PLATTVILLE LUTHERAN CHURCH
5475 Bell Road
Minooka, Illinois 60447

October 18, 2026
9:15 a.m.
21st Sunday after Pentecost

O, COME LET US WORSHIP THE LORD!

* Indicates that the congregation will stand.

PREPARATION Enter to worship
THE PRELUDE/BELL RINGING
Announcements
*The CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS p. 94
*The OPENING HYMN
"Oh, Worship the King" #842
*The APOSTOLIC GREETING p. 98
*The KYRIE p. 98

PRAYER AND PRAISE
* The HYMN OF PRAISE p. 99
*The PRAYER OF THE DAY *Celebrate insert*

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD
The FIRST LESSON Isaiah 45:1-7
The PSALM Psalm 96 *Celebrate insert*
The SECOND LESSON 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
The ALLELUIA VERSE p. 102
*The HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 22:15-22
SERMON
*The HYMN OF THE DAY
"O God of Every Nation" #713
*The APOSTLES' CREED p. 105
*The PRAYERS
*The SHARING OF THE PEACE
The OFFERING
*The OFFERTORY "Create in Me" *Insert in pew*
*The OFFERTORY PRAYER p. 107
*The LORD'S PRAYER p. 112

BACK INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF LIFE
*The BENEDICTION
*The CLOSING HYMN
"You Servants of God" #825
The DISMISSAL/POSTLUDE
Depart to serve

Minister
Mike Bjerum

Pianist
Audrey Bjerum

Ministers
All Members

Lector
Flora Michlik

Head Ushers
Darrell Hansen
Bob Bols
Bruce Knudson

Church Office
475-7220

Celebrate

Sunday, October 18, 2026
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.

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.**
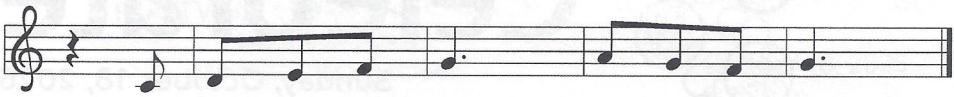
First Reading

Isaiah 45:1-7

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the LORD has anointed to end Israel's exile. The LORD makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this LORD as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the LORD claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

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.

Psalm 96:1-9 [10-13]; refrain, Ps. 96:7



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 a- | mong the nations
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
[4]**For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,**
more to be feared | than all gods. **R**
[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 hon- | or and power.
[8]**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;**
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD. **R**
[9]Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty 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 peo- | ples 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 com- | ing, O LORD,
for you come to | judge the earth.
[13]You will judge the | world with righteousness
and the peoples | with your truth.] **R**

Second 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.

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 perse-
cution you received the word with joy
from the Holy Spirit, [7]so that you be-
came 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 be-
come 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.

Gospel — Matthew 22:15-22

After Jesus begins teaching in the temple, religious leaders try to trap him with questions. First they ask if God's people should pay taxes to an earthly tyrant like Caesar.

The Pharisees went and plotted to en-
trap [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 law-
ful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" [18]But
Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why
are you putting me to the test, you hyp-
ocrites? [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.

Prayers of Intercession

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.

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

A brief silence.

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 (*local seminarians or newly called ministers may be named*). Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

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.
Your mercy is great.

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.
Your mercy is great.

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 (*especially*). Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church (*congregational ministries may be named*). Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We thank you for our ancestors who have been called home to you (*especially*). 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.

Preparing for Next Week

Monday (Luke, Evangelist [transferred]) Luke 1:1-4; 24:44-53. **Tuesday** Psalm 98. **Wednesday** Matthew 17:22-27. **Thursday** Psalm 1. **Friday** (commemoration of James of Jerusalem, martyr, died around 62) Titus 2:7-8, 11-15. **Saturday** John 5:39-47. **Reformation Sunday** Jeremiah 31:31-34; Psalm 46; Romans 3:19-28; John 8:31-36 *or* **Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost** Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18; Psalm 1; 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 22:34-46.

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ITEM014666 Tracks 1 and 2

PARISH CALENDAR

The days grow cooler as autumn moves forward. Bless our worship, God of all seasons, with the warmth of your love.

Today 9:15 Worship

Wednesday, October 21st 9:30 am Quilting

Kringla baking day: November 11, 2026. Order forms are in church entryway (or see Jean Homerding); order deadline is November 1st. $10.00 per dozen.

Thank you to all who donated items for LWR kits, for making quilts and those who worked on putting together quilts and kits. 37 boxes were delivered to LWR Ingathering on Sat. October 3, 2026.

73	Quilts
136	School Kits
96	Personal Care Kits
5	Fabric Kits
3	Baby Kits

Want to hear and sing your favorite hymn? There is a box in the entryway – fill out a sheet with what you want to hear.

October 11th offering: Current $1,205.00 Rent (current) $2,160.00 Electric (current) $99.10 Mission $120.00 Bldg Fund $10.00

Thank you for your support!

"Always show kindness and love to others. Your words might be filling the empty places in someone's heart."

Undivided Loyalty

When Jesus holds up a coin in the marketplace and asks the Pharisees and Herodians, "Whose head is this and whose title?" (Matthew 22:20), he is asking a question not about money, taxes, or the Roman Empire—at least not directly. It is likely that the emperor's title, printed on that coin, proclaimed the emperor's divinity: an implicit question of loyalty. And when Jesus asks his hearers to give "to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's" (v. 21), he invites his hearers to decide where they will place their loyalty. What will they give to God? What belongs to the emperor?

We might ask ourselves the same question: Where do we place our loyalty? Where do we place our trust? In Jesus, we see an example: Jesus is loyal to us. Jesus is loyal to us when he teaches. Jesus is loyal to us when he bends down to wash his disciples' feet. Jesus is loyal to us when he goes to the cross, dies, and rises again for us and for our salvation. Jesus is always loyal to us. Jesus is generous with us in pouring out grace upon grace for us. And we respond to Jesus' loyalty and generosity with loyalty and generosity of our own.

Throughout our lives, we are empowered by the loyalty and generosity of Jesus to give to God the things that are God's. We offer our resources for the good of our neighbors. We offer our time, investing in the work of the gospel in our communities and beyond. And we offer our very selves, pledging our undivided loyalty to Jesus, who is loyal to us first.

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