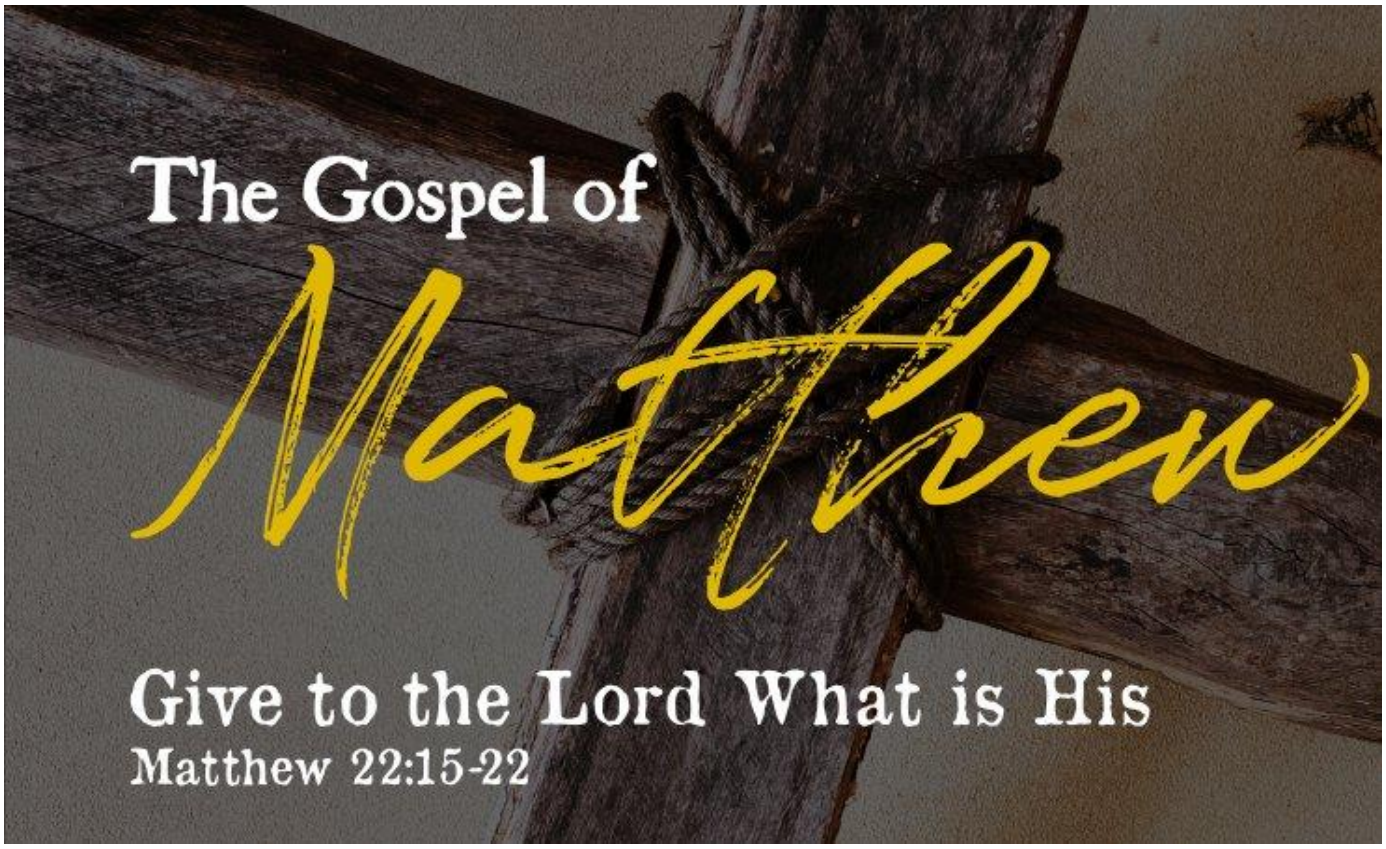



# The 21st Sunday after Pentecost
# Arlington Hills Lutheran Church
# October 18, 2026

**Arlington Hills Lutheran Church**
**1115 Greenbrier Street**
**St. Paul, MN 55106**

# Sunday, October 18, 2026
# 21st Sunday after Pentecost

**Introduction**

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. When the Pharisees try to trap Jesus, he tells them to give the emperor what belongs to him and to God what belongs to God. To gather for worship reminds us that our ultimate allegiance is to God rather than to any earthly authority. Created in the image of God, we offer our entire selves in the service of God and for the sake of the world.

**Welcome and Announcements**

*(Please take some time to prepare for worship in the quiet as we light the altar candles…. If you are worshipping online, we invite you to have something to eat and something to drink, ready for communion)*

**Prelude** **" Oh, Sing to the Lord"** **arr. Keith Kolander**

## GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**All: Amen.**

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

**All: Amen.**

P: Most merciful God,

**All: we confess that we are captive 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 his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church 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.

**All: Amen.**

*Please rise, in body or spirit, for the Gathering Hymn*

**Gathering Hymn "You Servants of God" ELW# 825**

Verses 1, 2, 3, and 4 - Large print words found on page 22

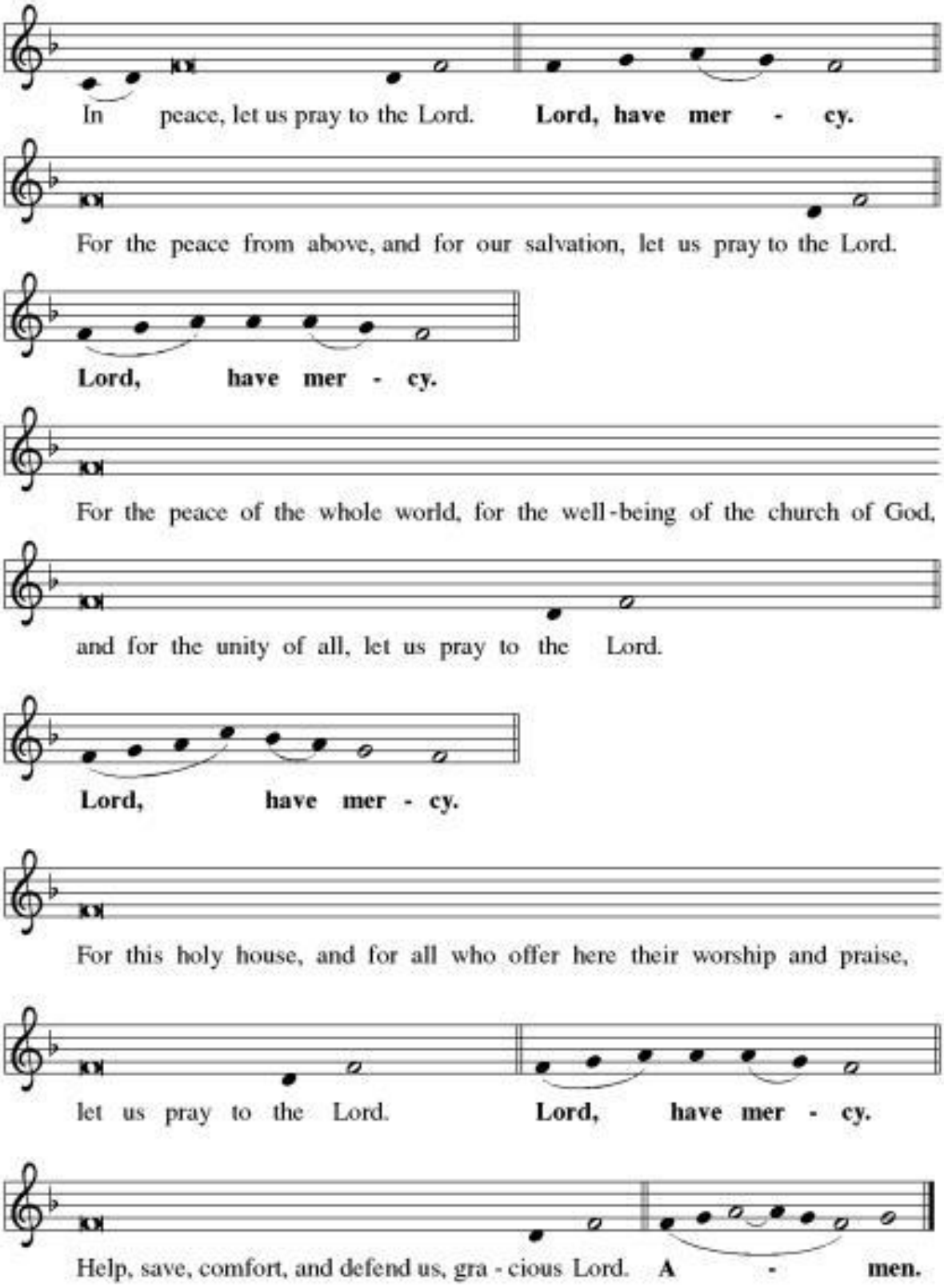
Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
Music: LYONS, attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737–1806

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

*Please be seated.*

**KYRIE**


In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.
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 mer - cy.
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

## Canticle of Praise

**Prayer of the Day**

P: 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.

**All: Amen.**

## WORD

**First Reading** **Isaiah 45:1-7** **Assisting Minister**

[1] Thus 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: [2] 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; [3] 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.

[4] For 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. [5] I am the LORD, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, [6] 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. [7] I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the LORD do all these things.

AM: The Word of the Lord.
**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 96:1-9** **Read Responsively by Whole Verse** **Assisting Minister**

AM: [1] Sing to the LORD a new song; sing to the LORD, all the earth.
**All:** [2] **Sing to the LORD, bless the name of the LORD; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
AM: [3] Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.
**All:** [4] **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**

AM: [5] As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O LORD, have made the heavens.

**All:** [6] **Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**

AM: [7] Ascribe to the LORD, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD honor and power.

**All:** [8] **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

AM: [9] Worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the LORD, all the earth.

**Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

[1] Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace.

[2] We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly [3] remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. [4] For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, [5] 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. [6] And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, [7] so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. [8] 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. [9] For 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 [10] and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

AM: The Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise, in body or spirit, for the Gospel Acclamation*

**Gospel Acclamation**

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew the 22nd Chapter
**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel: Matthew 21:15-22**

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

P: The gospel of our Lord.
**All: Praise to you, O Christ**

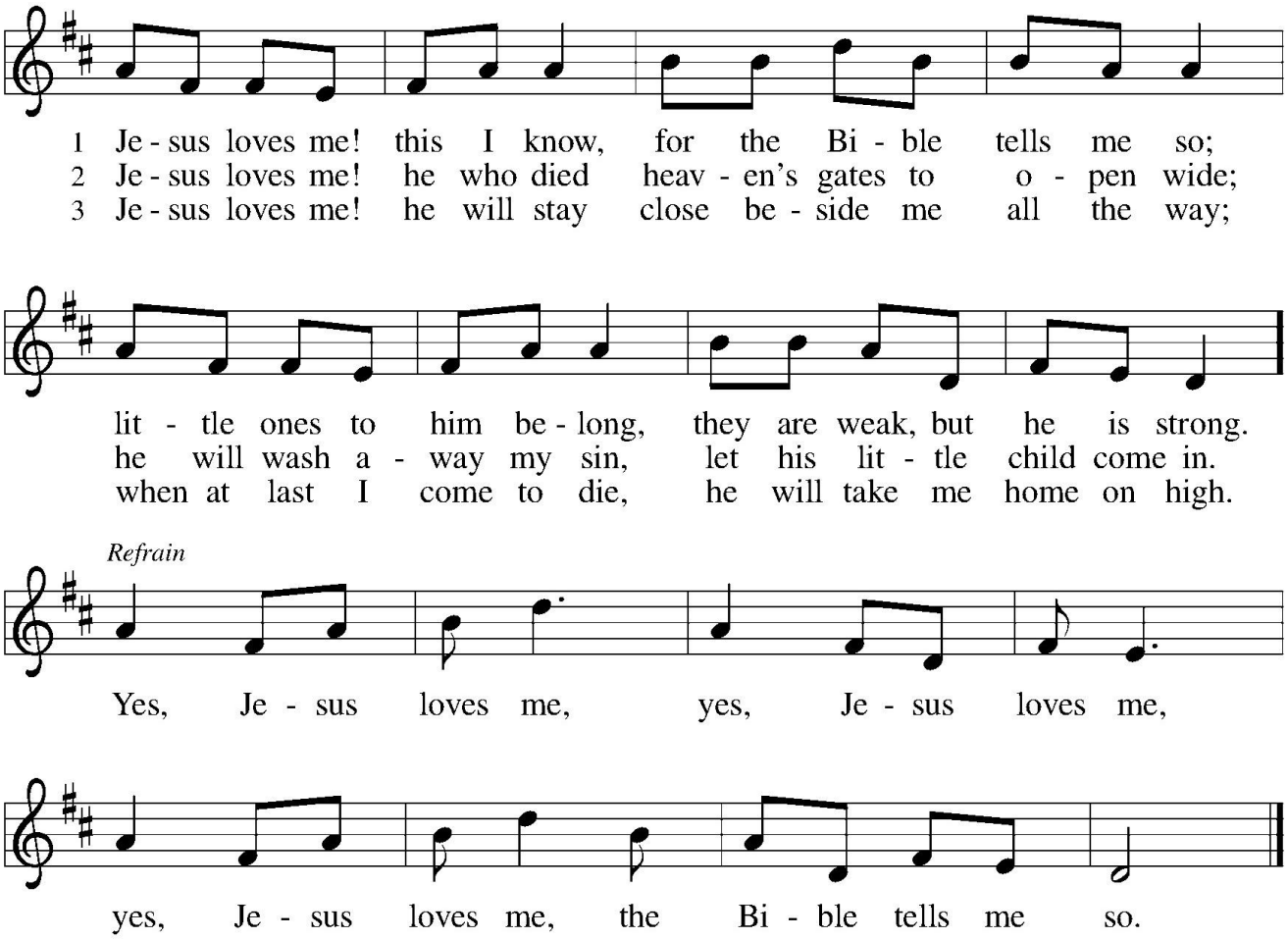
*Please be seated.*

**Sermon** **Pastor Walter Still**

*Please rise, in body or spirit for the Hymn of the Day*

**Hymn the Day** **"Jesus Love Me!** **ELW# 595**

Verses 1, 2, and 3 - Large print words found on page 23




Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820–1915, alt.
Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

**Apostles' Creed**

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.**

*Please be seated for the Prayers of Intercession*

**Prayers of Intercession** **Assisting Minister**

AM: Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

*A brief silence.*

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.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

AM: 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.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

AM: 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.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

AM: Ground this congregation in the welcome you show us in forgiving our sin. We pray for all at Arlington Hills Lutheran Church, Alley Shoppe, Open Door, House of Praise, Ministerio Dias de Gloria, the East Side Collaborative Churches, our mission partners in Tanzania and for Remnant Christian Network. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

AM: Provide for those who are injured, ill, and for all in any need. We pray especially for Marjorie Anderson, Sven & Marion Anderson, Sharon Anderson, Brenda Boogren, Tom Brackey, Carolyn Brusseau, Jerry Ekblad, Richard Edge, Marie Erickson, Judy Hanggi, Charles and Laurie Helgason,

Betty Hasse, Patricia James, Sarah Jansen, Jim Jaszczak, Eugene Karls, Gisela Koegh, Velta Krauze, Chuck Linderkamp, Maria Lopez, Marilyn Nelson, Dennis Rasmusson, Marnie Rose, Bev Stickler, Dave Thomas, Ivanka Vicic, Ken Wagner, MaryAnn Wistrom and those we name in our hearts. (pause) Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

AM: We ask your blessings on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church. We especially pray for our committees who are working on the Legacy Plan, Celebration, Worship Service, Membership, Archives for this church. Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

AM: We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you. Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

AM: Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

*Please rise, in body or spirit, for the sharing of the peace.*

**Sharing of the Peace**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also, with you.**

*Please be seated.*

## MEAL

**Offering Anthem** **"Jesus Loves Me"** **Frank (Christian) Brocato**
Sunday Morning Choir

*Please rise, in body or spirit, for the Offering Song*

## Offering Song

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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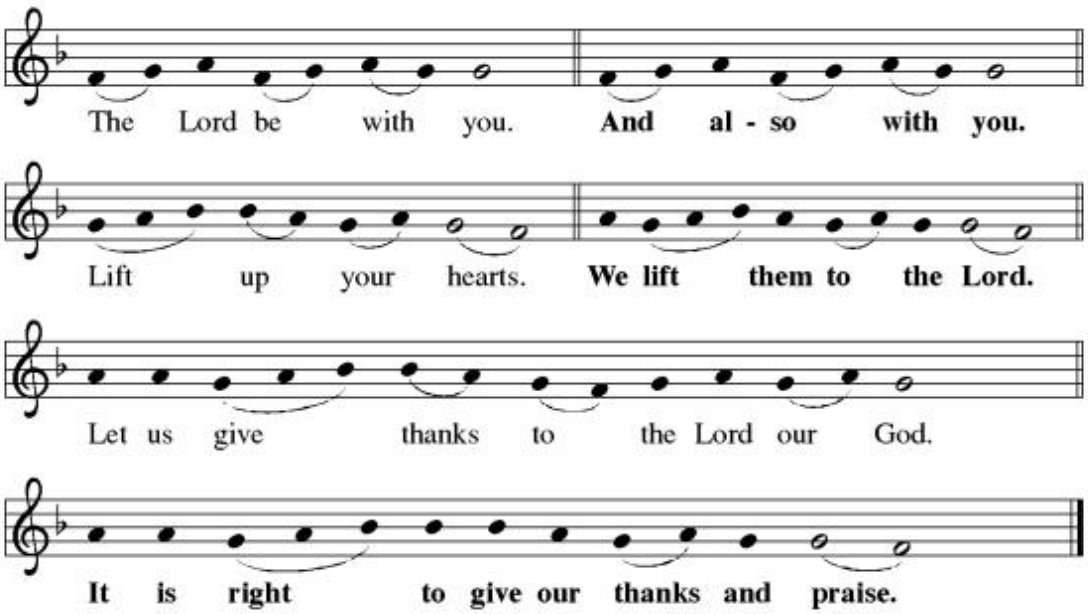
## Offering Prayer

P: God of creation, you send rain and the earth springs forth abundantly. All blessings are from you; make us generous with what we have. Use our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts in service to you and in love to our neighbors, today and always.

**All: Amen.**

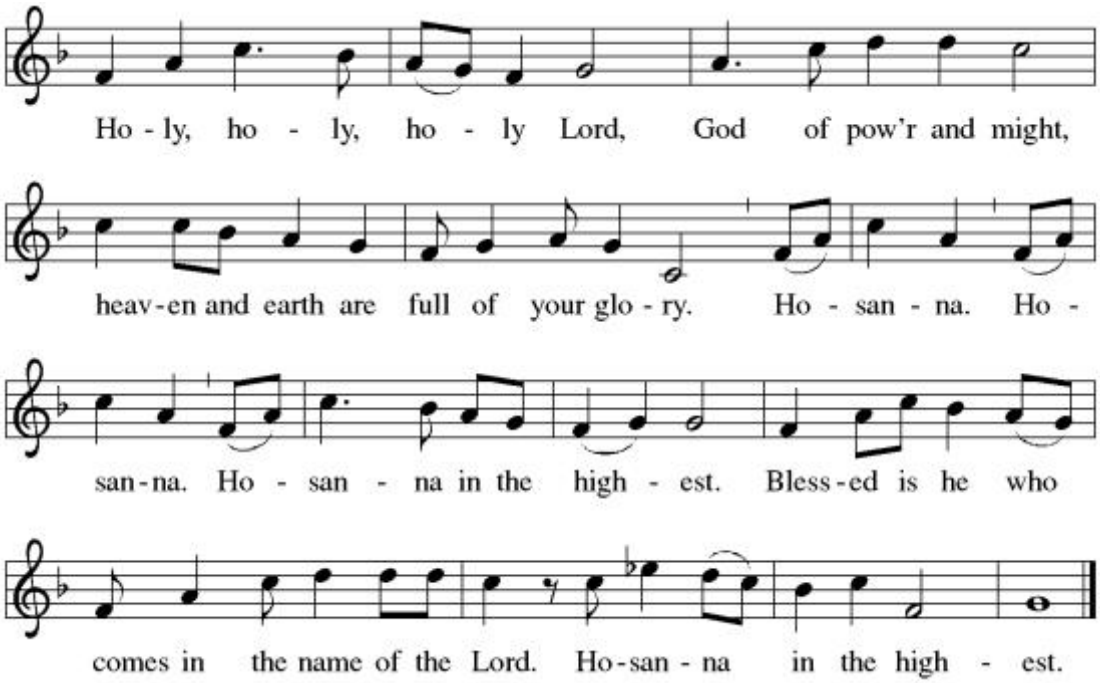
*Please be seated.*

**Great Thanksgiving**




P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**All:**



**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**All: Amen**

**Lord's Prayer**

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**All: 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

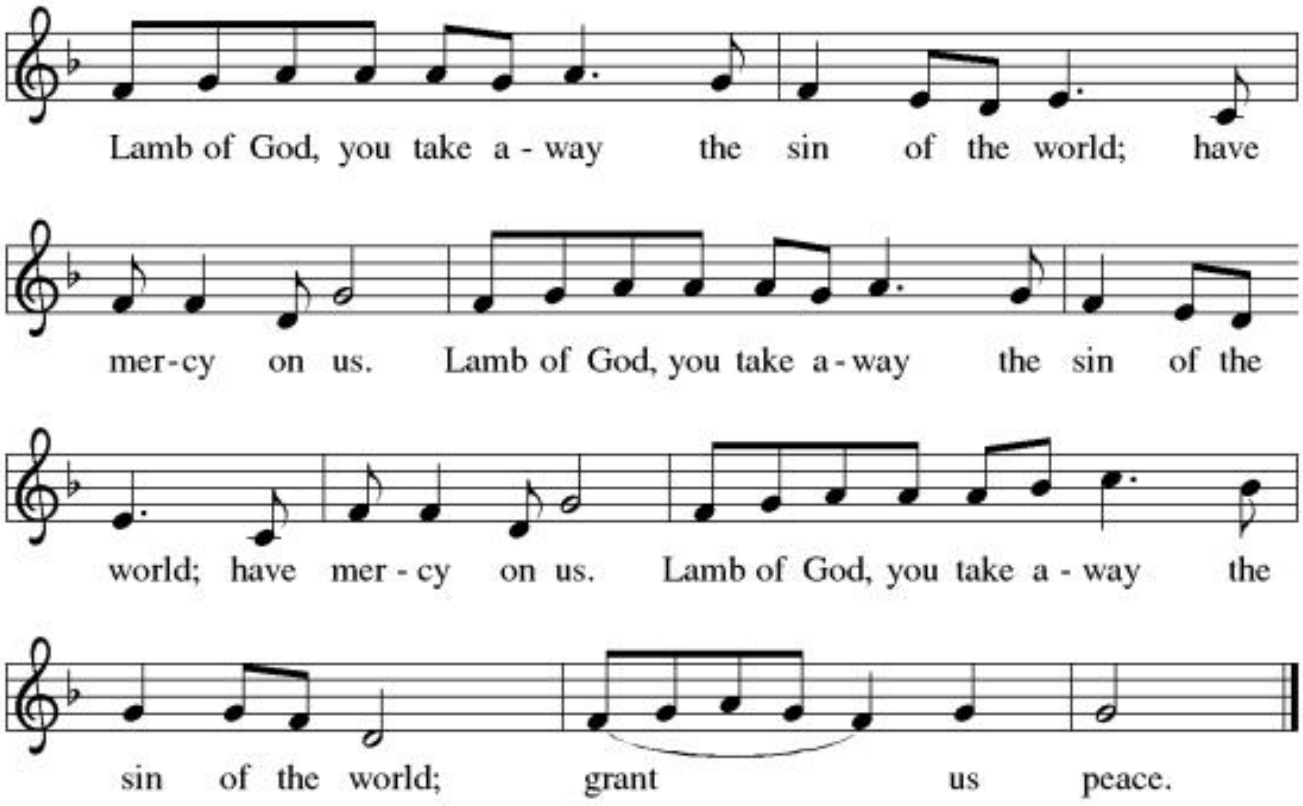
**Invitation to Communion**

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

**Communion**

*As pastor comes down to serve communion you may come forward. Please form a single line to receive the bread from him by holding out your palms to receive the wafer. Once you receive the bread, you may go to the communion assistant on the side closest to where you were seated to receive the wine. If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know, and we will bring communion to you. Please feel free to say "Amen" after you receive each element if you wish.*

**Lamb of God**




**Communion Anthem** **"He Leadth Me"** **arr. Jerry Carraway**

**Table Blessing**

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

**All: Amen.**

**Prayer After Communion**

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.

**All: Amen.**

**SENDING**

*Please rise, in body or spirit, for the Sending Hymn.*

**Sending Hymn** **"Oh, Sing to the Lord"** **ELW# 822**

Verses 1, 2, 4 and 5 - Large print words found on page 24

Text: Brazilian folk song; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923, Spanish and English
Music: CANTAD AL SEÑOR, Brazilian folk tune
Spanish and English text © Gerhard Cartford, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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**Blessing**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**All: Amen.**

*Please be seated for the Postlude*

**Postlude** **"Allegro"** **George Frideric Handel**

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**Leading Worship Today**

Pastor: Rev. Dr. Walter Still
Music: Barbara Rossow
Assisting Ministers: Barb Schmidt and Jim Persoon
Communion Assistants: Barb Schmidt and Jim Persoon
Song Leaders: Janine Almquist, Paul Kowitz or Linda Strohkirch
Livestream Producer: Silvester Vicic, Jim Persoon and or Ryan Henk
Ushers: Florence Rasmusson and David Almquist
Hospitality: Cheryl Hollman, Sharon Hanson and Judy Hangii

From sundaysandseasons.com.
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*Our service today will be live streamed if anyone would like to view our new website or be connected to Facebook.* From sundaysandseasons.com.

## Sunday, November 8th – Following the Worship

**There will be a Special Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, November 8th following the Worship Service to vote on the following resolution:**

"Be it resolved that: We the members of Arlington Hills Lutheran Church in St. Paul, MN, declare our intention to discontinue ministry and authorize the Congregation Council and its Authority Team to take whatever steps necessary for the wind-up and dissolution of
Arlington Hills Lutheran Church. The Church will hold its last worship service on Saturday, November 21, 2026 followed by a banquet.

Be it further resolved that we approve the proposed Legacy Plan of the distribution of assets of this congregation according to the procedures prescribed by the St. Paul Area Synod, the ELCA and the Minnesota Statutes.

Be it further resolved that we approve the proposed Authority Team and authorize them to conduct the legal business of Arlington Hills Lutheran Church, until such time as the Church is wound up and dissolved, in accordance with the foregoing resolutions as approved by the Congregation herein."

**Sunday Services – 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary**
**Mondays – Alley Shoppe Volunteers**
**9:00 a.m. - noon**
**Tuesdays - Alley Shoppe – Volunteers - 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**
**Alley Shoppe Clients - 9:30 a.m. – 1:30**
**Please, No Donations this fall.**
**Wednesday – ROMEO's Breakfast – 7:30 a.m. Perkins**

**October 18** – Worship at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

**October 25** – Reformation Sunday - Worship at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary followed by a Forum. Agape will be providing the music.

**November 1** – Worship at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary

**November 8** – Worship at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary –We will be taking a member's photo in the Sanctuary and then a Special Congregation Meeting in the Reception Room.

**November 15** – Worship at 9:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary – Reception thanking Pastor Walter and staff.

**Saturday – November 21** – Holy Closure Worship Service – 10:00 a.m.

## Gathering Hymn: You Servants of God

1 You servants of God, your Master proclaim,
and publish abroad his wonderful name;
the name, all-victorious, of Jesus extol;
his kingdom is glorious and rules over all!

2 Ascended on high, almighty to save,
yet still he is nigh, his presence we have.
The great congregation his triumph shall sing,
ascribing salvation to Jesus, our king!

3 Salvation to God who sits on the throne!
Let all cry aloud and honor the Son.
The praises of Jesus the angels proclaim,
fall down on their faces, and worship the Lamb.

4 Then let us adore and give him his right,
all glory and pow'r and wisdom and might,
all honor and blessing, with angels above,
and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

## Hymn of the Day:  Jesus Loves Me!

1 Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.

*Refrain*

Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.

2 Jesus loves me! he who died
heaven's gates to open wide;
he will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in.  *Refrain*

3 Jesus loves me! he will stay
close beside me all the way;
when at last I come to die,
he will take me home on high.  *Refrain*

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.

## Sending Hymn: Oh, Sing to the Lord

1 Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
Oh, sing to the Lord, oh, sing God a new song.
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

2 For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.
For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.
For God is the Lord, and God has done wonders.
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

4 Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.
Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.
Oh, shout to our God, who gave us the Spirit.
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

5 For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!
For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!
For Jesus is Lord! Amen! Alleluia!
Oh, sing to our God, oh, sing to our God.

Text: Brazilian folk song; tr. Gerhard M. Cartford, b. 1923, Spanish and English
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