

The Beginning of the End >



Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost
Invite the Unworthy

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

October 11, 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

Don’t you hate it when someone has prepared an excellent meal, but travel delays mean that certain friends or relatives don’t get to enjoy it? Sometimes there are no leftovers, and an opportunity is lost. God has prepared an extraordinary spiritual meal for all people. It is received by faith. But it is not offered forever. The day will come when body and soul are separated, and those who do not believe in Jesus as their Savior will not share in his blessings. It’s the beginning of the end. Now is the time to issue the invitation!

Guest Pastor.....Ben Schaefer
Accompanist.....Lois Zander

Stand

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

Amen.

Confession

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

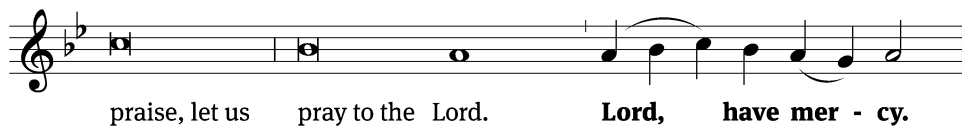
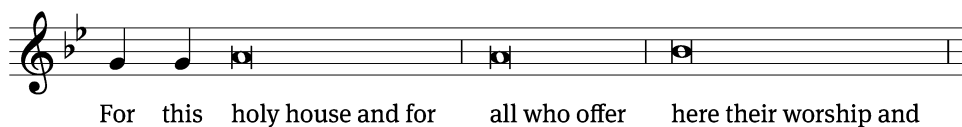
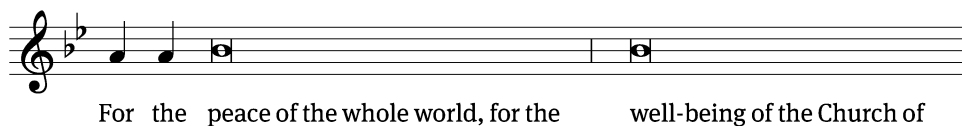
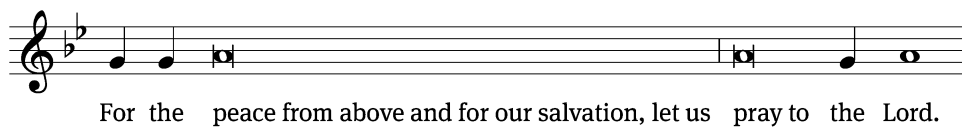
Absolution

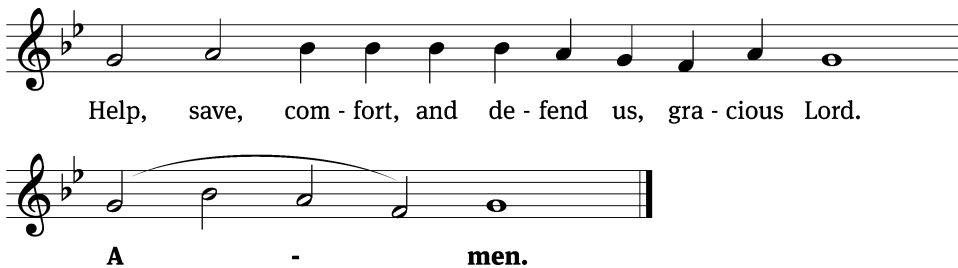
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son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

Amen.

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 174





Help, save, com - fort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.

A - men.

Tune: Marty Haugen

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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.

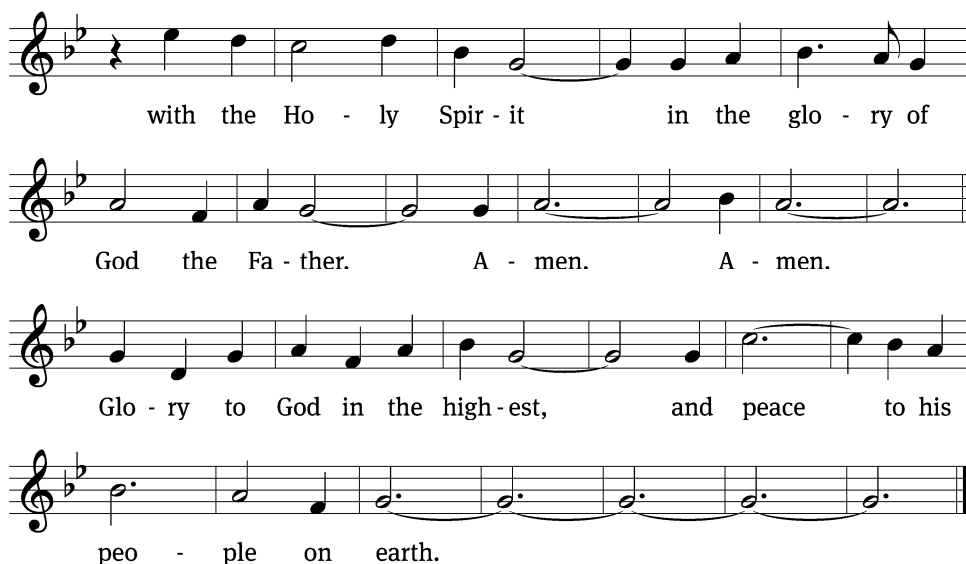
For you a -



lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ,



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.

Almighty God, you invite us to trust in you for our salvation. Deal with us not in the severity of your judgment but by the greatness of your mercy; 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

Isaiah 25:6–9

The prophet Isaiah describes the heavenly banquet which is entered through faith in God and his salvation.

On this mountain the LORD of Armies will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of aged wines, with the best cuts of meat, and with the finest wines. On this mountain he will destroy the shroud that covers all peoples, the burial cloth stretched over all nations. He has swallowed up death forever! The LORD God will wipe away the tears from every face. He will take away the shame of his people throughout the earth. For the LORD has spoken. On that day it will be said, “Look, here is our God! We waited for him, and he saved us! This is the LORD! We waited for him. Let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation!”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

84A How Lovely

Psalms 84A

Second Reading

Romans 1:16-17

We proclaim that we are saved through faith alone.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes—to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed by faith, for faith, just as it is written, “The righteous will live by faith.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Stand

Gospel Acclamation

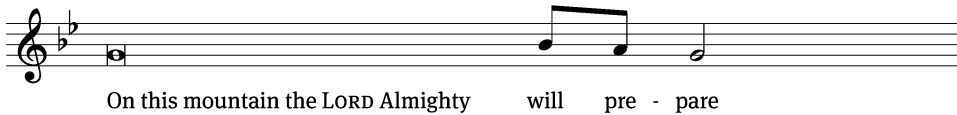
Isaiah 25:6



Refrain



Tone



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Gospel

Matthew 22:1–14

The king gives us the privilege of inviting people to his wedding banquet.

Jesus spoke to them again in parables. He said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent out his servants to summon those who were invited to the wedding banquet, but they did not want to come. “Then he sent out other servants and said, “Tell those who are invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner. My oxen and my fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet!” “But those who were invited paid no attention and went off, one to his own farm, another to his business. The rest seized the king’s servants, mistreated them, and killed them. As a result, the king was very angry. He sent his army and killed those murderers and burned their town. “Then he said to his servants, “The wedding banquet is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. So go to the main crossroads and invite as many as you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those servants went out to the roads and gathered together everyone they found, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. He said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without wearing wedding clothes?’ The man was

speechless. Then the king told the servants, ‘Tie him hand and foot and throw him into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

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

Be seated

573 Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness

CW 573

Sermon

Stand

Apostles’ Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. 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.

902 Spread Abroad, O Mighty Word

CW 902

Stand

Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart that, being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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.

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.

644 Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast

CW 644

Acknowledgments

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News & Notes

Radio Broadcast

The radio broadcast is sponsored by Elaine Stier in memory of Eric Stier. Thank you!

If Pastoral Assistance Is Needed

Contact Pastor Martin Bentz at 779-324-9175.

Reflections Bible Study

There will be no Reflections Bible study in October. Reflections will resume November 10th at 6:30 pm. We will be studying "Time – It is a Gift!"

Monday Schedule

There is no Monday worship on October 12th or 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!

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 Lutherfest 6:00 pm	24
25 Worship 9 am Sunday School/ Bible Study 10:15 am Area Reformation Service at MLC 3pm	26 Worship 7 pm Choir 7:45 pm	27	28 Foundations 6 pm	29	30	31

SERVING THE LORD

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

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	105
Monday	12
Total	117

Gifts To Our Lord		
	Received	Needed
Current	\$4275	\$3834
Online Giving	\$589	
Total	\$4864	\$3834



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