

Welcome to Worship

October 18, 2026

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost

Today's altar flowers are given by Marian Costello in loving memory of her son John on his birthday.

Pastor Frank Nelson

Welcome & Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

Please stand as you are able.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
who pours love into our hearts
and healing upon the earth. **Amen.**

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

Compassionate God,
**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.**

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. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

825

You Servants of God

Greeting

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

Leader

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Assembly

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have

For the reign of God, and for

mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

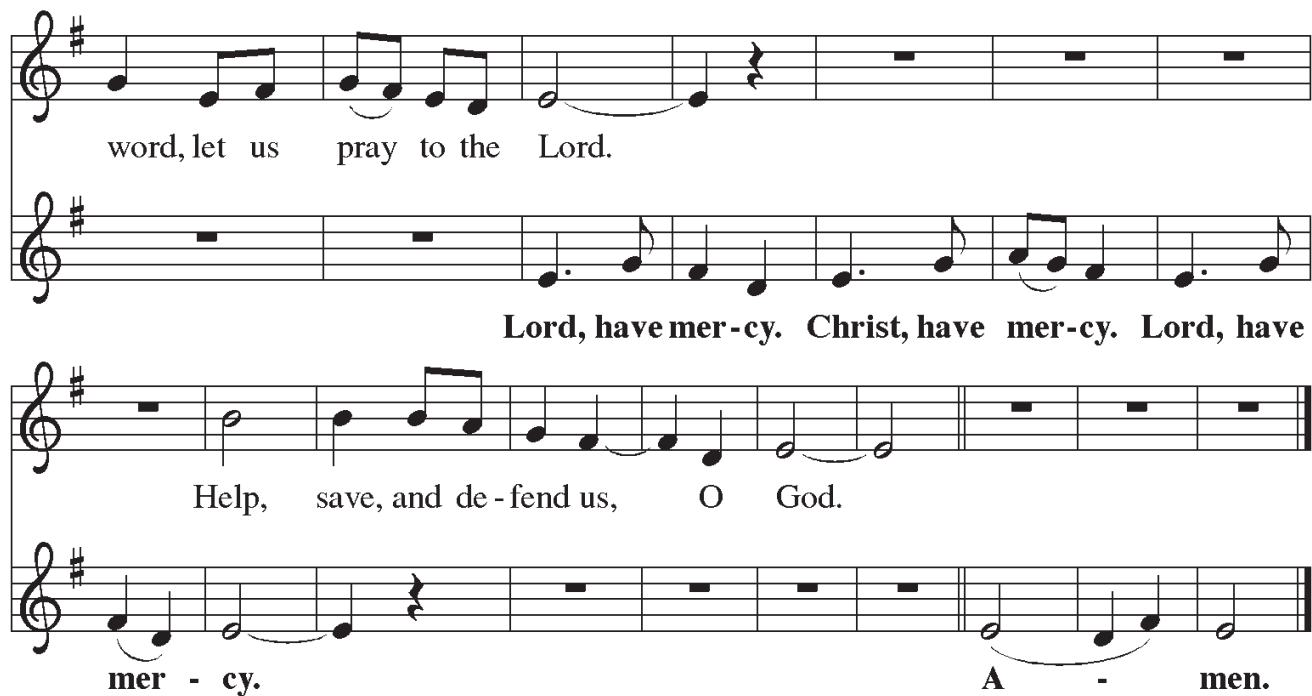
peace through-out the world, for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the

Lord.

For your

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

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your



Prayer of the Day

Let us pray together.

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.

The Word

First Reading

Isaiah 45:1-7

Please be seated.

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:
 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 give you a title, 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.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm

Psalm 96:1-9

Sing to the Lord a new song;
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
**Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;
proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
Declare God's glory among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.
**For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**
As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols;
but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.
**Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;
power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**
Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples,
ascribe to the Lord honor and power.
**Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**
Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

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 from 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 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 and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Hymn 174

Please stand as you are able.



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel

Matthew 22:15-22

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 Caesar 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, "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." When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

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

Message

Please be seated.

Hymn of the Day

Please stand as you are able.

887

This Is My Song

Apostles' Creed

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.

Prayers of Intercession

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Please be seated.

Sharing of Peace

The Peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Let us offer one another a greeting of Christ's peace.

Please stand as you are able.

Offering Prayer

Let us pray. 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.**

Meal

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Preface

Holy

Hymn 191



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

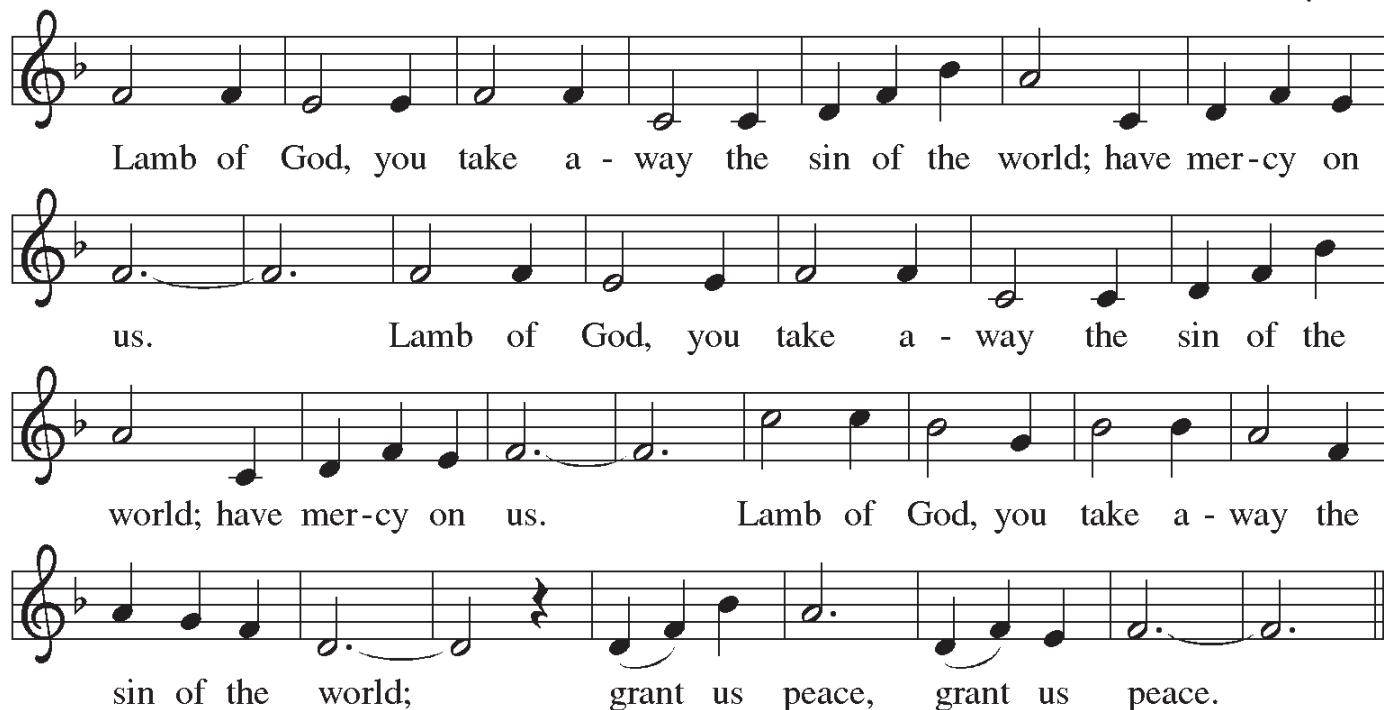
Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

Communion

Please be seated.

Lamb of God

Hymn 195



Hymns during Communion

583
686

Take My Life that I May Be
We Give Thee but Thine Own

Prayer after Communion

Please stand as you are able.

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. **Amen.**

Sending

Blessing

The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus. **Amen.**
The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit. **Amen.**
The God of grace
✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn

705

God of Grace and God of Glory

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude