



The Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost
October 18, 2026
9:30 AM

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church

7160 South Robert Trail, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

651-455-0093 www.aglcigh.org

Welcome friends in Christ! We're grateful for your presence here in worship today.

If you are visiting, please sign the guest book in the entryway.

- Children are welcome to utilize the open space in the back for quiet play during worship.
- The nursery is available if a child needs a noisier space, with parental supervision.
- Feel free to remain seated at any time during the service.

GATHER:

We gather as people of God, a family of faith.

In today's gospel reading, 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.

Centering Music

Use this opportunity to center yourself before worship

Take My Life and Let It Be

Richard Kingsmore

Welcome

Call to Worship (Psalm 96)

Sing to the Lord a new song,

Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Sing to the Lord, bless the name of the Lord;

Proclaim God's salvation from day to day!

Declare God's glory among the nations and God's wonders among the peoples.

For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised!

Majesty and magnificence are in your presence;

Power and splendor are in your sanctuary!

Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples, ascribe to the Lord honor and power.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; tremble before the Lord, all the earth!

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

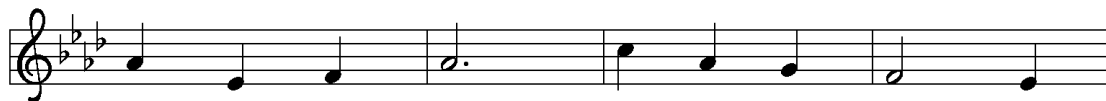
Compassionate God,
**we confess that we struggle to embody your goodness
in the world and in our own hearts.**
Creation groans from overuse.
Jealousy and bitterness strain our relationships.
Indifference keeps us from seeking justice.
Divisions disrupt your call to show genuine love to others.
Turn our 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:

You are forgiven. 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.

Earth and All Stars!



1	Earth	and	all	stars!	Loud	rush - ing	plan - ets!
2	Trum - pet	and	pipes!	Loud	clash - ing	cym - bals!	
3	En - gines	and	steel!	Loud	pound - ing	ham - mers!	
4	Class-rooms	and	labs!	Loud	boil - ing	test tubes!	
5	Knowl-edge	and	truth!	Loud	sound - ing	wis - dom!	



Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!



Hail,	wind,	and	rain!	Loud	blow - ing	snow - storm!
Harp,	lute,	and	lyre!	Loud	hum - ming	cel - los!
Lime - stone	and	beams!	Loud	build - ing	work - ers!	
Ath - lete	and	band!	Loud	cheer - ing	peo - ple!	
Daugh - ter	and	son!	Loud	pray - ing	mem - bers!	



Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!
Sing	to the	Lord	a	new	song!

Refrain

God	has	done	mar	-	vel - ous	things.
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Text: Herbert F. Brokering, b. 1926

Music: EARTH AND ALL STARS, David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

Text and music © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

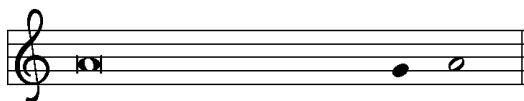
Greeting

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

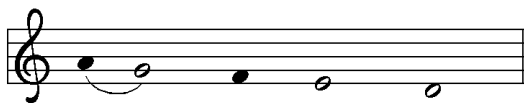
And also with you.

Kyrie:

Setting 4



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **A - men.**

Canticle:

Setting 4

Refrain
Assisting minister

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us

free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and

strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. 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 and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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.

GROW:

We grow as we are fed by the Word and nourished at the Lord's table.

First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

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.

Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation:

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Shine like stars in the world,
holding fast to the word of life.

Alleluia!

Alleluia!

Gospel Reading: 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.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ!

Message

Pastor Tim Maybee

Hymn of the Day: We Give Thee but Thine Own

ELW 686

We Give Thee but Thine Own



1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
3 The cap - tive to re - lease, to God the lost to bring,
4 And we be - lieve thy word, though dim our faith may be:



all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.
to teach the way of life and peace—it is a Christ - like thing.
what - e'er we do for thine, O Lord, we do it un - to thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, alt.

Music: HEATH, L. Mason and G. Webb, *Cantica Lauda*, 1850

Confession of Faith

Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith.

**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

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

A brief silence.

Holy God, we remember your promise of unity on your holy mountain. Empower the World Council of Churches and all those working across religious difference, that the world may know your undivided love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember your promise of green pastures and quiet waters. Preserve all places of natural beauty and restore our relationship with the land. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember your promise to not abandon us amid storm and disaster. Renew all communities facing disasters and give your courage to those leading relief efforts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember your promise to wipe away every tear. Heal and console all who are sick or suffering, especially those we name before you now... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We remember your promise of a banquet open to all people. Challenge this congregation to open wide our doors and welcome everyone to the table. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember your promise to swallow up death forever. We give thanks for those who have gone before us. 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.

Peace

The peace of the risen Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Offering

AGLC gives in the style of our Tanzanian partners. You may place any gift in the basket as you come forward for communion. If you don't have a physical gift to share, you are encouraged to dip your hand in the basket as a reminder that God uses you to do God's work in the world.

Offering Song: Is It Lawful to Pay Taxes?

(Same melody as our recent Offering Song "God Whose Giving Knows No Ending")

"Is it lawful to pay taxes when they prop up Caesar's rule?"
So some people asked of Jesus, wanting him to seem a fool.
Saying "no" would be sedition; saying "yes" would be a sin.
Jesus changed the conversation, calling them to look within.

"Find a tax coin in your treasure; see the image that it bears.
Give to Caesar what is Caesar's. (Give to rulers what is theirs.)"
Yet he pressed on with his message; "Give to God what is God's own."
We who bear our Maker's image worship God and God alone.

Lord of all, in every nation, may your word be understood —
That we have an obligation to support the common good.
May our taxes, all together, fund our working hand in hand
So that life will be made better for all people in this land.

Still, we also hear your teaching: "Give to God what God is due."
May no ruler — overreaching — try to take the place of you.

May we listen to your message, may we honor what is yours;
May we, living in your image, seek your kingdom that endures.

Biblical References: Matthew 22:15-22; Mark 12:13-17; Luke 20:20-26

Tune: *The Sacred Harp*, 1844; attributed to Benjamin Franklin White; harmony © 2017 Christopher Gage ("God Whose Giving Knows No Ending")

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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.

HOLY COMMUNION

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.



Our Thanksgiving at the Table is based
on the work of St. Catherine of Siena



O eternal Trinity! O fire and deep well of charity!

O you who are madly in love with your creations!

O eternal truth! O eternal fire!

O eternal wisdom, given for our redemption!

In your light we have light.

Your wonderful works are known

because they come forth from your eternal light.

Not only did you gift us with creation in your image and likeness,
but you created us anew in grace by your Son's blood,
and you give us yourself, love immeasurable.

By making yourself small, **you have made us great!**

By stripping yourself of life, **you have clothed us in grace!**

By being stretched out on the cross, **you have embraced us.**

For us you have made a cavern in your open side, **where we find refuge.**

Sung Words of Institution

Verses 1 & 2: Pastor, Verse 3: All



3. So, we thank You for _ the wine _ and for the bread; _ For we

see the life _ You gave _ and the blood You _ shed. And we re -

-mem - ber Your won - drous _ love, You gave Your bod - y, You shed Your _

blood; And we re - mem - ber Your won - drous _

love, You gave Your bod - y, You shed Your _ blood.

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Lord's Prayer

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

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

Amazing Grace Lutheran Church practices open communion. Whether you are a member of AGLC or not, you are invited to the table that is set by Christ for you.

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

Distribution

P: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The wine used in worship is alcohol-free. Gluten-free bread is available upon request.

Communion Songs:

Setting 4



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.

Commonwealth Is God's Commandment

ACS 1036

Take My Life, That I May Be

ELW 685

O God of Every Nation

ELW 713

Prayer after Communion

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.

Announcements

GO:

We go into the world, sent by God, to serve all people in the name of Jesus.

Benediction

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: God of Grace and God of Glory

ELW 705

God of Grace and God of Glory



1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils

pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo-rious flow'r. Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age
free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age
rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age,
be our glo-ry ev-er-more. Grant us wis-dom, grant us cour-age,



for the fac-ing of this hour, for the fac-ing of this hour.
for the liv-ing of these days, for the liv-ing of these days.
lest we miss your king-dom's goal, lest we miss your king-dom's goal.
serv-ing you whom we a-dore, serv-ing you whom we a-dore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878–1969

Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

Dismissal

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude: God of Grace and God of Glory

Eugene Butler