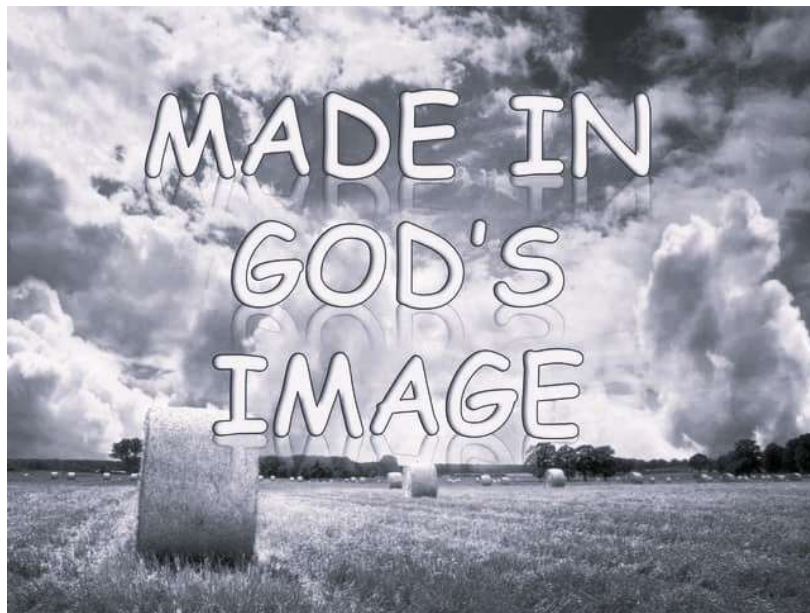




**21st Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026**

**HOLY TRINITY EVANGELICAL
LUTHERAN CHURCH**

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
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October 18, 2026

10:00AM

21ST SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*** THE CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

**Please Stand as you are able*

* **THE GATHERING SONG:** *Here I Am Lord* #574

* **THE GREETING**

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

C: And also with you.

* **THE PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.

THE WORD

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.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 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.

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.

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

*** THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (Sung page 151a)

C: Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 22nd chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord!

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 the Lord!
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

GOOD NEWS 101 Children’s Message

THE SERMON

THE HYMN OF THE DAY: *Lift Every Voice and Sing* #841

*** 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 THE CHURCH**

Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

Hear us O God,
Your mercy is great.

*** SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

**THE OFFERING
SPECIAL MUSIC**

*** THE OFFERTORY: Give Thanks**

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, his Son. Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because He's given Jesus Christ, his Son. And now let the weak say, "I am strong" let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say, "I am strong" let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. Give Thanks!

*** THE OFFERING PRAYER**

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.

*** THE LORD'S PRAYER**

pg. 154

**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.**

SENDING

*** THE BLESSING**

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.

*** THE SENDING SONG: *Lift High The Cross* #660**

*** THE DISMISSAL**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

Serving Today: October 18, 2026

Acolyte: Baylee Rodig

Lector: Hank Bariexca

Ushers: Ferol Howell & Bonnie Mazza

Musician: Danny Allen

Sound System: Bonnie Mazza

Serving Next Week: October 25, 2026

Acolyte: Scarlett Johnson

Lector: Laura Poethke

Usher: Steve Anderson

Musicians: VTR

Sound System: Amber Johnson