

We Unworthy Sinners Invited

October 18,
2026



21st Sunday
after Pentecost

Welcome, guests! We're delighted you could join us. If you have questions or need more information about our church, any member of Grace will be happy to help. This folder contains all the details about our services, with congregational responses indicated by indentation and bold text. Please take a moment to fill out the guest register at the church entrance; only the pastor and elders will use it. Restrooms are to the left as you exit the sanctuary. May the Lord bless this service as Christ comes to you!

THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS: God has set out for us a rich heavenly banquet that is ours. It is not achieved or worked for but comes to us by grace through faith in our Groom and Good Shepherd, Jesus.

MORNING PRAYER: Almighty and merciful God, absolve Your people of their offenses; that by your bountiful goodness we may be delivered from the bonds of sin, which, because of our weakness, we have brought upon ourselves; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: COMMON WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION— CW, p.15

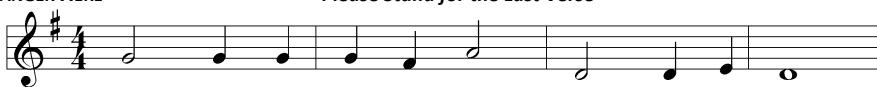


OPENING HYMN:

#417

I'M BUT A STRANGER HERE

****Please Stand for the Last Verse****



1 I'm but a stran-ger here; Heav'n is my home.
 2 What though the tem-pest rage, Heav'n is my home.
 3 There at my Sav-ior's side— Heav'n is my home—
 4 There - fore I mur - mur not; Heav'n is my home.



Earth is a des - ert drear; Heav'n is my home.
 Short is my pil - grim - age; Heav'n is my home.
 I shall be glo - ri - fied; Heav'n is my home.
 What - e'er my earth - ly lot, Heav'n is my home.



Dan - ger and sor - row stand Round me on ev - 'ry hand.
 And time's wild, win - try blast Soon shall be o - ver - past;
 There are the good and blest, Those I love most and best,
 And I shall sure - ly stand There at my Lord's right hand.



Heav'n is my fa - ther - land; Heav'n is my home.
 I shall reach home at last; Heav'n is my home.
 And there I, too, shall rest; Heav'n is my home.
 Heav'n is my fa - ther - land; Heav'n is my home.

Text: Thomas R. Taylor, 1807–35.

Tune: HEAVEN IS MY HOME (64 64 6664) Arthur S. Sullivan, 1842–1900.



C: A - men.

In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

CONFESSION OF SINS

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

KYRIE



God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

GLORY BE TO GOD

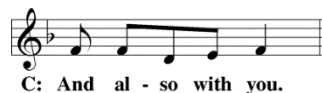
GLORIA IN EXCELSIS





God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on-ly are holy;
 you on-ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho-ly Spirit,
 are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY



C: And al - so with you.

The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty and merciful God, absolve Your people of their offenses; that by Your bountiful goodness we may be delivered from the bonds of sin, which, because of our weakness, we have brought upon ourselves; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

****Please Be Seated****

FIRST LESSON:

ISAIAH 25:6 – 9

In the banquet feast of heaven about which Isaiah is prophesying, the shroud of death is destroyed once and for all. Death came to all people because all have sinned, but Jesus, our Redeemer, restores us back to the Father through his righteousness; by faith in Christ, we are restored.

On this mountain, the Lord of Armies will prepare for all peoples a banquet of rich food, a banquet of aged wines, with the best cuts of meat, and with the finest wines. On this mountain, he will destroy the shroud that covers all peoples, the burial cloth stretched over all nations. He has swallowed up death forever! The Lord God will wipe away the tears from every face. He will take away the shame of his people throughout the earth. For the Lord has spoken. On that day, it will be said, "Look, here is our God! We waited for him, and he saved us! This is the Lord. We waited for him. Let us be glad and rejoice in his salvation!"

Refrain

The Lord is my shep - herd; there is noth - ing I shall want.

Psalm tone*Refrain*

The LORD is my shepherd,*
I shall not be in want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures;*
he leads me beside quiet waters.

He restores my soul;*

he guides me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil,*
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Refrain

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.*

You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life,*
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son*

and to the Holy Spirit,

as it was in the beginning,*

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 1:16 – 17

Paul's confident words remind us that because of God's inconceivable grace, which comes to us by faith alone in Christ, we live by faith alone.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes—to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For in the gospel a righteousness from God is revealed by faith, for faith, just as it is written, "The righteous will live by faith."

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. Rejoice in the Lord always! I will say it again: Rejoice! Alleluia. (Philippians 4: 4)



C: Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

****Please Stand****

GOSPEL

MATTHEW 22:1 – 14

Our lesson is the wedding-feast parable, the third parable directed at the religious leaders. We see God's mercy in this parable: even though they reject Him, the Christ, Jesus, still tries to turn them from unbelief to repentance. Through this parable, He tells them what the kingdom of heaven is like; many do not enter because they reject God's invitation.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



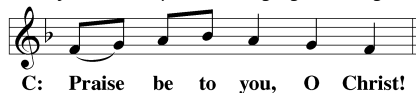
Jesus spoke to them again in parables. He said, “The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who prepared a wedding banquet for his son. He sent out his servants to summon those who were invited to the wedding banquet, but they did not want to come.

“Then he sent out other servants and said, ‘Tell those who are invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner. My oxen and my fattened cattle have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding banquet!’

“But those who were invited paid no attention and went off, one to his own farm, another to his business. The rest seized the king’s servants, mistreated them, and killed them. As a result, the king was very angry. He sent his army and killed those murderers and burned their town. “Then he said to his servants, ‘The wedding banquet is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. So go to the main crossroads and invite as many as you find to the wedding banquet.’

Those servants went out to the roads and gathered together everyone they found, both good and bad, and the wedding hall was filled with guests. But when the king came in to see the guests, he saw a man there who was not wearing wedding clothes. He said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without wearing wedding clothes?’ The man was speechless. Then the king told the servants, ‘Tie him hand and foot and throw him into the outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



*****Please Be Seated*****

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one

being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day, he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY:

#265

THIS IS THE FEAST OF VICTORY

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, Whose

2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and strength, And

3 Sing with all the peo - ple of God, And

4 Bless - ing, hon - or, glo - ry, and might Be to

5 For the Lamb who was slain Has be -

Refrain



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

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

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion.

God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia!

Final Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God,



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Tune: FESTIVAL CANTICLE (Irregular with Refrain) Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923, © 1975, 1988 Richard Hillert. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

SERMON TEXT:

MATTHEW 22:1 – 14

SERMON THEME:

WEARING THE GOWN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

CREATE IN ME



****Please Be Seated****

OFFERING – Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9: 7: “Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.

Sunday school teachers and assistants come forward: Lani Carroll, Tammi Emmons, Sue Hamilton, Debra Shaw, Nancy TenBroek, and Mavis Vandelicht

INSTALLATION OF SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND ASSISTANTS

Dear friends in Christ, you have been called as teachers in the Sunday school of this congregation. You are doing the work the Lord has committed to His church: to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ, to make disciples of all nations, and to feed the lambs of the Lord Jesus. You do this work on behalf of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church and in association with the parents who entrust their children to your instruction and care.

Your work is both a great privilege and a serious responsibility. To equip yourselves for this blessed work, you must faithfully study God's word, devote yourselves to prayer for those entrusted to your care, and carefully prepare for the lessons you will teach. In teaching the Savior's little ones, it is also important that you set an example by leading Christian lives.

I now ask you in the presence of God and this congregation:

Are you willing to accept this responsibility and to do your work faithfully, according to the ability God has given to you? If so, answer: Yes, and I ask God to help me.

T: Yes, and I ask God to help me.

I now install you as teachers in the Sunday School of Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

May God grant you his Holy Spirit and give you wisdom and strength to carry out your duties to his glory and for the good of his children.

Members of Grace, I urge you to regard these teachers as servants of Jesus Christ, teachers of the gospel, and God's gifts to his church. Support them in their work, pray for them, and bring your children to Sunday school so that you and your families may receive the eternal blessings the Lord promises to those who hear and learn his word.

Let us pray.

Gracious Savior, you bless every effort to bring children up in the Christian faith. We ask you to give wisdom, kindness, and perseverance to teachers who feed your lambs. Teach them your truth so that they may teach others. Cause the children entrusted to their care to be eager to learn about their Savior. May your goodness go out into all the earth so that people in this community and everywhere may hear it and believe it, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Go in the peace of the Lord.

May the almighty God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—bless and keep you.

PRAYER FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Eternal God and Father, as these traumatic events unfolded around the Bend and Redmond communities, we are reminded that we live in a fallen world. The pain is even greater when it happens to our children. You tell us in Psalm 37, "Be silent before the Lord; wait patiently for Him." Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord, we wait for You and pray for healing in these communities; grant peace to all who lost loved ones on Thursday and to those still recovering from their wounds. Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for Kaylub (the dad who ran into harm's way, killing the teen shooter) and Kaylub's family. We also pray for the mom whose son was the shooter; be with her in her grief and

comfort her as only You can. We pray for the neighbors who heard the sirens and now know why. Lord, in Your mercy,

Hear our prayer

Lord, may we cling to Your hope, which comes to us only by grace through faith. Please grant Your Church opportunities to share the hope we have within the communities around Bend, and may this senseless act lead many to know You. Grant us opportunities to reach out to the grieving and to offer them the true comfort that comes only through You.

Lord, grant us Your true peace.

Special Prayers and Intercessions

Hear us, Lord, as we bring You our silent prayers.

Silent prayer.

Savior of all, hear our prayer. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

*****Please Be Seated*****

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

#509

HOW SHALL THE YOUNG SECURE THEIR HEARTS



1 How shall the young se - cure their hearts And
2 Your Word is like a heav'n - ly light That
3 The star - ry heav'ns your rule o - bey; The
4 But still your law and gos - pel, Lord, Have
5 Your Word is ev - er - last - ing truth; How

guard their lives from sin? Your Word, O Lord, the
guides us all the day, And through the dan - gers
earth main - tains its place; And these your ser - vants
les - sons more di - vine; Not earth stands firm - er
pure is ev - 'ry page! That ho - ly Book will

truth im - parts To keep the con - science clean.
of the night A lamp to lead our way.
night and day Your skill and pow'r ex - press.
than your Word Nor stars so no - bly shine.
guide our youth And well sup - port our age.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.
Tune: ST. PETER (CM) Alexander R. Reinagle, 1799–1877.

****Please Stand****

THE SACRAMENT

The Lord be with you.



Lift up your hearts.

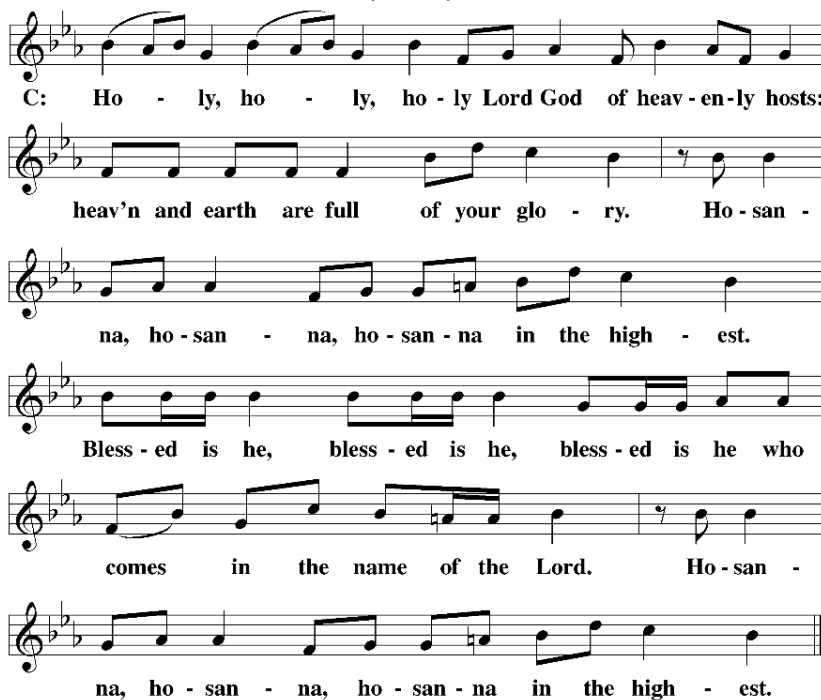


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock till he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."



The peace of the Lord be with you always.

CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

AGNUS DEI



****Please Be Seated****

DISTRIBUTION

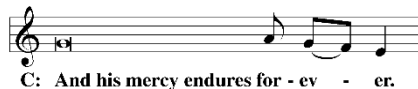
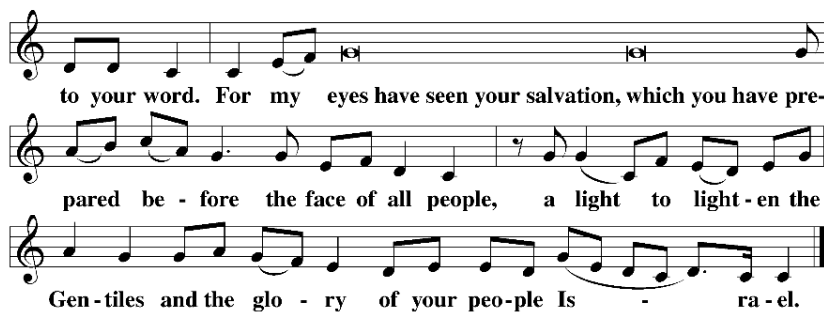
DISTRIBUTION – Please come forward at the direction of our usher. We do practice close communion according to Paul’s guidance in 1 Corinthians 11:27: “For if anyone eats and drinks in an unworthy manner because he does not recognize the Lord’s body, he eats and drinks judgment upon himself.” Therefore, if you are not a member of the ELS or WELS, please talk to Pastor Emmons before communing. Thank you for respecting our practices.

****Please Stand****

SONG OF SIMEON

NUNC DIMITTIS





O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

CLOSING PRAYER

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness, you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord, make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.



****Please Be Seated****

CLOSING HYMN:

#532

GOD IS HERE! AS WE HIS PEOPLE



1 God is here! As we his peo - ple Meet to of - fer
2 Here are sym - bols to re - mind us Of our life - long
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come In the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of Church and King - dom, In an age of



praise and prayer, May we find in full - er mea - sure
need of grace. Here are ta - ble, font, and pul - pit;
flock and fold; Here, as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, Keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;



What it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the world a -
Here the cross has cen - tral place. Here, in hon - es - ty of
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants of the
Help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's ded - i -



round us, All our var - ied skills and arts Wait the
preach - ing, Here, in si - lence as in speech, Here, in
Ser - vant Seek in wor - ship to ex - plore What it
ca - tion, All we have to give, re - ceive; We who



com - ing of his Spir - it In - to o - pen minds and hearts.
new - ness and re - new - al, God the Spir - it comes to each.
means in dai - ly liv - ing To be - lieve and to a - dore.
can - not live with - out you, We a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000. © 1979 Hope Publishing Co., Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.
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Tune: IN BABILONE (87 87 D) *Oude en Nieuwe Hollandse . . . Contradansen*, Amsterdam, c. 1710.

WHAT WE BELIEVE:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the sole source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God, the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, assuming His human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life and innocent death, are all sins forgiven for all people and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return, when all believers will be with Him in heaven, all unbelievers will be condemned to eternal torment, and this present world will be destroyed.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Reformation Service: Faith Lutheran Church in Medford will host a joint Reformation service on October 31 at 12 p.m., with an Oktoberfest meal to follow.

Bible Information Class: Our Thursday class resumes on October 22. We still have room for more, and we meet at 6 p.m.

Sunday Morning Bible Study: Please consider attending our Sunday morning adult Bible Study as we study Paul's letter to the church at Colossae. After our study of Colossians, we will read and discuss "Connected to Christ," a book that will help us with our outreach.

Midweek Bible Study: We will resume our Tuesday evening Bible Study on October 20, 6 p.m. We will meet at Gary and Lani Carroll's home (3211 SW Umatilla Rd.) to study Isaiah, or you can join us on Zoom.

Zoom Meeting ID: 850 328 6057

Password: GraceOT

Thanksgiving Service: We will hold our Thanksgiving potluck and service on November 22; there will be no service on November 25. For the Thanksgiving potluck, we will take an offering for the seminarians' Christmas gift. If you would like to give early, you can place it in the collection plate designated for that gift.

Advent Services: We will hold our Advent services on Wednesday afternoons at 3:30 p.m. We will have cookies and warm drinks following the services. Christmas Eve will also be at 3:30, and Christmas morning will be at 10:30 a.m. This year's Advent theme, reflecting our focus on going out into the community, is: "Your King comes; Go out to meet Him."

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