

21ST WEEK OF PENTECOST
OCT. 17-18, 2026
Holy Communion

The Prelude is a signal to *end our conversation* and prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND

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PASSING OF PEACE

CALL TO WORSHIP

"Lead Me Lord"

Lead me Lord, / lead me in thy righteousness; /
make thy way plain (/) before my face.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C Amen.

P Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin. Compassionate God,

C we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness in the world and in our own hearts. Creation groans from overuse. Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships. Indifference keeps us from seeking justice. Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others. Turn our hearts back to you. Restore our world and reconcile us to one another. Renew us to live as your holy people, following the way of Jesus Christ. Amen.

P Hear this good news: We have peace with God through ✝ Jesus Christ, in whom there is no condemnation, but only forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. Receive freely this healing gift of grace.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "You Servants of God"

- 1 You servants of God, your Master proclaim,/
and publish abroad his won - derful name;/
the name, all-victorious, of Jesus extol;/
his kingdom is glorious and rules_ over all!**
- 4 Then let us adore and give him his right,/
all glory and power and wis - dom and might,/
all honor and blessing, with angels above,/
and thanks never ceasing, and in - finite love!**

GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the
communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**
- C And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE "Come Let Us Join Our Cheerful Songs"

**Come, let us join our cheerful songs/
with angels round the throne;/
ten thousand thousand are their tongues,/
but all their joys are one.**

***Jesus is worthy to receive/honor and pow'r divine;/
And blessings, more than we can give,/
be, Lord, forever thine.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

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ANTHEM

LESSON OF THE DAY

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

The lesson begins:

Paul, Silas and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace and peace to you. We always thank God for all of you and continually mention you in our prayers. We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters loved by God, that he has chosen you, because our gospel came to you not simply with words but also with power, with the Holy Spirit and deep conviction. You know how we lived among you for your sake. You became imitators of us and of the Lord, for you welcomed the message in the midst of severe suffering with the joy given by the Holy Spirit. And so you became a model to all the believers in Macedonia and Achaia. The Lord's message rang out from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia—your faith in God has become known everywhere. Therefore we do not need to say anything about it, for they themselves report what kind of reception you gave us. They tell how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

P The Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

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GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al – le - luia! / Lord to whom shall we go? / Al – le – luia.

***You have_ the words / of_ eternal life. /**

Al – le – lu – ia, al – le – luia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-22

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

G **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?" But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?" "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's." When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

P **The Gospel of the Lord.**

G **Praise to you, O Christ.**

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SERMON

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SERMON RESPONSE **"O God, Who Gives Us Life"**

O_ God, who gives / us_ life and breath, /

who shapes us in_ the womb,

***who_ guards our lives / from birth to death, /**

then_ leads_ us from the tomb:

***deliver us from fears that kill / the life we have from you. /**

Help us to know your_ Spirit, /

still is_ mak – ing all things new.

APOSTLES' CREED

- 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.

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- P** In the power of the Spirit, let us pray to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for the world, the Church, and one another.

A brief silence.

- P** Imprint Jesus' blessed image upon the Church. Conform its worship, teaching, fellowship, and outreach to his likeness. By faithful preaching of your Word, and through right administration your Sacraments, use your Church to lead many people from vain idols to life-giving trust in you, the true and only God. Lord in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.
- P** We pray for our fellow Christians who suffer persecution because they refuse to render to anyone or anything the true worship that is due to you alone. By their faithful witness, lead their enemies to repentance and amendment of life. Lord in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.

- P** Sometimes we who bear Christ's name display such a blurred and distorted image of him that others are scandalized and dismayed. Forgive and sanctify us. Make Jesus' love and mercy shine clear and bright in our lives, to his glory and for the sake of those he came to save. Lord in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.
- P** We plead on behalf of all who are afflicted by pain, turmoil, or any other assault of the Evil One. Today we also pray for: (*list...*). Come to their aid. Restore them to wholeness of body, mind, and spirit. Lord, in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.
- P** As you anointed Cyrus to accomplish your will for captive Israel, we ask that you anoint the leaders of this and every nation upon earth. Equip them to do whatever accomplishes your will for all who are captives to injustice, poverty, or violence. Teach us to put our trust in you, to seek your will for the nation, and to live honorably, peaceably, and kindly with one another. Lord in your mercy,
- C** Hear our prayer.
- P** For Jesus' sake, grant the fulfillment of all we ask that conforms to your holy will.
- C** Amen.

OFFERING

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OFFERTORY "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,/
 and_ fill to the brim our cup of blessing./
 Gather a harvest(/)from the seeds that were sown,/
 that we may be fed(/)with the bread of life.
 *Gather the hopes(/)and the dreams_ of all;/
 unite them with the prayers we offer./
 Grace our table with your presence,/
 and give us a foretaste(/)of the feast to come.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** And also 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.
- P** It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You formed us in your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. You delivered us from captivity, made covenant to be our sovereign God, and spoke to us through the prophets. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS

Holy Ho - ly Holy, Lord_, / God of power and might_, /
Heav'n and earth_(//)are full of Your glory, /
Hosannah in_ the highest.

***Blessed_ is He who comes_ / in the name of the Lord, /
Hosannah in_ the highest_, / Hosannah in_ the highest!**

- P** Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. Your Spirit anointed him to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, and to announce that the time had come when you would save your people. He healed the sick, fed the hungry, and ate with sinners. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. When the Lord Jesus

ascended, he promised to be with us always, in the power of your Word and Holy Spirit.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, he took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

☞ Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

☞ Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory and we feast at his heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy Church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

☞ Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

☞ As a community, let us pray in the way our Lord Jesus has taught us: (*Spoken*)

☞ 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 trespass-

ses, 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

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COMMUNION is given and received.

(w/ Lamb of God & optional extra hymn included)

(During Distribution)

"Lamb of God"

- 1 O Lamb of God_/you bear the sin_/of all the world_ away;/
*You suffered death_/our lives to save_:/
have mercy now_, we pray.
- 2 O Lamb of God_/you bear the sin_/of all the world_ away;/
*You set us free_/from guilt and grave_:/
have mercy now_, we pray.
- 3 O Lamb of God_/you bear the sin_/of all the world_ away;/
*Eternal peace_/with God you made_:/
Give us your peace_, we pray.

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POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P Sustaining God, with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN "God of Grace and God of Glory"

- 1 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 fa - cing_ of this hour.**
- 3 Cure your children's war - ring_ madness;/
bend our pride to your control;/
shame our wanton, self - ish_ 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.**

DISMISSAL

-  Let us go forth, to know Christ and to make Christ known,**
** Caring for our members and supporting our community.
Thanks be to God!**

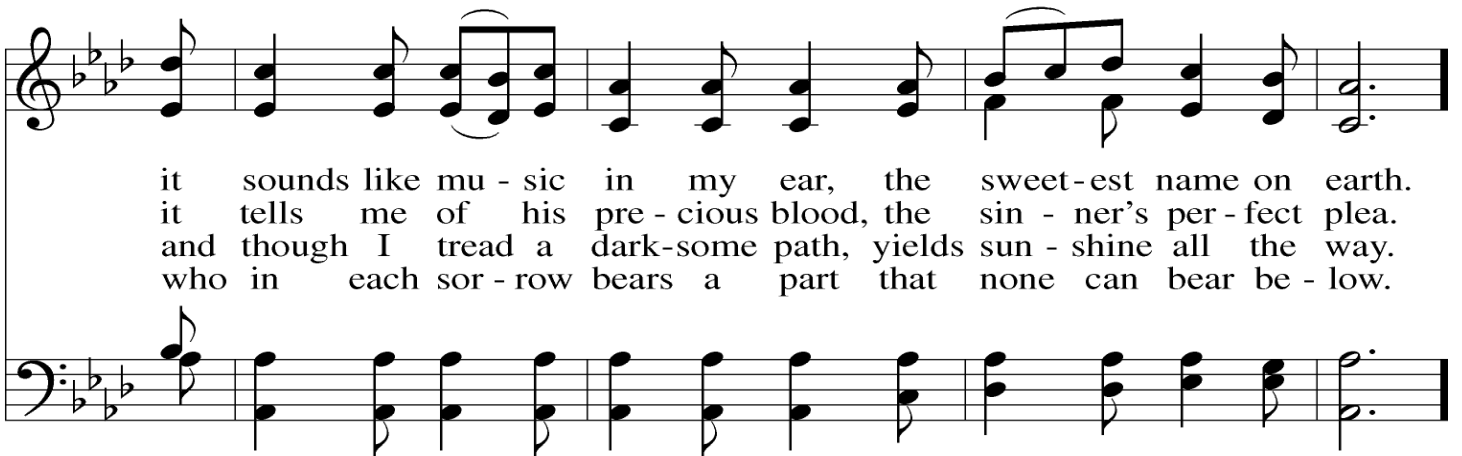
POSTLUDE

There Is a Name I Love to Hear

Oh, How I Love Jesus



1 There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;
2 It tells me of a Sav - ior's love, who died to set me free;
3 It tells me what my mak - er hath in store for ev - 'ry day;
4 It tells of one whose lov - ing heart can feel my deep - est woe,



it sounds like mu - sic in my ear, the sweet - est name on earth.
it tells me of his pre - cious blood, the sin - ner's per - fect plea.
and though I tread a dark - some path, yields sun - shine all the way.
who in each sor - row bears a part that none can bear be - low.

Refrain



Oh, how I love Je - sus, oh, how I love Je - sus,



oh, how I love Je - sus, be - cause he first loved me!