

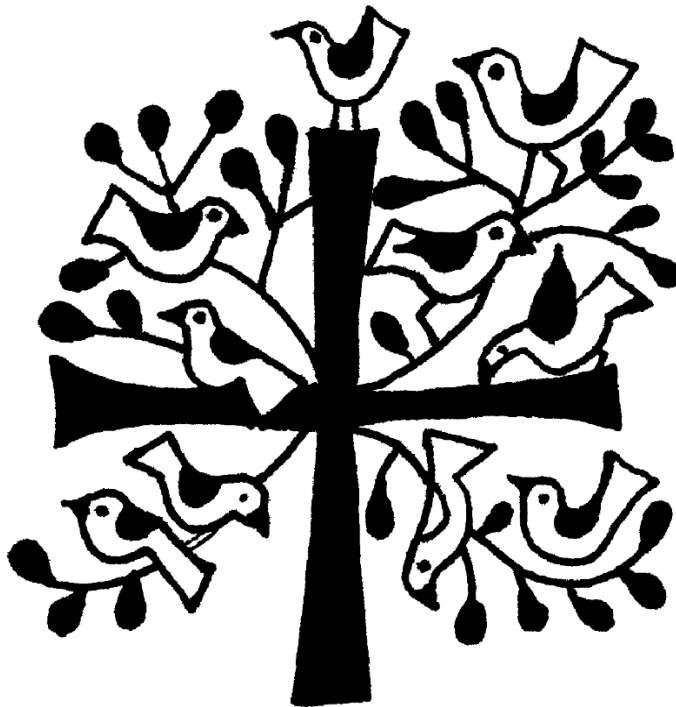
First Evangelical Lutheran Church

Reverend Tracy S. Megli

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www.felctulsa.org



Twenty First Sunday After Pentecost

October 18, 2026

9:30 am

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

Mission Statement

First Lutheran church **strives to inspire hope**
for a wounded world;

Gathers in worship
that both **uplifts** and **challenges**;

And **builds life-affirming relationships**
inside and outside the walls of our building.

As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, First Lutheran Church
welcomes all because God welcomes all,
and we recognize that our differences are gifts to our communal life.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

OCTOBER 18, 2026

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.

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the LORD has anointed to end Israel's exile. The LORD makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this LORD as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the LORD claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

Prelude

Pastor Tracy Megli

Please stand when the () indicates standing. Know the communion of Saints, both living & departed, stand for you if you should choose to remain seated for any reason.*

Welcome All

***Confession and Forgiveness**

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

*The Gathering Song

Bring Many Names

ACS 1094

Sing verses 1,2,3 & 6



1 Bring man - y names, beau - ti - ful and good,
2 Strong moth - er God, work - ing night and day,
3 Warm fa - ther God, hug - ging ev - 'ry child,
4 Old, ach - ing God, gray with end - less care,
5 Young, grow - ing God, ea - ger, on the move,
6 Great, liv - ing God, nev - er ful - ly known,



cel - e - brate, in par - a - ble and sto - ry, ho - li - ness in
plan - ning all the won - ders of cre - a - tion, set - ting each e -
feel - ing all the strains of hu - man liv - ing, car - ing and for -
calm - ly pierc - ing e - vil's new dis - guis - es, glad of good sur -
say - ing no to false - hood and un - kind - ness, cry - ing out for
joy - ful dark - ness far be - yond our see - ing, clos - er yet than



glo - ry, liv - ing, lov - ing God. Hail and ho -
qua - tion, gen - i - us at play: Hail and ho -
giv - ing till we're rec - on - ciled: Hail and ho -
pris - es, wis - er than de - spair: Hail and ho -
jus - tice, giv - ing all you have: Hail and ho -
breath - ing, ev - er - last - ing home: Hail and ho -



san - na! Bring man - y names!
san - na, strong moth - er God!
san - na, warm fa - ther God!
san - na, old, ach - ing God!
san - na, young, grow - ing God!
san - na,

6 great, liv - ing God!

Text: Brian Wren, b. 1936

Music: WESTCHASE, Carlton R. Young, b. 1926

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*The Pastoral Greeting

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

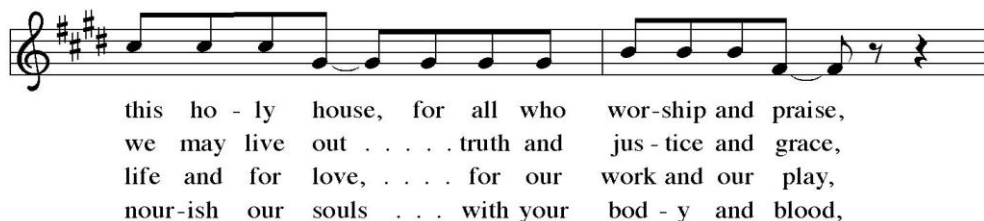
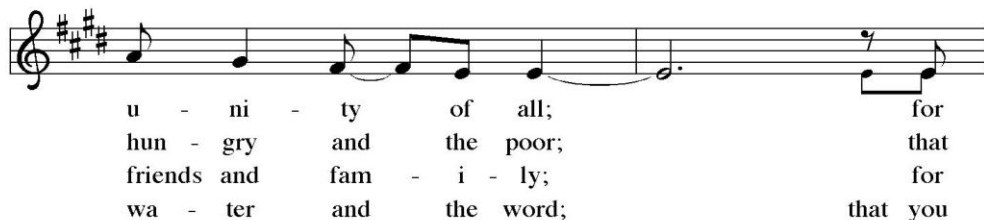
A: And also with you.

*Kyrie

ELW Setting 8



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



***The Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

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.

A: Amen.

The First Reading

Isaiah 45:1-7

- 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.

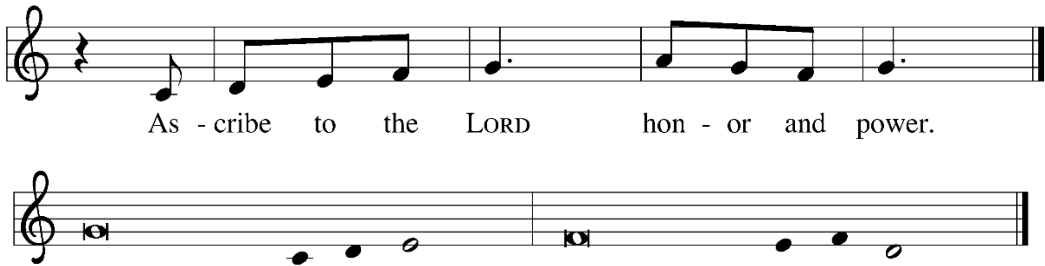
R: Word of God; Word of Life.

A: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 96:1-13

(sung responsively)

*The accompanist will introduce the refrain, followed by the Cantor singing it once.
Then the congregation sings it with the Cantor. R indicates repeat the refrain.*



- ¹ Sing to the LORD | a new song;
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.
- ² **Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.**
- ³ Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
- ⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,
more to be feared | than all gods. R**
- ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.
- ⁶ **Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.**
- ⁷ Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.
- ⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD. R**
- ⁹ Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.

- ¹⁰ **Tell it out among the nations: “The LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be
moved will judge the peoples with equity.”**
- ¹¹ Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad;
let the sea thunder and all that is in it; let the field be joyful
and all that is therein.
- ¹² **Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy
at your coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**
- ¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth. **R**

The 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.

R: Word of God; Word of Life.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

*Gospel Acclamation

ELW Setting 8

Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

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

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

P: The Holy Gospel according to St Matthew.

A: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

***The Reading of the Gospel**

Matthew 22:15-22

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.

A: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The Sermon

We observe a brief silence for reflection



Commonwealth Is God's Commandment



- 1 Com-mon-wealth is God's com-mand-ment; com-mon goods are meant to share.
- 2 Shar-ing lav-ish gifts and bless-ings, love that not one mite with-holds,
- 3 Gen-ders, rac-es, tribes, and na-tions, hear the Ho-ly One who calls,



Ta-bles set and doors wide o-pen wel-come an-gels un-a-ware.
stretch out arms to friends and strang-ers: God has sheep of man-y folds.
bid-ding all to work to-geth-er, bridg-ing lives and breach-ing walls.



Plead for the peace of all cre-a-tion. Pray for a place where grace is found.



Shan-ti, pax, sha-lom, mas-la-ha: com-mon good is ho-ly ground.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: RESTORATION, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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***The Apostle's Creed**

We now confess our faith with the whole Church in all times and places, using the words of the Apostle's 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.**

The Prayers of the People

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.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

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.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, sick, or suffering. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church. Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Hear now, O Lord, the prayers of your servants gathered here, both spoken and silent.

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

Your mercy is great.

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

Amen.

***The Peace**

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

A: **And also with you.**

P: Let us offer one another the sign of the Risen Christ's peace.

*As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we welcome all because God welcomes all,
and we recognize that our differences are gifts to our communal life.*

Anthem

*O Master, Let Me Walk With You
FELC Handbell Choir*

*Sharon Elery
Rogers*

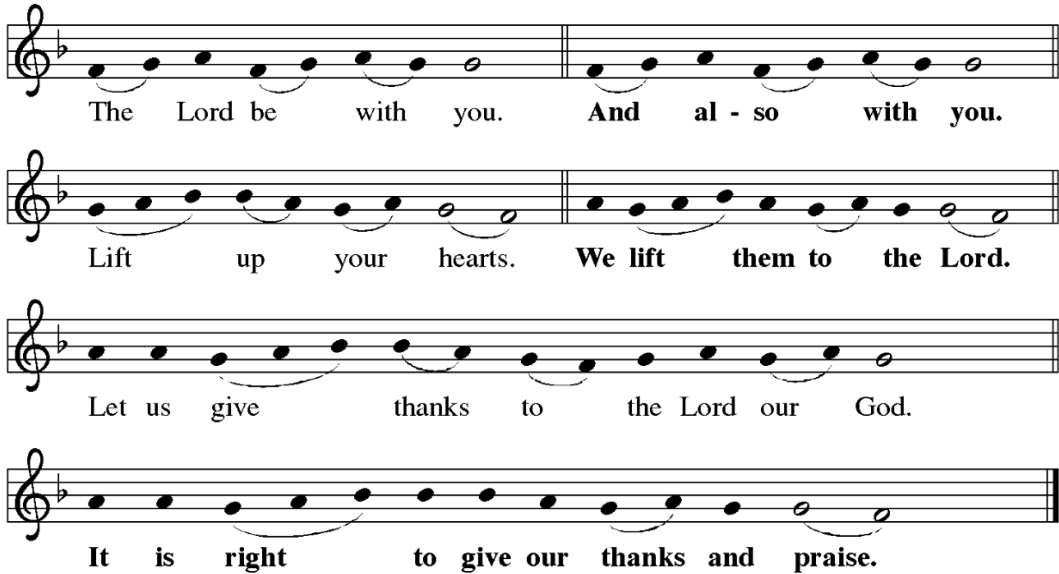
***The Offering Prayer**

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.

A: **Amen.**

*The offering plates will be available on the table in the Narthex.
Please place your offering there, as you leave.*

*The 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;
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 all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW Setting 8

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Words of Institution

- 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
- A:** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

*Lord's Prayer

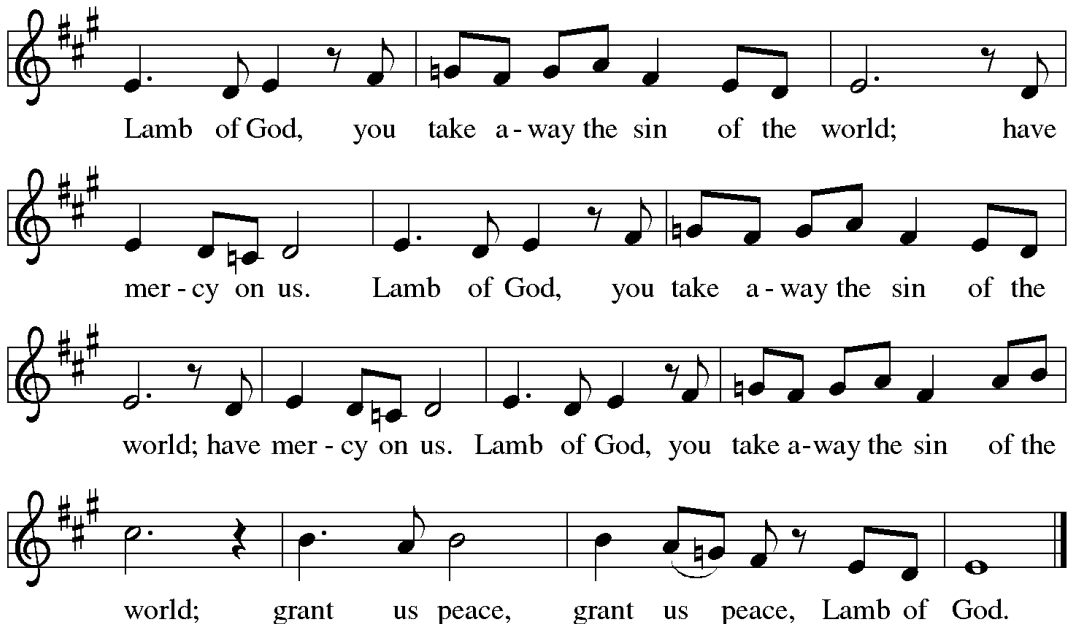
P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

A: **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.**

The Celebration of Holy Communion

*Lamb of God

ELW Setting 8



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, Lamb of God.

The Invitation to Communion

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

Please come to the communion rail and kneel (or stand). We will receive communion by intinction. Receive the (all gluten-free) bread, dip it into the wine or white grape juice, then take and eat.

The Communion Music

ACS 1082

O God, You Search Me



1 O God, you search me and you know me.
2 You know my rest - ing and my ris - ing.
3 Be - fore a word is on my tongue, Lord,
4 Al - though your Spir - it is up - on me,
5 For you cre - at - ed me and shaped me,



All my thoughts lie o - pen to your gaze.
You dis - cern my pur - pose from a - far,
you have known its mean - ing through and through.
still I search for shel - ter from your light.
gave me life with - in my moth - er's womb.



When I walk or lie down you are be - fore me:
and with love ev - er - last - ing you be - siege me:
You are with me be - yond my un - der - stand - ing:
There is no - where on earth I can es - cape you:
For the won - der of who I am, I praise you:



ev - er the mak - er and keep - er of my days.
in ev - 'ry mo - ment of life or death, you are.
God of my pres - ent, my past, and fu - ture, too.
e - ven the dark - ness is ra - diant in your sight.
safe in your hands, all cre - a - tion is made new.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: O GOD, YOU SEARCH ME, Bernadette Farrell

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***The Communion Blessing**

P: God of grace and mercy, in this holy meal you have fed us with wisdom, forgiveness, and grace, and we are full. By your Spirit send us out to become what we have received—new life in Christ—for the world.

A: Amen

***The 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.

A: Amen.

Please be seated

Community Updates

***The Blessing**

P: The God of love
draw you into full accord and one mind,
in the body of Christ Jesus.

A: Amen.

P: The God of hope
grant you strength and joy in all circumstances
through the interceding of the Spirit.

A: Amen.

P: The God of grace
✠ bless you now and forever.

A: Amen.

*The Sending Song

ELW 705

God of Grace and God of Glory



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

***Dismissal**

P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

The Church's One Foundation

Arr: Clayton J. Foor

Worship Assistants

Reader & Communion Assistant: *Bob Moody*

Crucifer: *Bruce Torkelson*

Usher(s): *Bruce & Nat Torkelson*

Music Director: *Clayton Foor*

Cantor: Jeni Lipe

*The Eternal Candle for October is given by Sara Brightwell, to the glory
of God, and in loving memory of her grandparents
Harold & Julie Diekmann.*

*The Altar Flowers are given by Bruce & Nat Torkelson to the glory of God,
and in honor of their daughter, Kristen, on her birthday.*

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