

Saint Luke Lutheran Church

Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, October 18, 2026

The Reverend David P. Nelson, Pastor

Pastor's Version



SAINT LUKE WELCOMES ALL TO WORSHIP!

We are grateful for your presence in today's worship. Your participation truly makes a difference. We hope you feel encouraged, blessed, and welcomed! In preparation for worship, please silence all electronic devices when entering the sanctuary in reverence to God and respect for others.

~ Members and visitors ~
Kindly remember to sign in using the
friendship binders in your pew.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God
and in celebration of His beautiful creation.

*"Honor and majesty are before him;
strength and beauty are in his sanctuary..."*
~Psalm 96:6

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

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.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

"We Gather Together" -- Dutch Folk Melody, Arranged by Douglas E. Wagner. St. Luke Bell Choir, directed by Kim Hawkins.

Congregation stands

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who pours love into our hearts and healing upon the earth.

C Amen.

P Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin. Gracious God,

C 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.

P 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.

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service", #712

APOSTOLIC 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.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Gloria" S-139 (*front of hymnal*)
Queue Lectern mic (Cantor will sing)

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



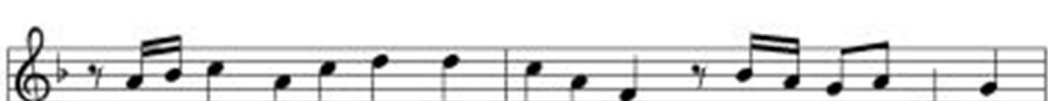
you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

WA Let us pray.

C 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.

Congregation sits

FIRST READING: Isaiah 45:1-7

L ¹Thus 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: ²I will go before you and level the mountains; I will break in pieces the doors of bronze and cut through the bars of iron; ³I 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. ⁴For 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. ⁵I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no god. I arm you, though you do not know me, ⁶so 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. ⁷I form light and create darkness, I make weal and create woe; I the Lord do all these things.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]

- L ¹ Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.**
- C ² Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord; proclaim God's salvation from day to day.**
- L ³ Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among all peoples.**
- C ⁴ For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised, more to be feared than all gods.**
- L ⁵ As for all the gods of the nations, they are but idols; but you, O Lord, have made the heavens.**
- C ⁶ Majesty and magnificence are in your presence; power and splendor are in your sanctuary.**
- L ⁷ Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord honor and power.**
- C ⁸ Ascribe to the Lord the honor due the holy name; bring offerings and enter the courts of the Lord.**
- L ⁹ Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the Lord, all the earth.**
- C ^[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."**
- L 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.**
- C ¹² Then shall all the trees of the wood shout for joy at your coming, O Lord, for you come to judge the earth.**
- L ¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with your truth.]**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

- L 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. ²We 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. ⁴For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, ⁵because 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. ⁶And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, ⁷so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. ⁸For 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. ⁹For 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 ¹⁰and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Congregation stands

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION “Alleluia” S-142a

(music on next page)



GOSPEL: Matthew 22:15-22

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

P ¹⁵The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?” ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, “Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax.” And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, “Whose head is this and whose title?” ²¹They 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.” ²²When 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.

Congregation sits

✠ SERMON ✠

✠ THE REVEREND DAVID P. NELSON, PASTOR ✠

Silence for reflection

Congregation stands

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Take My Life, That I May Be”, #685

THE APOSTLE’S CREED S-105 (*front of hymnal, page #105*)

WA Let us confess the faith of the church.

C 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 INTERCESSION

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

WA 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.

C Your mercy is great.

WA 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.

C Your mercy is great.

WA 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.

C Your mercy is great.

WA 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 (*Gary & Karen Reynolds, Deanna Grissett the family of Rachael LaBron,).* Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

WA 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.

C Your mercy is great.

WA We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

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

C Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

Congregation sits

OFFERTORY ANTHEM "When Our Song Says Peace" -- Text by Richard Leach, music by Thomas Pavlechko. St. Luke Choir, Tim Brown piano.

Congregation stands

OFFERING HYMN "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful", #184

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

C 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 GREAT THANKSGIVING S-144a *(front of hymnal)*

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Life up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P 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 reveal your glory as the glory of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit: equal in majesty, undivided in splendor, one Lord, one God, ever to be adored in your eternal glory. 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: S-144b

(music on next page)



P You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints. To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

C Amen.

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

C 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Christ invites you to this table. All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

C Thanks be to God.

Congregation sits

DISTRIBUTION OF THE BREAD AND WINE Holy Communion, the Sacrament of the Altar, is open to all baptized Christians who receive Communion in their home church. All others are welcome to come forward to receive a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD (Agnus Dei) S-146 (*front of hymnal*)

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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

“Come Thou Fount”, #807

“O Master, Let Me Walk With You”, #818

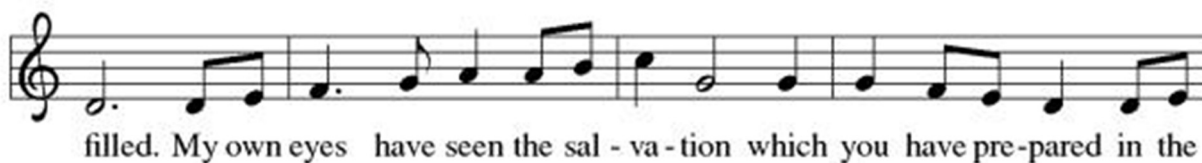
Congregation stands

TABLE BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen.

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE S-113 (*front of hymnal*)



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P 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.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless
you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN “O Jesus I Have Promised”, #810

DISMISSAL

WA Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

--Thank you for worshiping with us today--

The following members assisted with today's worship service with live streaming:

Altar Guild: Lori Schneider, Dianne Ward | AV Team: Ron & Karen Clark

Cantor: Gordon Heitmuller | Music: Bud Esper, Director of Church Music; Kim Hawkins,
Conductor, St. Luke Handbell Choir; St. Luke Voice Choir and St. Luke Handbell Choir

Communion Assistants: Lori Schneider, Dianne Ward | Crucifer: Sue Dompkowski

Eucharistic Minister: Sue Heitmuller | Greeters: Dona Quinlan, Flo Asmund

Lector: Judy Pusey | Ushers: Ray & Cindy Eaton, Karen Clark, Richard Wood

Worship Assistant: Kristen Killoran

NEW MEMBERS

Are you looking for a new church family? We'd love to help you connect with others in
the church and grow in our Faith Community together. If you are thinking about
joining St. Luke, please contact the Church office.

ALTAR FLOWERS

Please contact the church office to sponsor Sunday altar flowers.

Upcoming availability: October 25 | November 8, 22, 29

PRAYER LIST October 18, 2026

Gary & Karen Reynolds, Deanna Grissett, the family of Rachael LaBron

LUTHERAN LIFE

WELCOME VISITORS ~ We are delighted you chose to worship with us at St. Luke today.
Please join us in the Fellowship Hall right after worship. We look forward to saying hello!

SUPPORTING ST. LUKE MINISTRIES

- ❖ **WOSL Dinner & Meeting** - Monday, October 19 at 5pm in the Fellowship Hall! All
ladies are welcome to attend!
- ❖ The **WOSL spaghetti dinner & talent show** has been **postponed** at this time.
- ❖ **Congregational Survey on October 25th.** As we enjoy our Fall Festival after our
worship service, Pastor Phil Tonnesen will conduct our Congregational Survey also in
the Fellowship Hall. The Congregational Survey is the next required step in our call
process. **This is your opportunity to be heard, to participate in St. Luke's future,
and to have input into the call process.** Please plan to attend and participate!!

- ❖ **Concerned Member Meeting (CMM):** Thursday, October 22, 2026, 2pm, Fellowship Hall. Come together to meet and talk about current happenings in our world. All are welcome to join the conversation!
- ❖ 🍎 **Fall Festival Fellowship:** Join us on **Sunday, October 25!** The sign-up sheet is now posted on the Fellowship Board. Please sign up and bring your favorite apple or pumpkin dessert to share during our fellowship time. We can't wait to taste your seasonal favorites! Sign up by October 21.
- ❖ The Social Ministry group is holding our annual **coat collection** from October 11th to November 1st. All donations will be delivered to [St. James the Fisherman Episcopal Church](#) in Shallotte, where they will be distributed to those in need. Children's sizes are especially needed this year, though all other sizes are greatly appreciated. Drop off in the **Admin Building**. Thank you for your continued warmth and generosity!
- ❖ **St. Luke Blood Drive!** Did you know that there is a critical need for blood at this time? Every 2 seconds, someone in the U.S. needs blood. You can help by donating blood to the Red Cross. St. Luke will be hosting a Blood Drive on Wednesday, October 28 from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. To sign up visit: **RedCrossBlood.org** and enter: **Luke to schedule an appointment**. Please tell your friends and neighbors and together we can give the gift of life.
- ❖ 🎄 **Annual Christmas Show Outing: "Christmas on Main"** Get into the holiday spirit with our annual Christmas show outing! This year, we are traveling to the Greg Rowles Legacy Theatre in North Myrtle Beach for the spectacular matinee performance of "Christmas on Main." Join us on Tuesday, December 8, for the 1:30 PM show, followed by a delicious dinner together at Carrabba's Italian Grill. Tickets for the theatre are \$34 per person, and dinner will be self-pay at the restaurant. Because seats are limited, the hard deadline for both sign-up and payment is Sunday, November 29. Don't miss this wonderful afternoon of festive music, food, and fellowship! For more details or to secure your spot, please contact Karen Nelson at 910-269-3095.
- ❖ **BFA Christmas Gift Program- coming soon!** Brunswick Family Assistance will again coordinate a program to provide Christmas gifts to eligible seniors and children in our community, to provide for Christmas joy. Our congregation will again participate in this outreach. The individual tags, with a wish list, will be available in the lobby of the fellowship hall beginning Oct 24. All unwrapped gifts, with the tag, must be returned by Sunday Nov 22. See Joan Eccard for more information.
- ❖ **Crop Walk Nov 1st...**Matthew 25: "35 For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, 36 I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' 37 "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? 38 When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? 39 When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?' 40 "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Over the years the participation from St Luke has grown. Please consider supporting the CHW. If you would like to walk and/or donate, I will be in the old Narthex 10/18 and 10/25...Thanks, Sara Hart,

St Luke CHW representative. PS if you would like to contribute using a check, please make the check payable to CWS, memo line CHW.

- ❖ **Help Us Extend Our Reach!** 🇺🇸 We are seeking volunteers to join a rotational team responsible for uploading our Sunday livestream service to the website. Other website maintenance tasks are also available. Basic laptop navigation skills are required. To learn more or to volunteer, please contact **Lori Schneider (910) 232-7558**.
- ❖ **All Saints Sunday Men's Breakfast** 🍳 Mark your calendars for **Sunday, November 1st**—it's All Saints Sunday, and our Lutheran Men in Mission are hosting a special Men's Breakfast. You can look forward to a delicious meal of **eggs, biscuits and gravy, and bacon**, and best of all, the men will be waiting on you! Tickets are just **\$10**. Sales start **this coming Sunday, October 18th**, so be sure to find an **LMM member** after the service to buy yours. Thank you!
- ❖ **WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA (WAA)** ~ Wreaths Across America honors fallen veterans by placing wreaths on their graves nationwide. The American Legion Auxiliary will again participate in WAA this year. Wreaths are \$17/each. Please make your check payable to SLLC "memo line WAA" and turn into the collection plate or drop off at the church office. The deadline to purchase a wreath is Sunday, November 16. ~*Thank you, Glenn Christiansen.*
- ❖ **In Loving Memory of Preston C. Huffman:** The services for Preston C. Huffman will be held privately for family members only. If you would like to express your condolences, support, and shared memories, cards and comforting notes may be sent to his beloved family at:
Alean (Sissy) Huffman (wife)
 6041 Piedmont Row Drive, South, Apt. 5007
 Charlotte, NC 28210

This Week at Saint Luke ~ October, 2026

Sunday, October 18	9am	Adult Sunday School
Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost	10am	Worship Service with live streaming
Pastor David P. Nelson, Pastor	11am	Fellowship & Luncheon - All Are Welcome!
Monday, October 19	3pm	MexTrain
	5pm	WOSL Dinner & Meeting
Tuesday, October 20	10:30am	Listening Group
	1pm	Bridge
Wednesday, October 21	10am	Morning Prayer & Coffee ~ Fellowship Hall
	6pm	Handbells
	7pm	Voice Choir
Thursday, October 22	10am	Prayer Shawl Ministry
	2pm	CMM Meeting - Fellowship Hall
Friday, October 23	9am	Bible & Bagels
	10am	Line Dancing
Sunday, October 25	9am	Adult Sunday School
Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost	10am	Worship Service with live streaming
The Reverend Dr. Beth Spitzner-Neubauer	11am	Fellowship & Fall Festival - All Are Welcome!
Scripture Readings ~ October 25, 2026 ~ Twenty Second Sunday after Pentecost		
Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18 Psalm 1 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-46		