a -

lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,
 you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ,
 with the Ho-ly Spir-it in the glo-ry of
 God the Fa-ther. A-men. A-men.
 Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his
 peo-ple on earth.

Tune: Marty Haugen

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The Word

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, so govern the nations on earth and direct the affairs of this world that your church may worship you in peace and joy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated

First Reading

Daniel 1:3–21

We learn from Daniel how to live in two kingdoms.

The king told Ashpenaz, the chief of his court officials, to bring some young Israelite men from the royal family or from the nobility. He was to choose young men who had no blemish, who were good looking, who had insight into all kinds of wisdom, who possessed knowledge, understanding, and learning, and who were capable of serving in the king's palace, in order to teach them the literature and language of the Chaldeans. The king assigned them daily rations from the special royal food and from the king's own wine. He ordered that they should be trained for three years. At the end of training they were to serve the king. In this group of young men were the Judeans Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. The chief of the officials gave them new names. He gave Daniel the name Belteshazzar, Hananiah the name Shadrak, Mishael the name Meshak, and Azariah the name Abednego. Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the special food of the king or with the wine that he drank. So he sought permission from the chief official, so that he would not have to defile himself. God made the chief of the officials favorable and sympathetic toward Daniel. Then the chief of the officials said to Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who assigned your food and your drink. Why should he see your faces looking less healthy than those of the other young men who are your age? You put my life at risk before the king." Daniel said to the superintendent whom the chief of the officials had placed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, "Please test your servants for ten days. Tell them to give us only vegetables, and we will eat them and drink water. Observe our appearance and the appearance of the young men who eat the special royal food. Then deal with your servants based on what you see." So he listened to what they said about this and tested them for ten days. At the end of ten days, their

appearance was noticeably better than that of the others. They were healthier than any of the young men who had been eating the special royal food. So the superintendent permanently took away the special royal food and the wine they were to drink and gave them only vegetables. As for these four young men, God gave them knowledge and insight into all kinds of literature, as well as wisdom. In addition, Daniel also understood every kind of vision and dream. At the end of the time which the king had set for them to be brought to him, the chief of the officials brought them before Nebuchadnezzar. The king spoke with them, and none of the others were found to be comparable to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. So they served the king. In every matter concerning wisdom and understanding that the king sought from them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and spell casters in his entire kingdom. So Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

96A Let the Heavens Rejoice

Psalms 96A

Second Reading

Romans 13:1-7

God has established governmental authority.

Everyone must submit to the governing authorities. For no authority exists except by God, and the authorities that do exist have been established by God. Therefore the one who rebels against the authority is opposing God's institution, and those who oppose will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers are not a terror to good conduct, but to evil. Would you like to have no fear of the one in authority? Do what is good, and you will receive praise from him, because he is God's servant for your benefit. But if you do wrong, be afraid, because he does not carry the sword without reason. He is God's servant, a punisher to bring wrath on the wrongdoer. Therefore it is necessary to submit, not only because of wrath, but also because of conscience. For this reason you also pay taxes, because the authorities are God's ministers, who are employed to do this very thing. Pay what you owe to all of them: taxes to whom taxes are owed, revenue to whom revenue is owed, respect to whom respect is owed, and honor to whom honor is owed.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

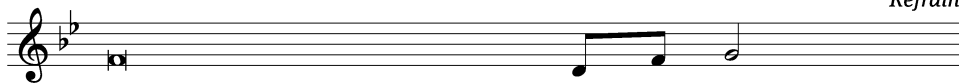
Colossians 2:10

*Refrain*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Tone

In Christ you have been brought to full - ness.

*Refrain*

He is the head over every power and au - thor - i - ty.

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Gospel

Matthew 22:15–22

Give to the government what is the government's and give to God what is God's.

Then the Pharisees went out and plotted together how to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are truthful and teach the way of God in accord with the truth. You are not concerned about gaining anyone’s approval because you are not swayed by appearances. So tell us, what do you think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” But Jesus knew their evil purpose and said, “Why are you testing me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.” They brought him a denarius. He asked them, “Whose image and inscription is this?” “Caesar’s,” they replied to him. Then he said to them, “Therefore give to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.” When they heard this, they were amazed. Then they left him and went away.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Be seated

619 Praise the Almighty; My Soul, Adore Him

CW 619

Sermon

Stand

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is,
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son
is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Be seated

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ.
Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief, and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in you.

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

Lift the eyes of the distressed to your love in Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Offering

During the offering, please fill out the Friendship Register in the pew and pass it down to those sitting next to you.

The Sacrament

Stand

Preface

CW 183

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.

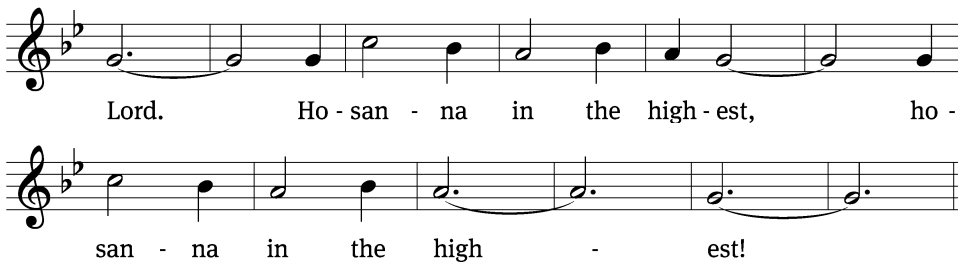
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

CW 184





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Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Words of Institution

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

Jesus, Lamb of God

CW 186



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

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

Je - sus, Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us your peace.

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Be seated

Distribution

705 Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

CW 705

Stand

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

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.

Amen.

774 God Bless Our Native Land

CW 774

Acknowledgments

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News & Notes

Radio Broadcast

The radio broadcast is sponsored by Allen and Phyllis Erickson in memory of Walter and Marcella Erickson. Thank you!

If Pastoral Assistance Is Needed

Contact Pastor Martin Bentz at 779-324-9175.

Monday Schedule

There is no Monday worship tomorrow, October 19th. Check the online calendar for updates.

Area Reformation Service

Celebrate our Lutheran heritage as we gather around the gospel at the Area Reformation Service. The service is on October 25 at 3 pm at the Chapel of the Christ on the campus of Martin Luther College in New Ulm. Luther once wrote, "The sure mark by which the Christian congregation can be recognized is that the pure gospel is preached there...the gospel is the sure sign by which one knows where Christ and his army are encamped." Let's celebrate our gospel heritage together!

Theology on Tap

Come and join us for Theology on Tap! We meet at 6:30 pm at Mana Brewing in Shakopee.

Roots Lawn Clean-Up

Our Roots Group would like to help with fall cleanup. If you could use help with your yard, please let Angela or Jeremy Kalal know. We'll make a plan and get you on our list for raking, light trimming, or plant cleanup.

Lutherfest

Celebrate our German Heritage and Lutheran Reformation at **Lutherfest** our own rendition of Oktoberfest. Lutherfest takes place at church in the fellowship hall and outdoors on Friday, October 23 at 6:00 PM. Brats, other foods and root beer floats will be provided along with other samplings. There will be an outdoor fire, German music, photo booth, games and fun for all ages such as a stein holding contest and scavenger hunt. Set this Friday evening aside to fellowship with your brothers and sisters in Christ!

OCTOBER 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Senior Fellowship 10 AM	2	3
4 Worship 9 am Communion Bible Study 10:15 am	5 Worship 7 pm Choir 7:45 pm	6	7 Foundations 6 pm Woven 6 pm	8	9	10
11 Worship 9 am Fellowship Sunday Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15 am	12 Choir 7:45 pm	13 6:30 Council Meeting	14	15	16	17
18 Worship 9 am Communion Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15 am	19 Choir 7:45 pm	20 9:45 am Oak Terrace	21 Foundations 6 pm	22 6:30 pm Theology on Tap	23	24
25 Worship 9 am Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15 am	26 Worship 7 pm Choir 7:45 pm	27	28 Foundations 6 pm	29	30	31

SERVING THE LORD

		Acolytes	Ushers	Media Booth	Organist
10/18	9 am	Leah Bertrang	2	Ryan Bertrang	Lois Zander
10/25	9 am	Greta Newton	3	(Need Volunteer)	-
11/1	9 am	(Need Volunteer)	4	(Need Volunteer)	Noah Helke

October Altar Guild	October Cleaners
Jodi Bertrang/Amy Radick	Rebekah Jensvold
October Counters	Service Group 3 Leader
Norma Bendzick/Connie Jabs	Dianne Jabs
November Altar Guild	
Angela Ambroz/Nancy Stocker/Brenda Stocker	

Attendance	
Sunday	59
Monday	n/a
Total	59

Gifts To Our Lord		
	Received	Needed
Current	\$2870	\$3834
Online Giving	\$665	
Total	\$3535	\$3834



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