

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church

Preaching and Presiding: Pastor Todd Bertani

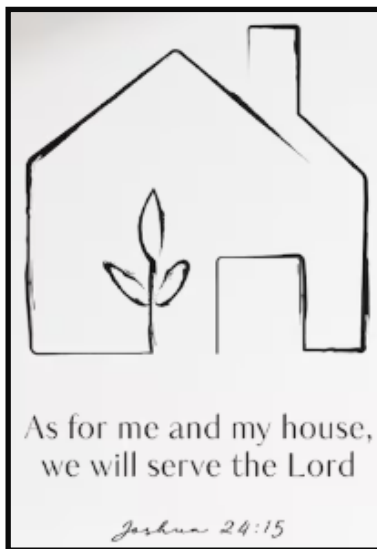
Church Website: smlcestes.org

Office Email: secretary@smlcestes.org 970-586-3900

Pastoral Care: Pastor Todd Bertani, 707-688-6411

Mission Statement:

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church is a community of faith grounded in love for God and love for our neighbors



October 18, 2026

21st Sunday after Pentecost

Julie Varilek, Accompanist

Prelude: "All Creatures of Our God & King" arr. by Paul Cardall

Welcome, Friends in Christ,

*To assist in worship, this bulletin includes all portions of our service; prayers, readings, hymns, congregational responses in **bold**.*

We also provide activity bags for children. You may request these from an usher to use during the service. Please note: The bags contain a treat.

Whether you are first time visitors or long time friends returning to share in worship with us, we are grateful for your presence today.

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Welcome: Pastor Todd Bertani

Call to Worship: "Halle, Halle, Halle" arr. by Hal H. Hopson

(You are invited to stand, in body or spirit)

Confession and Forgiveness

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.

(Brief silence 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.**

Opening Hymn: “God, Whose Almighty Word” *Hymn 673*



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
2 Christ, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,

and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
heal - ing and sight; health to the trou - bled mind, sight where il -
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the

gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray, let there be light.
lu - sions blind; oh, now to hu - man-kind let there be light.
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place let there be light.

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.
Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Giardini, 1716–1796

Greeting

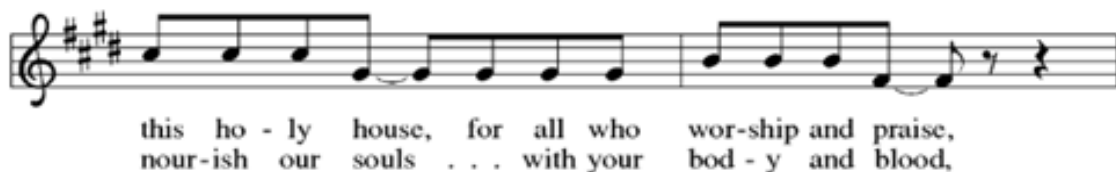
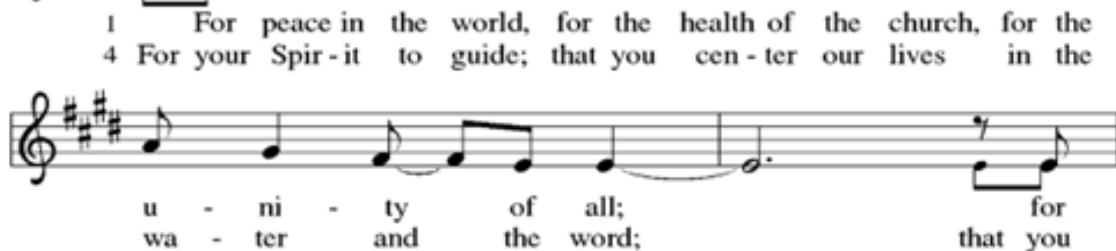
The grace of our Lord Jesus, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie

Refrain, Congregation



Leader



Canticle of Praise

Congregation

This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the
 Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be
 peo - ple of God. Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, and
 hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his. This is the feast of
 vic - t'ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al -
 le - lu - ia.

2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, and
 join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,
 glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

This is the feast of vic - t'ry for our God, for the
 Lamb who was slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

God of deliverance, you saved the people of Israel and chose Joshua to lead your people to the Promised Land. Choose us, and equip us to live with faith and peace. We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

(Please be seated)

First Reading: Joshua 24:1-15

¹Then Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel, and they presented themselves before God. ²And Joshua said to all the people, “Thus says the Lord, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. ³Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. I gave him Isaac, ⁴and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I gave Esau the hill country of Seir to possess, but Jacob and his children went down to Egypt. ⁵Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I plagued Egypt with what I did in its midst, and afterward I brought you out. ⁶When I brought your ancestors out of Egypt, you came to the sea, and the Egyptians pursued your ancestors with chariots and horsemen to the Red Sea. ⁷When they cried out to the Lord, he put darkness between you and the Egyptians and made the sea come upon them and cover them, and your eyes saw what I did to Egypt. Afterward you lived in the wilderness a long time. ⁸Then I brought you to the land of the Amorites, who lived on the other side of the Jordan; they fought with you, and I handed them over to you, and you took possession of their land, and I destroyed them before you. ⁹Then King Balak son of Zippor of Moab set out to fight against Israel. He sent and invited Balaam son of Beor to curse you, ¹⁰but I would not listen to Balaam; therefore he blessed you, so I rescued you out of his hand. ¹¹When you went over the Jordan and came to Jericho, the citizens of

Jericho fought against you, as well as the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, and I handed them over to you. ¹²I sent swarms of hornets ahead of you that drove out before you the two kings of the Amorites; it was not by your sword or by your bow. ¹³I gave you a land on which you had not labored and towns that you had not built, and you live in them; you eat the fruit of vineyards and oliveyards that you did not plant.

¹⁴“Now, therefore, revere the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt and serve the Lord. ¹⁵Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living, but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: Psalm 100:1-5

*(Congregation reads **bold print**)*

¹ Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.

² **Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.**

³ Know that the Lord is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.

⁴ **Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise. Give thanks to him; bless his name.**

⁵ For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all generations. Clear me from hidden faults.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

(You are invited to stand, in body or spirit)

Gospel Acclamation



Al-le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.
Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel: Matthew 4:8-10

The holy gospel according to Matthew Chapter 4.

Glory to you, O Lord.

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Sermon: Pastor Todd Bertani

Sermon Notes:

Sermon Hymn: “Forgive Our Sins as We Forgive” *Hymn 605*



- 1 “For - give our sins as we for - give,” you taught us, Lord, to pray;
- 2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
- 3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
- 4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.

Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © Oxford University Press 1969.

Apostle’s 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.**

Intercessory Prayer

After each petition : “Hear us O God”

Congregation Response is **“your mercy is great.”**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Choir Anthem: “Peace Like a River” *arr. by Joel Raney*

Receiving of Gifts

(You are invited to stand, in body or spirit)

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.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with You.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

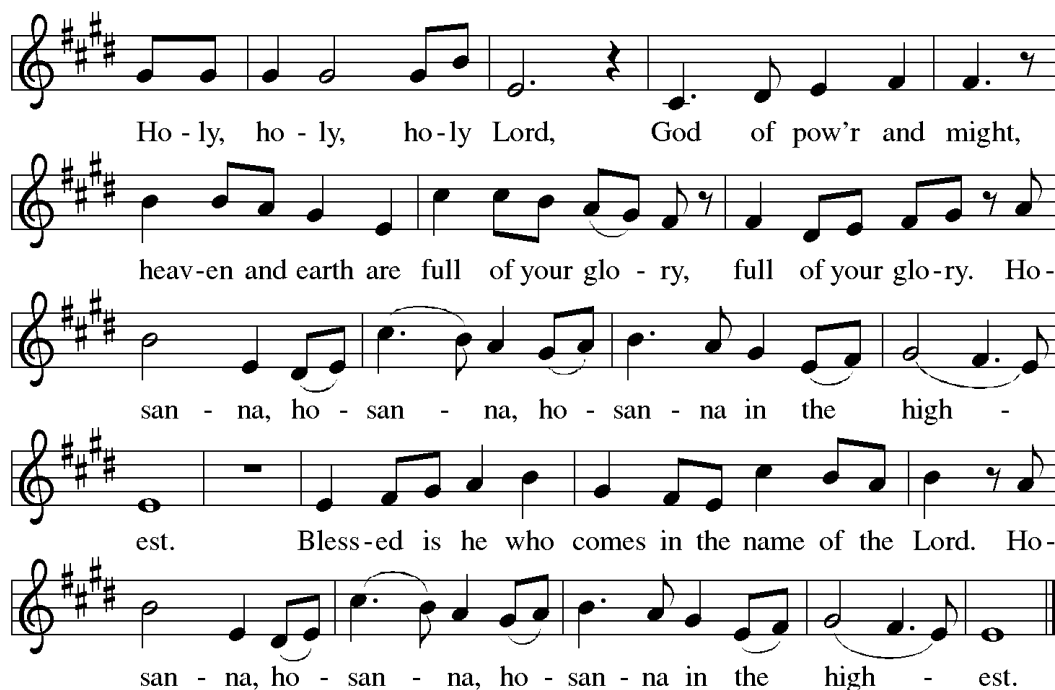
Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer,
through whom you will also make all things new
in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



"Holy, Holy, Holy"



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Eucharistic Prayer

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and
resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May
your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God
incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

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.**

Invitation to Communion

Christ invites you to this table.

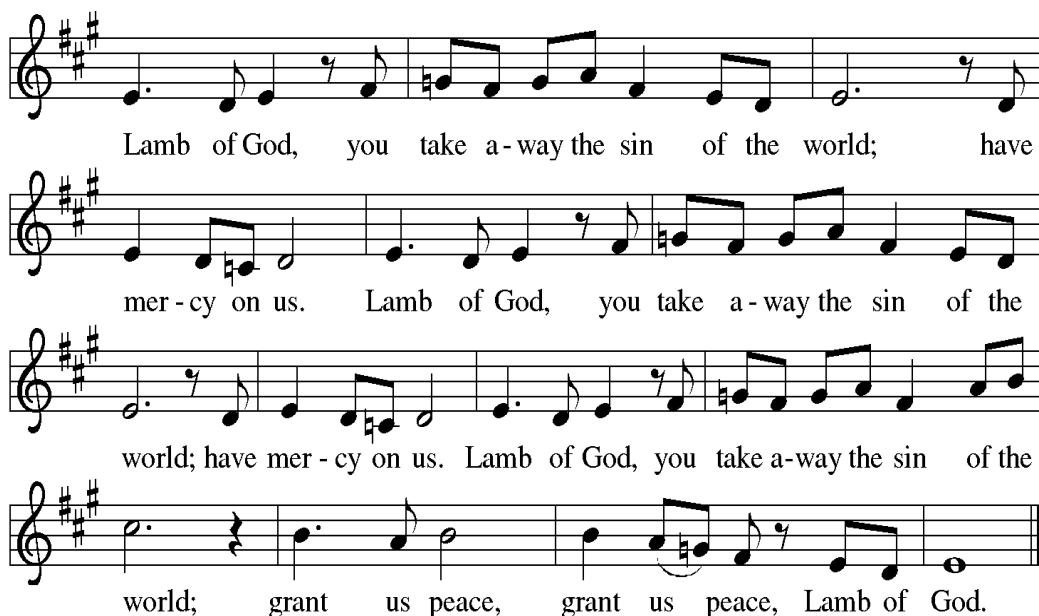
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

We commune by 'Intinction', by dipping the wafer in wine or grape juice.

*We are **all** guests at God's table. **Everyone** is invited to receive communion.*

(Please be seated)

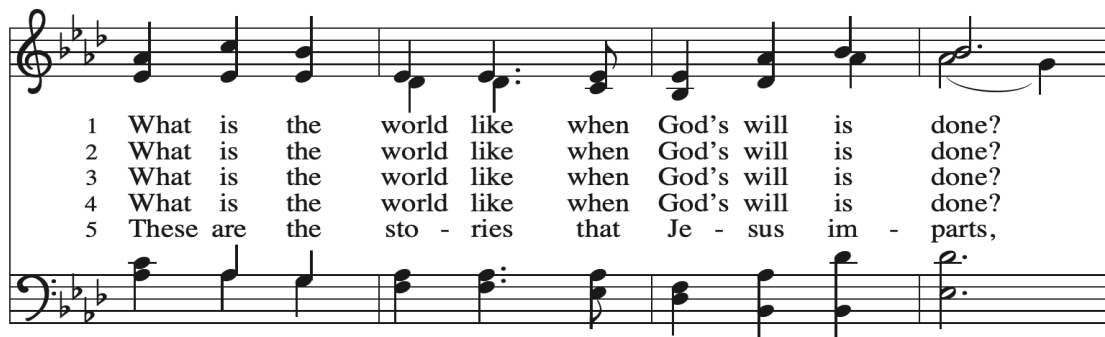
Lamb of God



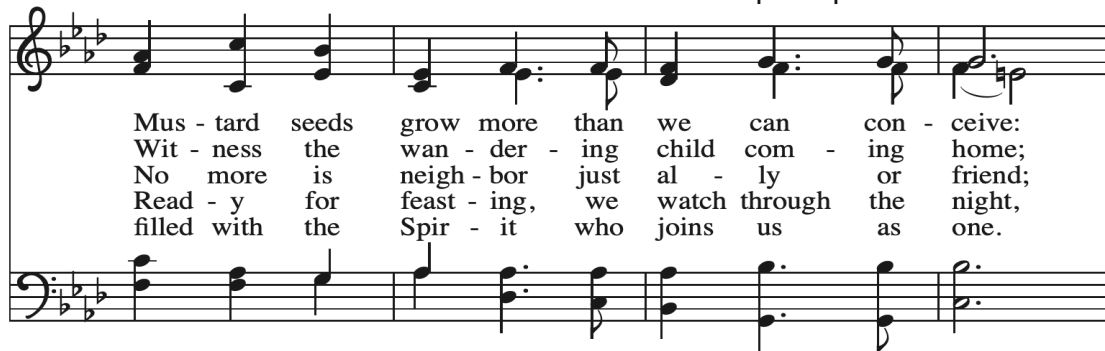
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.



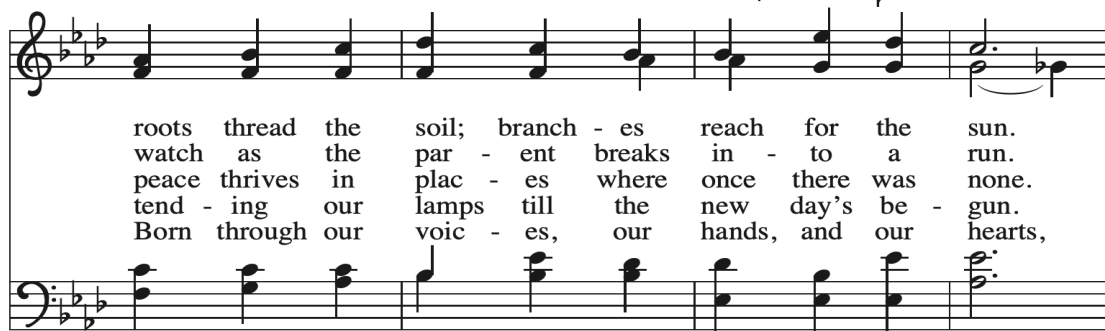
Communion Hymn: "What is the World Like" ACS Hymn 1047



1 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 2 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 3 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 4 What is the world like when God's will is done?
 5 These are the sto - ries that Je - sus im - parts,



Mus - tard seeds grow more than we can con - ceive:
 Wit - ness the wan - der - ing child com - ing home;
 No more is neigh - bor just al - ly or friend;
 Read - y for feast - ing, we watch through the night,
 filled with the Spir - it who joins us as one.



roots thread the soil; branch - es reach for the sun.
 watch as the par - ent breaks in - to a run.
 peace thrives in plac - es where once there was none.
 tend - ing our lamps till the new day's be - gun.
 Born through our voic - es, our hands, and our hearts,



This is how God moves us each to be - lieve.
 This is how God longs for us when we roam.
 This is how God works when ri - val - ries end.
 This is how God read - ies us for the light.
 this is a new world where God's will is done.

Text: Adam M. L. Tice, b. 1979

Music: NEW WORLD, Sally Ann Morris, b. 1952

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Post Communion Blessing

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the gifts of his body and blood strengthen, keep and unite us, now and forever. **Amen.**

Post Communion Prayer

Sustaining God,
with this bread and cup, you nourish us with mercy and abundant life. By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world. Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love, following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

Ministry Calendar

October 18—Sunday

9:00 a.m.: Worship—***Pastor Todd***

October 19—Monday:

8:00-Noon: Boiler Inspection

October 20—Tuesday:

9:00-1:30: PEO HF Meeting

October 21—Wednesday:

8:00 a.m.: Sacred Space (Zoom)

4:00 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

October 22—Thursday:

1:00 p.m.: Quilting

October 23—Friday:

11:00 a.m.: Good Sam Service

1:30 p.m.: Celebration of Life for Roger Fjeld

October 24—Saturday:

2:00: Peak to Peak Concert—Gossamer Winds woodwind quintet

October 25—Reformation Sunday

9:00 a.m.: Worship—**Pastor Todd**

10:30a.m.: Church Discussion, in the Fellowship hall

“where we will discuss a proposed plan for how we live into what it means to be a discipleship church. This gathering will be led by the Vision and Action Team and Council. The proposed strategy emerges out of the Sermon series, the Adult Ed Series and the Retreat focusing on discipleship.”

October 28—Wednesday:

8:00 a.m.: Sacred Space (Zoom)

4:00 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

October 29—Thursday:

1:00 p.m.: Quilting

October 30—Friday:

9:30 a.m.: Worship and Music Meeting

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.

Sending Hymn: “Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me” Hymn 767

1 Lord, take my hand and lead me up - on life's way;
2 Lord, when the tem - pest ra - ges, I need not fear;

di - rect, pro - tect, and feed me from day to day.
for you, the Rock of A - ges, are al - ways near.

With - out your grace and fa - vor I go a - stray;
Close by your side a - bid - ing, I fear no foe,

so take my hand, O Sav - ior, and lead the way.
for when your hand is guid - ing, in peace I go.

Text: Julie von Hausmann, 1825–1901; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: SO NIMM DENN MEINE HÄNDE, Friedrich Silcher, 1789–1860
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: “All Things Bright & Beautiful” *17th century English Melody*



Thank you for serving!

	<i>October 18</i>	<i>October 25</i>
<i>Accompanist:</i>	Julie Varilek	Celice Clark
<i>Choir Director:</i>	Ann Knipping	Ann Knipping
<i>Lector:</i>	Ann Knipping	Linda Schlitt
<i>Ushers:</i>	Randy Huber Mike Wold	Randy Huber Mike Wold
<i>Tellers:</i>	OPEN OPEN	OPEN OPEN
<i>Altar Care:</i>	Jan Trunnell	OPEN
<i>Communion Asst:</i>	Susan Anderson OPEN OPEN	OPEN OPEN OPEN
<i>AV Engineer:</i>	Robbi Telfer	Robbi Telfer
<i>Fellowship Hosts:</i> <i>See Fellowship Host Calendar</i>	Roxy Hause	Kris & Bruce Adams Robbi Telfer Vision in Action and Council
<i>Flower Sponsor:</i>	Roxy Hause <i>In memory of family</i>	Tara McConnell
<i>Flower Arranger:</i>	Susan Anderson	Susan Anderson

*As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God's varied grace*

1 Peter 4:10