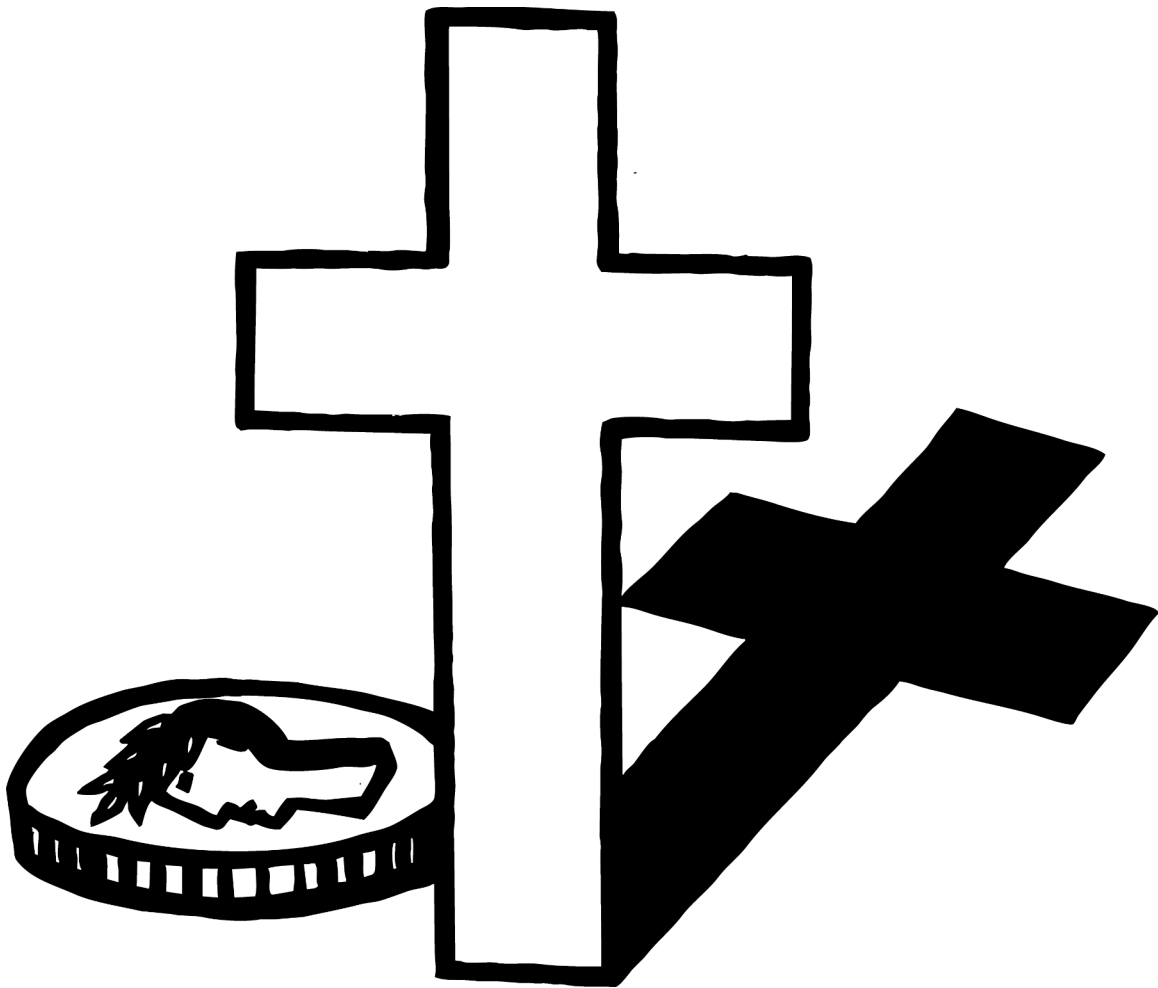




Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

October 18, 2026

10:30 am

St. Paul Lutheran Church

Growing a Christian community where each is valued, accepted, and loved.

106 Maple St., Reading, OH 45215 • 513-821-0987 • stpaulreading.org

21st Sunday after Pentecost: October 18, 2026

Prelude

Gathering

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand as you are able. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

Please kneel or sit as you are able. Silence is kept for reflection.

P: 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.

Please stand as you are able.

Entrance Hymn #252 (green hymnal)

“You Servants of God”

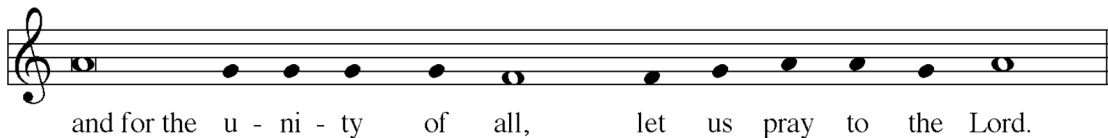
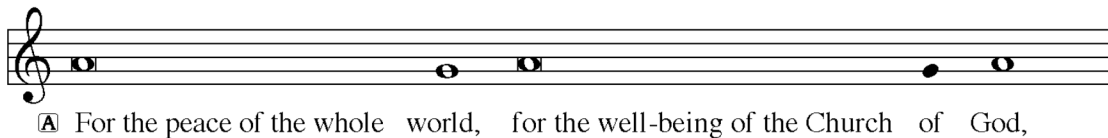
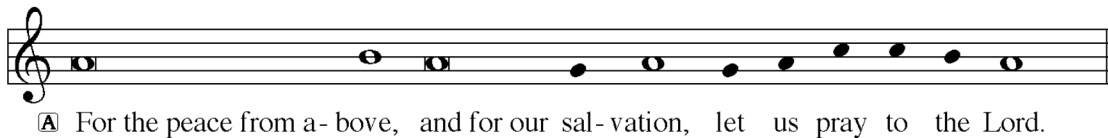
Greeting

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

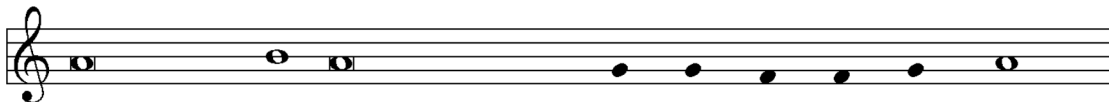
C: And also with you.

Kyrie

LBW Setting 2



(cont'd)



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **C** A - men

Hymn of Praise

LBW Setting 2



A Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



C 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.



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.



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

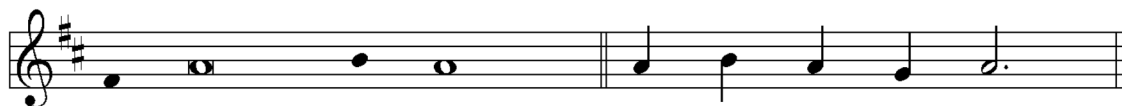


you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men

Prayer of the Day



P The Lord be with you.

C And al-so with you.

P: Let us pray.

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; re-deemed by you, let us give you what is yours, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

The Word

Blessing of the Lector

P: Let us pray.

God Almighty, we ask your blessing upon Marie as she reads to us the scriptures. May the words of her mouth and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, our rock and our redeemer.

C: Amen.

Please be seated.

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

¹Thus 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:

²I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;

³I 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.

⁴For 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.

The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody: “Sing a New Song” (Ps. 98)

Dan Schutte

Refrain (Leader):

Sing a new song unto the Lord;
let your song be sung from mountains high.
Sing a new song unto the Lord, singing alleluia.

Refrain (All):

Refrain

Sing a new song un - to the Lord; let your song be sung from
moun-tains high. Sing a new song un - to the Lord, sing-ing
al - le - lu - ia.

Leader:

Yahweh's people dance for joy, O come before the Lord.
And play for him on glad tambourines, and let your trumpet sound.

Refrain (All)

Leader:

Rise, O children, from your sleep; your Savior now has come.
He has turned your sorrow to joy, and filled your soul with song.

Refrain (All)

Leader:

Glad my soul for I have seen the glory of the Lord.
The trumpet sounds; the dead shall be raised. I know my Savior lives.

Refrain (All)

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14

¹Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

²We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly ³remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because 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.

⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For 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. ⁹For they report about us what kind of

The word of the Lord.

Please stand as you are able.

LBW Setting 2

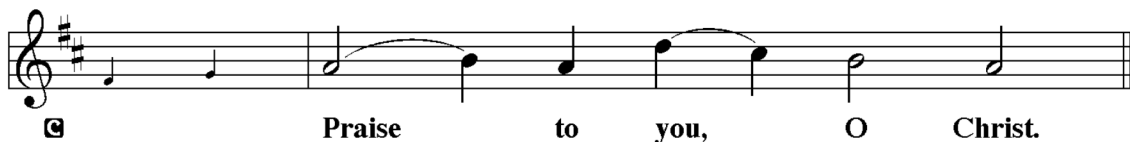
Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

9

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 the Lord.



Please be seated.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Silence for reflection and meditation.

Hymn of the Day #437 (green hymnal)

“Not Alone for Mighty Empire”

Please stand as you are able.

The Apostles’ Creed

A: Let us confess our common faith with all Christians throughout time and place, using the words of the Apostles’ Creed.

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.

Prayers of Intercession

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

After each petition:

A: Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

After the last petition:

A: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

Invitation to Offering

A: Since God promises to provide for us, we place our trust in God rather than money. We now give our offering so that we may give to God what is God's.

Offertory: Hymn #292 (maroon hymnal)

“Give Thanks”

Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: 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. Amen.

The Meal

Dialogue and Preface

LBW Setting 2

P The Lord be with you. **G** And al - so with you.

P Lift up your hearts. **G** We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

G It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through 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. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus

LBW Setting 2

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:

Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Great Thanksgiving

P: 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.

The Lord's Prayer

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

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.

Invitation to Communion

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

Please be seated.

Agnus Dei

LBW Setting 2



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



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



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion

P: The Body of Christ, broken for you.

The Blood of Christ, shed for you.

Those who wish to commune at the altar rail may either bring forward their individual Communion kit, or receive the wafer and wine/grape juice by intinction (dipping) from the Communion Ministers, when they are directed forward by the usher. Those who wish to commune in their seat with their individual Communion kit may remain seated. Children may come forward with their family for a blessing.

Communion Hymn #118 (maroon hymnal)

“Blessed Assurance”

Table Blessing

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

C: Amen.

Post-Communion Canticle

LBW Setting 2



☞ Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Post-Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray.

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.

C: Amen.

Sending

Announcements for God's Mission in the World

Please stand as you are able.

Blessing

LBW Setting 2



□ Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and for - ever. □ A - men

Closing Hymn #415 (green hymnal) vv. 1, 3-4

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Worship Leaders

The Rev. Emily Beckering, Pastor

Kris Keith, Music Director

Kate Wollenburg, Organist

Nancy Erbeck, Assisting Minister

Marie Calhoun, Reader

Chet Laine, Livestreamer

Upcoming Events

Sunday, October 18: 21 Pentecost

9 am Adult Bible Study

10 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

After worship: Evangelism Committee

Monday, October 19

7 pm Council Meeting

Tuesday, October 20

11 am Bible Study

Sunday, October 25:

Reformation Sunday/Stewardship Celebration Sunday

9 am Adult Bible Study

10 am Sunday School

10:30 am Worship Service

After worship: Quarterly Congregational Meeting

After meeting: Reformation Potluck

Monday, October 26

Epistle items due

Tuesday, October 27

11 am Bible Study

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