

Sunday Worship Service – October 4, 2026

Luther College Homecoming – 100 Years on Royal Street

Worship words from various resources as indicated in the footnotes.

Welcome and Announcements

A Moment for Reflection

Call to Worship ¹

The heavens proclaim the glory of God!

We too proclaim what God has done in our lives.

Voices of praise shout to the ends of the earth.

May we join the chorus, as we sing of God's great and abiding love!

Opening Prayer

Creating God, like the earth around us, we gather to proclaim your glory.

We pray that you will revive our souls today.

We pray that you will help us become a little bit wiser.

We pray that our hearts will rejoice at the sound of your name.

We pray that our eyes will be opened to your ways.

We pray that we might live in peace and harmony with one another.

And we pray that today, and every day,

we will again choose to follow in the ways of Christ,

so that our lives may become an example

of your love and grace to the world.

In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen.

Return & Renewal ² (Confession & Forgiveness)

Return to the Lord your God who is gracious,

and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

God of all mercy and consolation,

your love is steadfast. Your love is patient.

God of our near and far, you meet us where we are –

each peak and valley of our lives.

Restore us by your Spirit's power.

Open our eyes to you, our source of life.

¹ *Call to Worship* and *Opening Prayer* written by Karin Ellis, from **Abingdon Worship Annual 2026** © 2025 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN.

² *Return & Renewal*, and *Words of Assurance* from "Liturgy of the Beloved" © Johnston-Urey Music, All Rights Reserved. Used with Permission.

Come sanctify our hearts and minds.
May we walk your pathways to the glory of your name!

As in the Garden of our Unknowing,
We found division in worldly wisdom.
Long have we wandered from the wisdom of your love-
Help us to find our way back home.

Forgive us, Lord, as we forgive,
heeding the call to love as you have loved.
Let Mercy reign in ev'ry heart.
May the Way of Christ be the pattern of our lives.

Down through the ages, your love is changeless-
across the nations, each generation.
You are the cleansing rain. You wash away our pain,
and by your grace we have been saved.

Words of Assurance

God of our Unending, your love is as boundless as the heavens.
Your grace is a river that flows without ceasing.
In Jesus, you weave yourself into the fabric of our humanity-
Divine Mercy made manifest in our own time.

Therefore, Beloved, hear the good news:
In love you were made, and to love you shall return.
In the name of ✠Jesus Christ every distance is bridged,
Every division is healed, and every heart is made whole.
May Christ be your heart's everlasting desire.
May the Words of Life be ever upon your lips!
Amen.

Hymn of Praise *"Praise to the Lord, the Almighty"* #858

1. Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!
2. Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?

3. **Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.**
4. **Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again. Gladly forever adore him!**

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

Beloved God, from you come all things that are good. Lead us by the inspiration of your Spirit to know those things that are right, and by your merciful guidance, help us to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Scripture Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7 (Read by April Cuthbert)

The prophet sings a sad, parable-like love song about the relationship between God and Israel. In this song Israel is compared to a promising vineyard. Despite God's loving care, the vineyard that is Israel has brought forth "rotten grapes" of injustice and distress, when fine grapes of justice and righteousness were expected. A reading from the Book of Isaiah, the 5th chapter.

Let me sing for my loved one a love song for his vineyard.

My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside.

He dug it, cleared away its stones, planted it with excellent vines, built a tower inside it, and dug out a wine vat in it.

He expected it to grow good grapes—but it grew rotten grapes.

so now, you who live in Jerusalem, you people of Judah,

judge between me and my vineyard:

What more was there to do for my vineyard that I haven't done for it?

When I expected it to grow good grapes, why did it grow rotten grapes?

Now let me tell you what I'm doing to my vineyard.

I'm removing its hedge, so it will be destroyed.

I'm breaking down its walls, so it will be trampled.

I'll turn it into a ruin; it won't be pruned or hoed,

and thorns and thistles will grow up.

I will command the clouds not to rain on it.

The vineyard of the LORD of heavenly forces is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are the plantings in which God delighted.
 God expected justice, but there was bloodshed;
 righteousness, but there was bloodshed.

WA Here ends the reading.

DH **Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.**

Choir Anthem “Cornerstone” Performed by the Luther College Senior Choir

Scripture Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14 (Read by Nora Marpole)

The Apostle Paul was often accused – by Jews and by Jewish Christians – of having abandoned his ancestral Faith. He defends himself by a brief autobiography, and a description of the intimacy of his relationship with Jesus. A reading from the Letter to the Philippians, the 3rd chapter.

If anyone else has reason to put their confidence in physical advantages, I have even more: I was circumcised on the eighth day. I am from the people of Israel and the tribe of Benjamin. I am a Hebrew of the Hebrews. With respect to observing the Law, I’m a Pharisee. With respect to devotion to the faith, I harassed the church. With respect to righteousness under the Law, I’m blameless.

These things were my assets, but I wrote them off as a loss for the sake of Christ. But even beyond that, I consider everything a loss in comparison with the superior value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. I have lost everything for him, but what I lost I think of as sewer trash, so that I might gain Christ and be found in him. In Christ I have a righteousness that is not my own and that does not come from the Law but rather from the faithfulness of Christ. It is the righteousness of God that is based on faith. The righteousness that I have comes from knowing Christ, the power of his resurrection, and the participation in his sufferings. It includes being conformed to his death so that I may perhaps reach the goal of the resurrection of the dead.

It’s not that I have already reached this goal or have already been perfected, but I pursue it, so that I may grab hold of it because Christ grabbed hold of me for just this purpose. Brothers and sisters, I myself don’t think I’ve reached it, but I do this one thing: I forget about the things behind me and reach out for the things ahead of me. The goal I pursue is the prize of God’s upward call in Christ Jesus.

Here ends the reading. **Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.**

Gospel Acclamation “God’s Word Is Our Great Heritage” #509

**God’s word is our great heritage and shall be ours forever;
to spread its light from age to age shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay,
Lord, grant while time shall last your church may hold it fast
throughout all generations.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:33-46

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 21st chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

“Listen to another parable. There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it, and built a tower. Then he rented it to tenant farmers and took a trip. When it was time for harvest, he sent his servants to the tenant farmers to collect his fruit. But the tenant farmers grabbed his servants. They beat some of them, and some of them they killed. Some of them they stoned to death.

“Again he sent other servants, more than the first group. They treated them in the same way. Finally he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said.

“But when the tenant farmers saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come on, let’s kill him and we’ll have his inheritance.’ They grabbed him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

“When the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenant farmers?”

They said, “He will totally destroy those wicked farmers and rent the vineyard to other tenant farmers who will give him the fruit when it’s ready.”

Jesus said to them, “Haven’t you ever read in the scriptures, *The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone. The Lord has done this, and it’s amazing in our eyes?* Therefore, I tell you that God’s kingdom will be taken away from you and will be given to a people who produce its fruit. Whoever falls on this stone will be crushed. And the stone will crush the person it falls on.”

Now when the chief priests and the Pharisees heard the parable, they knew Jesus was talking about them. They were trying to arrest him, but they feared the crowds, who thought he was a prophet.

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon: Fruits of God's Kingdom

Hymn of the Day *"Soli Deo Gloria"* #878

1. O God of blessings, all praise to you!
Your love surrounds us our whole life through.
You are the freedom of those oppressed;
you are the comfort of all distressed.
Come now, O holy and welcome guest:
Soli Deo gloria! Soli Deo gloria!
2. All praise for prophets, through grace inspired
to preach and witness with hearts on fire.
Your Spirit chooses the weak and small
to sing the new reign where mighty fall;
with them may we live your gospel call:
Soli Deo Gloria! Soli Deo Gloria!
3. All praise for music, deep gift profound,
through hands and voices in holy sound;
the psalms of David, and Mary's praise,
in wordless splendor and lyric phrase,
with all creation one song we raise:
Soli Deo Gloria! Soli Deo Gloria!
4. All praise for Jesus, best gift divine
through word and witness, in bread and wine;
incarnate love song of boundless grace,
priest, teacher, prophet in time and space,
your steadfast kindness with human face:
Soli Deo Gloria! Soli Deo Gloria!
5. A billion voices in one great song,
now soft and gentle, now deep and strong,
in ev'ry culture and style and key,
from hill and valley, with sky and sea,
with Christ we praise you eternally:
Soli Deo Gloria! Soli Deo Gloria!

Prayers of Intercession (Pastor Larry and Pastor Chris share these prayers)

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for Luther College, our community and the world.

A brief silence.

God of every generation, we give thanks for the presence of Luther College on Royal Street for the past century. We give you thanks for this place where generations have gathered for learning, where knowledge has been advanced and individuals have grown. We give thanks for all the people who worked to establish this school in Regina, for all those who supported, strengthened and expanded the school through the decades. With their dedication to quality education in a Christian context, Luther College has made a positive impact on our community, our country, and the world. For the faithfulness of those who helped make Luther College into the institution it is today, we give you thanks and praise. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Eternal God, source of all goodness: we give you thanks for the gift of reason and the opportunity of education. Bless Luther College, that it may continue to be a place of learning and growth, where teachers challenge the minds and nurture the hearts of students. Grant that teachers and students may work together in mutual respect and find joy in the challenges of academic life. May Luther College be a place for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

O God, Great Spirit and Creator, we praise you for your gifts that surround us – for the gift of the land that gives us food, shelter and water; for the gift of the sun that gives warmth and light to all that grows; for the gifts of language and culture, through which your peoples praise you, and share the most deeply held values you have engraved on their hearts. Open our eyes to the injustices brought against the Indigenous peoples of this land. Give us repentant hearts that ache with sorrow for their violence against First Nations families and their children. Give us determined hearts that refuse to stand by when the dignity of our Indigenous brothers and sisters is trampled. Give us healing hearts that beat with the drum of Jesus' Gospel, to defend and honour our Indigenous neighbour, their language and way of life. Make us stewards of one another's dignity, of one another's safety, of one another's right to a cultural identity as unique peoples, as gifts to the human family, and as your beloved children. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of every tribe and nation, restore peace to the world's conflict zones, and shelter those who live within them. We pray especially for the safety of displaced people and refugees. We pray for the peoples and leaders of the nations, that they may be reconciled one to another in pursuit of your justice and peace. We pray for all in need because of famine, flood, or earthquake, that they may know the hope of your faithfulness through the help of others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of compassion, we pray for all who suffer the pain of sickness, loneliness, fear, or loss, that those whose names are in our hearts, in the hearts of others, or known to you alone, may receive strength and courage. We pray for those in hospital, Edna Wentland, Patricia Waldbauer, Helen Kochanik, and Garry Hubick - grant them healing and comfort. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of comfort, surround those who sorrow with your comfort and love - the family and friends of Irene Schultz, Edna Olson, Rose Johnston, and Michelle Richter. May they know the hope that comes from the promise that neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of creation, you have ordered the seedtime and harvest, sunshine and rain. Keep farmers and all agricultural workers safe as they work the land. Grant that the people of this and every nation may give thanks to you for food, drink, and all that sustains life; may we use with care the land and water from which these good things come, and may we honor the laborers who produce them. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

God of hope and new life, help us to see the joy and abundant life you intend for us. Grant us your peace – peace which is not the absence of trouble, but the awareness of your guiding presence in all that we do. Teach us to be vehicles for your redeeming love, moving through our world reconciling and making all things new. Equip us with a love which can reach out to others with the assurance of their worth, and their place within the circle of your love, that they too may come to know themselves as the beloved sons and daughters of your grace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

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

The Lord's Prayer

Gathered as one in the Holy Spirit, we 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.

Offering³

In our effort to know Christ, we realize how much God has given to us. We offer a portion of our gifts to God in thanksgiving and praise for all we have been given.

(an Offering plate is placed on the altar)

Offering Prayer

Please join me in the Offering prayer:

**Holy One, creator of all, we give you thanks for all you have entrusted to us.
As good stewards, we now bring you these gifts and ask that you use them
to help your children around the world.
As we bring our gifts, we also offer our lives,
praying that you will use us to bear good fruit for all people. Amen.**

Sending Song *“Wind of the Spirit”*

1. **Your Wind is blowin’ across the lonely land
We are your messengers, your touch is in our hand
Use us, Lord Jesus, to care for our friends
Help us to love them, it’s your great command.**

Refrain: **Oh Wind of the Spirit fill the sails of my soul.
Send us on Lord. Let your wind blow.
Oh Wind of the Spirit fill the sails of my soul.
Send us on Lord. Let your wind blow. Oh, oh, oh.**
2. **Your Spirit is moving with power and might.
We’ll walk together by faith, not by sight.
You’re calling an army to rise up and fight.
We’ll be your soldiers flooding darkness with light. *(Refrain)***

Bridge: **Oh, oh, let your Wind blow. *(Repeat adding harmonies, then Refrain)***

Blessing

May the glory of our Creator be ever present with you.
May the peace of Christ become the foundation of your life.
And may the Holy Spirit empower you to keep striving
for the ways of Christ. Amen.

³ *Offering Prayer* written by Karin Ellis, from **Abingdon Worship Annual 2026** © 2025 Abingdon Press, Nashville, TN.

Benediction Song “*May the Grace of Christ Attend Us*” (#963 Voices United)

**May the grace of Christ attend us, and the love of God surround us,
And the Holy Spirit keep us, now and ever. Amen.**

Commission

Go in peace, inspired by Christ to love and serve.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude – Joshua Hendricksen