

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

204 S. Chase Street, Houston, MN
507-896-3102

Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost Worship
with Holy Communion/Caring Collection/FB
October 18, 2026



Monday:

Tuesday: 9:30 a.m. Fall Supper Follow Up Mtg.
6:00 p.m. Council Mtg.

Wednesday:

Thursday:

Friday: Pastor's Day Off

Saturday:

Sunday: 8:30 Choir
9:30 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion/FB
10:30 a.m. – 11:15 a.m. First Communion Class/Coffee Hr.
No Sunday School/Confirmation

Cross of Christ Mission Statement: As a fellowship of believers, it is our mission to joyfully proclaim the gospel of Christ in word and deed; inviting people to worship together, nurturing them in the Christian faith, loving one another and serving a world in need.

Prelude

Ringling of the Church Bell

Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Amen

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God,

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

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. **Amen**

Gathering Song: ELW #759 “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” vs 1-3

1 My faith looks up to thee,
thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray,
take all my guilt away,
oh, let me from this day
be wholly thine!

2 May thy rich grace impart
strength to my fainting heart,
my zeal inspire;
as thou hast died for me,
oh, may my love to thee
pure, warm, and changeless be,
a living fire!

3 While life's dark maze I tread
and griefs around me spread,
be thou my guide;
bid darkness turn to day,
wipe sorrow's tears away,
nor let me ever stray
from thee aside.

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

Psalm 96:1-9

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 among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

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 honor and power.
- ⁸ **Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**
- ⁹ Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness;
tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia. Alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

P: The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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 the Lord. **C: Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Dana Jackson

Hymn of the Day ELW #596 "My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

1 My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

2 When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil. **R**

(Refrain)

**On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.**

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away,
he then is all my hope and stay. **R**

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeemed to stand before the throne! **R**

Apostle's Creed

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.**

Prayers of Intercession:

P: Lord in your mercy. **C: Hear our prayer.**

Caring Collection

Offering Collection

Offertory “Let the Vineyards be Fruitful”

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

**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, for ever and ever. Amen**

Invitation to Communion

Congregation Response: **All are welcome.**

The Distribution (*Please sign the pew pad.*)

Communion Hymns: 471, 493, 515

Sending Song: ELW #705 “God of Grace and God of Glory” vs 1,2&4

1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

2 Lo! the hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us

free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days,

4 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Thank You for helping with the service today:

Organist: Shelley Jerviss

Choir Directors: Jo Ann Miller, Jacob Olson

Reader: Larry Jerviss

Acolytes: Amelia Halvorson, Della Hegland-Tarr

Communion: Larry Jerviss, Ruth Kempter, Carrie Herek

Usher: Riley Wood, Macy Jarchow, Duane Hegland

Announcements



Thank you to Ann Markegard for creating the Window Walk last Sunday. Thank you to our youth who guided the walk and those who were able to participate.

Sunday November 1st Noisy Offering Collection/Daylight Savings.

Sunday November 1st All Saints Sunday. Consider bringing a photo of a loved one to place on the altar as we remember those who have died.

SAVE THE DATE - November 21st WELCA will be hosting the annual holiday bazaar. As always we encourage and appreciate your continued support by donating baked goods, candy, preserves, produce, and crafts. Watch for more details to follow soon.