

**Service of the Word: October 18, 2026
Christ Lutheran Church, Regina, SK**

Welcome and Announcements

A Moment of Reflection

Call to Worship

The choice is before us: life or death.

Let us choose life so that we may live.

To Jesus we cry: Cleanse us, oh Lord!

By the mercy of Christ we are made clean.

This is the hope that we proclaim:

That Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

Amen

Gathering Hymn ELW 836 Joyful Joyful We Adore Thee

1. Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.
2. All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,

**ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!**

Confession and Forgiveness¹

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.

¹ *Sundays and Seasons* © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN

Prayer of the Day²

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.

Readings and Psalm³

Isaiah 45:1-7

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,

² *Sundays and Seasons* © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN

³ NRSVUE translation from *Sundays and Seasons* © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN

I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

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

Psalm 96:1-13

- 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.
- 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.

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.

Here ends the reading

Inspire our understanding, Spirit of God.

Gospel Acclamation – Lord Let My Heart be Good Soil ELW #512 *once through*

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
open to the seed of your word.**

**Lord, let my heart be good soil,
where love can grow
and peace is understood.**

**When my heart is hard,
break the stone away.**

**When my heart is cold,
warm it with the day.**

When my heart is lost,
 lead me on your way.
Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart,
Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Gospel Matthew 22:15-22

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

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.

The gospel of our Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon: Chosen or Choosing

Hymn of the Day ELW 807 Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

- 1. Come, thou Fount of ev’ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.**

2. Here I raise my Ebenezer:
“Hither by thy help I’ve come”;
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand’ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.
3. Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I’m constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand’ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here’s my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.

Apostles’ Creed

We confess our faith together, using the words of the 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 Intercession⁴

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.**

⁴ *Sundays and Seasons* © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN

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. We pray especially for Doug Craddock, Samuel Uleryk, Ike Weeres, and Patricia Waldbauer. 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.**

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 Lord's Prayer

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.

Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering/Offering Prayer⁵

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.

Sending Hymn ELW 634 All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name (vs. 1, 2, 5, 6)

- 1. All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name!
Let angels prostrate fall;
bring forth the royal diadem
and crown him Lord of all.
Bring forth the royal diadem
and crown him Lord of all.**
- 2. O seed of Israel's chosen race
now ransomed from the fall,
hail him who saves you by his grace
and crown him Lord of all.
Hail him who saves you by his grace
and crown him Lord of all.**
- 5. Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe
on this terrestrial ball
to him all majesty ascribe
and crown him Lord of all.
To him all majesty ascribe
and crown him Lord of all.**
- 6. Oh, that with yonder sacred throng
we at his feet may fall!
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.
We'll join the everlasting song
and crown him Lord of all.**

⁵ *Sundays and Seasons* © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN

Blessing⁶

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.

Dismissal

Go in peace, inspired by Christ to love and serve! **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude: Joshua Hendricksen

⁶ *Sundays and Seasons* © Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN