

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026

10:30 a.m.



**"GIVE...
TO GOD**

**THE THINGS
THAT ARE
GOD'S."**

MATTHEW 22:21, NRSV

In today's gospel reading, Jesus' words are more than a clever response to a trap set by his opponents. Give the tax that is due to the ruler, he says, but offer to God what is God's: the very life given you by the Creator. These words of Jesus remind us that no earthly authority can claim the church's ultimate allegiance to God; its life comes from God so that it might serve the world in the labor of love.

WELCOME

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

Stand

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

C **Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C** **Amen.**

EXHORTATION

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness.**

Kneel/ Remain Standing

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C** **Amen.**

SERVICE OF THE WORD**HYMN “Every Morning Mercies New”***harmonized for part-singing*

1) Ev - 'ry morn - ing mer - cies new Fall as fresh as
 2) Still the great - ness of Thy love Dai - ly does our
 3) Let our prayers each morn pre - vail That these gifts may
 4) As the morn - ing light re - turns, As the sun with

morn - ing dew; Ev - 'ry morn - ing let us pay
 sins re - move; Dai - ly, far as east from west,
 nev - er fail; And as we con - fess the sin
 splen - dor burns, Teach us still to turn to Thee,

Trib - ute with the ear - ly day; For Thy mer - cies,
 Lifts the bur - den from the breast; Gives un - bought to
 And the Tempt - er's pow'r with - in, Feed us with the
 Ev - er - bless - ed Trin - i - ty, With our hands our

Lord, are sure, Thy com - pas - sion does en - dure.
 those who pray Strength to stand in e - vil day.
 Bread of Life; Fit us for our dai - ly strife.
 hearts to raise In un - fail - ing prayer and praise.

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.**

KYRIE

A In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

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

C Lord, have mer-cy: Christ, have mer-cy: Lord, have mer-cy.

A 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.

C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

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

C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

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

C Lord, have mer-cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer-cy.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS



C 1 To God on high be glo - ry And peace to all the earth;
2 To You, O sole-be - got - ten, The Fa - ther's Son, we pray;
3 For You a - lone are ho - ly; You on - ly are the Lord.



Good-will from God in heav - en Pro - claimed at Je - sus' birth!
O Lamb of God, our Sav - ior, You take our sins a - way.
For - ev - er and for - ev - er, Be wor-shipped and a - dored;



We praise and bless You, Fa - ther; Your ho - ly name, we sing—
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus; Re - ceive our heart - felt cry,
You with the Ho - ly Spir - it A - lone are Lord Most High,



Our thanks for Your great glo - ry, Lord God, our heav'n-ly King.
Where You in pow'r are seat-ed At God's right hand on high—
In God the Fa - ther's glo - ry. "A - men!" our glad re - ply.

SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

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

P Let us pray. **P** Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed your glory among the nations. Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your name; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C**

Amen.

Sit

Children are invited to meet by the Cross for the Children's Lesson.

FIRST LESSON Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces a radical vision in today's reading. Late in the period of exile in Babylon, the Persian king Cyrus has taken power in the east and threatens the great Babylonian empire. Seeing this, the prophet announces that God is using Cyrus to accomplish God's purpose of freeing the exiles. Amazingly, God calls Cyrus "his anointed" (a translation of "messiah"), a title earlier reserved solely for Davidic kings.

R Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,

whose right hand I have grasped

to subdue nations before him

and strip kings of their robes,

to open doors before him--

and the gates shall not be closed:

I will go before you

and level the mountains,

I will break in pieces the doors of bronze

and cut through the bars of iron,

I 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.

For the sake of my servant Jacob,

and Israel my chosen,

I call you by your name,

I surname you, though you do not know me.

I am the LORD, and there is no other;

besides me there is no god.

I arm you, though you do not know me,

so 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.

I form light and create darkness,

I make weal and create woe;

I the LORD do all these things.

R This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

SECOND LESSON 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians is probably the earliest of any of his writings. He opens with a prayer of thanksgiving for the witness these Christians have provided for others to whom he ministers.

R Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord
Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, because 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. And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy inspired by the Holy Spirit, so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. For 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. For the people of those regions 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, and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead--Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath that is coming.

R This is the Word of the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God.

Stand

ALLELUIA AND VERSE



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



C These things are writ-ten that you may be - lieve that



Je - sus is the Christ, the Son of God.



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

HOLY GOSPEL **P** The Holy Gospel of Matthew, chapter 22, beginning at verse

15. **C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

After Jesus comes to Jerusalem and begins teaching in the temple, the religious leaders try to trap him with trick questions. The first of these tries to force him to make an arbitrary choice between devotion to religion or politics.

P The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap Jesus in what he said. So 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. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**And 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.

From thence He will come again 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.**

Sit

MESSAGE

Stand

HYMN

“Holy God, We Praise Thy Name” LSB 940



1 Ho - ly God, we praise Thy name; Lord of all, we
2 Hark! The glad ce - les - tial hymn An - gel choirs a -
3 Lo, the a - pos - tles' ho - ly train Join Thy sa - cred
4 Thou art King of Glo - ry, Christ; Son of God, yet
△ 5 Ho - ly Fa - ther, ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,



bow be - fore Thee. All on earth Thy scep - ter claim,
bove are rais - ing; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
name to hal - low; Proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
born of Mar - y. For us sin - ners sac - ri - ficed,
three we name Thee; Though in es - sence on - ly one,



All in heav'n a - bove a - dore Thee. In - fi - nite Thy
In un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, Fill the heav'ns with
And the white - robed mar - tyrs fol - low, And from morn to
As to death a Trib - u - tar - y, First to break the
Un - di - vid - ed God we claim Thee And, a - dor - ing,



vast do - main, Ev - er - last - ing is Thy reign.
sweet ac - cord: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord!
set of sun Through the Church the song goes on.
bars of death, Thou hast o - pened heav'n to faith.
bend the knee While we own the mys - ter - y.

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PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

[P] Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

Other prayers are inserted here. Each petition ends with “Lord, in your mercy,” to which the congregation responds, “Hear our prayer.”

The prayers conclude:

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **C** **Amen.**

Sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

You may contribute online using the QR code or place a gift in the offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.



SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Stand

P Let us pray. Merciful Father,

C we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have 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.

PREFACE

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

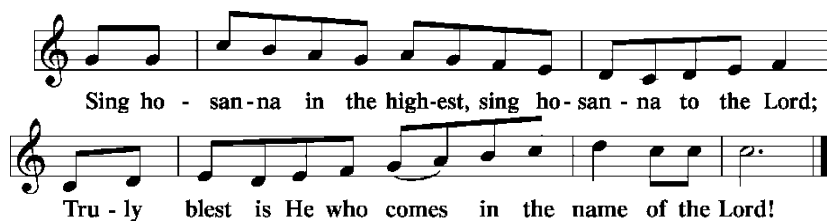
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give God thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

C Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

[P] Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

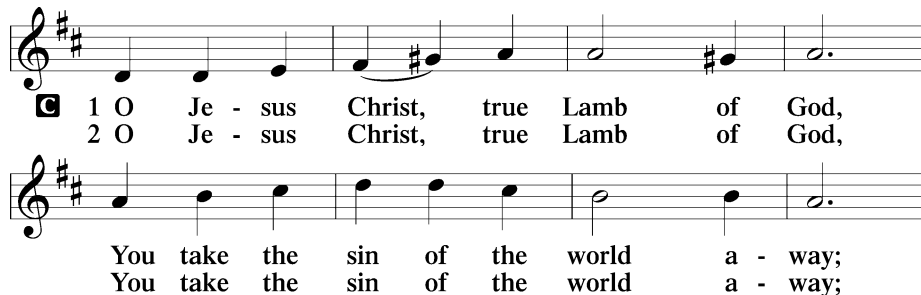
[P] In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

LORD'S PRAYER

Recognizing that the church, and this congregation, are comprised of people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, please speak this prayer in the language or version closest to your heart.

[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.

LAMB OF GOD



O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Sit

THE DISTRIBUTION *You are invited to approach the altar to receive communion elements along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Gluten-free available.*

HYMN "O Sing to the Lord" LSB 808

1 O sing to the Lord, O sing God a new song. O sing to the
2 For God is the Lord! And God has done won-ders. For God is the
3 So dance for our God And blow all the trum-pets. So dance for our
4 O shout to our God, Who gave us the Spir - it. O shout to our
5 For Je - sus is Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! For Je - sus is
Lord, O sing God a new song. O sing to the Lord, O
Lord! And God has done won-ders. For God is the Lord! And
God And blow all the trum-pets. So dance for our God And
God, Who gave us the Spir - it. O shout to our God, Who
Lord! A - men! Al - le - lu - ia! For Je - sus is Lord! A -
sing God a new song. O sing to our God, O sing to our God.
God has done won-ders. O sing to our God, O sing to our God.
blow all the trum - pets. And sing to our God, And sing to our God.
gave us the Spir - it. O sing to our God, O sing to our God.
men! Al - le - lu - ia! O sing to our God, O sing to our God.

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Tune: Public domain

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace. **C Amen.**

NUNC DIMITTIS

1 O Lord, now let Your ser - vant De -
2 All glo - ry to the the Fa - ther, All

part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the
glo - ry to the the Son, All glo - ry to the the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;

A light to lead the the Gen - tiles Un -
For as in lead the the be - gin - ning, Is

to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

[P] Let us pray.

[P] O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in the Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **[C] Amen.**

BENEDICTION

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
 The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
 The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

- P** Go in peace; serve the Lord. **C** Thanks be to God!

CLOSING HYMN “Glory to God”

1 Glo - ry to God, we give you thanks and praise;
 2 Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son,
 3 A - lone, O Christ, you on - ly are the Lord,

of heav'n - ly joy and earth - ly peace we sing.
 you bore for us the load of this world's sin.
 at God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high:

We wor - ship you, to you our hearts we raise,
 O Lamb of God, your glo - rious vic - t'ry won,
 who, with the Spir - it wor - shiped and a - dored,



Text: Edwin LeGrice, based on *Gloria in excelsis Deo*
 Music: Walter Groatorex, 1877-1949
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 Music © Oxford University Press

WOODLANDS
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POSTLUDE

Our Confession about Communion

Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine, we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who have been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; and concur in our confession.

Those who are not yet instructed or hold a confession different than this congregation may come forward with their arms crossed across their chest to receive a blessing.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.

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"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"
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