

The Beginning of the End >

THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

OCTOBER 18, 2026 ✠ 8:00 AM & 10:15 AM



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WELCOME

We're glad you're here and want you to feel comfortable!

WHAT TO EXPECT

The service is printed here except for hymns which are found in the blue hymnal in the pew. Join in as you're comfortable.

FOR FAMILIES

Children are welcome here! We know and Jesus knows that little kids have a hard time sitting quietly sometimes. They are still welcome here. Jesus said: Let the little children come to me! If needed, the entryway has audio so you can still participate.

NEED HELP?

Ask anyone—we're glad to help.

Pastors Boettcher and Peil would love to meet you - please introduce yourself!

HOLY COMMUNION

If you're a visitor today, please see our note to you about Holy Communion on page 8.

Thanks for being with us. God bless you through His Word.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END – IT'S TIME TO GIVE TO GOD WHAT IS GOD'S

"The End Is Near." For Christians, those words announce watchful hope, not fear. The End Times began with Christ's first coming, especially his death and resurrection. Now we live between salvation won and glory still to come. It's the beginning of the end.

No one knows when Christ will return. Through his Word and sacraments, God forgives our sins, strengthens our faith, and keeps us ready. For believers, the end is truly a beginning.

In the 250th anniversary year of the signing of the Declaration of the Independence of the United States of America, Americans are realizing that our freedoms are not guaranteed forever. What can we do with the limited time we have left to preach the gospel and administer the sacraments without governmental interference? We can do exactly what Jesus advised, giving to God what is God's. We can thank Jesus for fulfilling all righteousness for us, leaving us free to serve our neighbors. God does not need our good works, but our neighbors do. God's Word informs our choice of political activities as we seek to be faithful to our calling as Christian citizens.

THE DIVINE SERVICE

 *The congregation speaks and sings the words in **BOLD** type.* 

HYMN 921 Come, Thou Almighty King

INVOCATION

Please stand at the minister's direction if you are able

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

Matthew 28:19

Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:8

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just
and will forgive us our sins
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

1 John 1:9

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his innocent suffering and death.

Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

silence for reflection

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

The simple prayer, "Lord, have mercy" has been the hope-filled cry of Christians for many centuries. We pray to Jesus, who is Lord and Christ, and ask for his help based on his mercy. Kyrie is a Greek word that means "Lord" and eleison means "have mercy".

The minister sings: Lord Jesus, You raise us to new life: Kyrie eleison, eleison, Kyrie.

All sing: **Kyrie eleison, eleison, Kyrie.**

The minister sings: Lord Jesus, You forgive us our sins: Christe eleison, eleison, Christe.

All sing: **Christe eleison, eleison, Christe.**

The minister sings: Lord Jesus, You feed us with Your body and blood: Kyrie eleison, eleison, Kyrie.

All sing: **Kyrie eleison, eleison, Kyrie.**

GLORY BE TO GOD IN HEAVEN *(Gloria in Excelsis)*

Tune: *EVERYBODY*

1 Glo - ry be to God in heav - en, peace to those he
2 On - ly Son of God the Fa - ther, Lamb who takes our

loves so well. On the earth let all his peo - ple speak his
sin a - way, now with him in tri - umph seat - ed— for your

grace, his won - ders tell: Lord, we praise you for your
mer - cy, Lord, we pray: Je - sus Christ, most high and

glo - ry, might - y Fa - ther, heav - en's King; hear our
ho - ly, Sav - lor, you are God a - lone in the

joy - ful ad - o - ra - tion and ac - cept the thanks we bring.
glo - ry of the Fa - ther with the Spir - it, Three in One!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

2 Timothy 4:22

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O Lord our God, so govern the nations on earth and direct the affairs of this world that your church may worship you in peace and joy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Be seated.

THE WORD OF GOD

FIRST READING

Daniel 1:3-21

The first verses of Daniel 1 tell us that the Lord allowed young crown prince Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon to conquer Jerusalem. Daniel and his young friends were carried from their home, from the Temple where they met with the Lord, and from all they knew to serve a foreign king with foreign gods. They obeyed the ruler. But Daniel is also bold to honor the true God.

Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you."

Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel,

Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, "Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds. At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in his whole kingdom.

And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96



1 Sing to the LORD, ye dis - tant lands, ye tribes of ev - 'ry
2 Let heav'n pro-claim the joy - ful day; let joy on earth be
3 Be - hold, he comes, he comes to bless the na - tions as their

tongue; his new - dis - cov - ered grace de - mands a
seen; let cit - ies shine in bright ar - ray, and
God, to show the world his right - eous - ness, and

new and no - bler song. Tell all the na - tions,
fields in cheer - ful green. Let joy a - bove all
send his truth a - broad. But when his voice shall

"Je - sus reigns, God's own al - might - y Son; his pow'r the
joys sur - prise the is - lands of the sea; ye moun - tains
raise the dead, and bid the world draw near, how will the

sink - ing world sus - tains, and grace sur - rounds his throne."
sink; ye val - leys rise; pre - pare the LORD his way.
guilt - y na - tions dread to see their judge ap - pear.

SECOND READING

Romans 1:16-17

St. Paul tells us to submit to the governing authorities and honor them because they are established by God.

Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is

right and you will be commended. For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give

their full time to governing. Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Colossians 2:10

Alleluia! In Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority.
Alleluia!

THE HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 22:15-22

Jesus teaches we are to give the government what belongs to the government. But we are not to give to the government what belongs only to God..

Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren't swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?"

But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, "You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap

me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax." They brought him a denarius, and he asked them, "Whose image is this? And whose inscription?"

"Caesar's," they replied.

Then he said to them, "So give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to You, O Christ!

Be seated.

HYMN 619 | Praise the Almighty; My Soul, Adore Him

SERMON MATTHEW 22

Please stand

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,**

Romans 10:10; Dt 6:4

Matthew 6:9; Ex 6:3

Genesis 1:1; John 1:1

Colossians 1:16

Romans 10:9

Matthew 16:16

John 3:16

John 1:1,8:12,17:22

Colossians 2:9

**begotten, not made,
 of one being with the Father.
 Through him all things were made.
 For us and for our salvation,
 he came down from heaven,
 was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
 and became truly human.
 For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.
 He suffered death and was buried.
 On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.
 He ascended into heaven
 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory
 to judge the living and the dead,
 and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the Lord, the giver of life,
 who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
 who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
 who has spoken through the prophets.
 We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.
 We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
 We look for the resurrection of the dead
 and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*John 1:2
 John 10:30
 Hebrews 1:2; John 1:3
 1 Tim 2:4; Rom 3:23
 John 6:41; Luke 15:20
 Luke 1:34-35
 John 1:14
 Mk 15:25; Jn 19:16-18
 Jn 19:1-3; Lk 23:53
 1 Cor 15:4; Lk 24:6
 Acts 1:9
 Acts 7:55
 Matthew 26:64
 Acts 10:42; Mt 3:12
 2 Peter 1:11

 Jn 14:26; Acts 2:38
 Genesis 1:2; John 3:6
 John 15:26
 Mt 3:16-17
 Ez 11:5; 2 Pt 1:20-21
 1 Peter 2:5; Eph 2:19-22
 Ephesians 4:5; Acts 2:38
 1 Co 15:35-49; 1 Thes 4
 Psalm 106:48*

Be seated

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. [Especially bless . . .] Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love

and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.
Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.

OFFERING



Moved by God's love in Christ, we return to God our first and best gifts, purely out of thanks to Him.

There is an offering plate in the entry way for those who wish to give in that way.

One time or recurring GIFTS can be given through an account on our app: Church Center (QR Code on the left.)

*Or, for a one time gift, text **Give + dollar amount (example: Give\$5)** to **1 (844) 791-0302**. You'll receive a link to follow in response.*

A NOTE TO OUR GUESTS *Children and those who are not communicant members of our church may come forward for a blessing. Those who do are asked to cross their arms on their chest to indicate this.*

Prince of Peace practices closed communion, because the Bible teaches it and because we love you. That means we ask that only members of Prince of Peace or other congregations in our fellowship take the Lord's Supper this morning. This is not a judgment of anyone's faith, it is simply our desire to uphold what God says in 1 Corinthians 10 and 11 about who should receive Holy Communion and how. Because we believe from these words that Jesus' body and blood is really present in and with the bread and wine, we want to be sure that it is received in the manner He has commanded us.

Please speak to Pastor Boettcher or Pastor Peil about communing with us in the future if you're not part of our congregation. **Thank you for your understanding!**

THE SACRAMENT

Stand

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

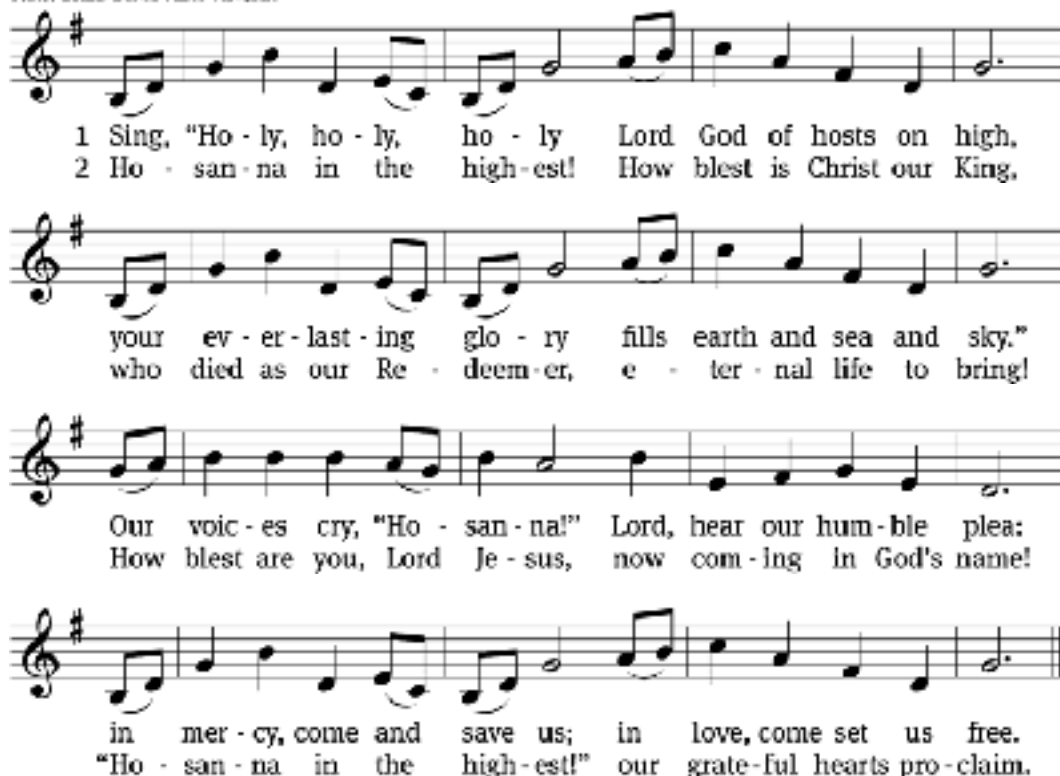
It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory.

Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Tune: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR



1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,
your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!
Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!
in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament and deepen

our longing for the day when he will welcome us to his eternal feast.

Remember us in Your kingdom as we pray...

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 WORDS OF OUR LORD JESUS

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my ✝ body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my ☩ blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

O LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy on us, *repeat as needed*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sins of the world, have mer - cy on us, *repeat as needed*

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the
world, grant us peace.

Be seated

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

HYMN 671 Your Body, Given For Me, O Savior

HYMN 749 God Whose Giving Knows No Ending

After the distribution, the minister speaks this blessing:

The true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you to life everlasting. Go in peace. Your + sins are forgiven.

Amen.

Please stand

PRAYER

Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good;
His mercy endures forever.

Psalm 118:1

Whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

1 Corinthians 11:26

We give you thanks, O Lord, for the foretaste of the heavenly banquet you have given us in this Sacrament. Through this gift you have fed our faith, nourished our hope, and strengthened our love. By your Spirit, help us to live as your holy people until that day when you will receive us as your guests at the wedding supper of the Lamb, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

Be seated

CLOSING HYMN 775 Before You, Lord, We Bow



We thank our Lord for Tori Diersen and her gifts used to serve us our Savior with music this morning!