

Sunday, October 18, 2026
The Twenty-first Sunday After Pentecost

“Why are
you putting me
to the test?”



MATTHEW 22:18, NRSV

Sharing the Light!

Holy Communion Lutheran Church
2000 West Sixth Street Racine, Wisconsin 53405
A community called to Worship, Learn, Love, and Serve

We Are Called
A Contemporary Worship Service

Special thanks to greeter Lori Neu, assisting minister Eleanor Mason, lector and communion assistant Roger Degerman, audio-visual technician Kylee Albright, ushers Jim Carlson, Roger Degerman, David Leisner, and Gary Wood, altar guild Cindy Myhre and Lynn Riekkoff, coffee fellowship Shelley Lussmyer, councilperson in charge Joleen Carlson, and musicians Kate Potter Barrow, Gregg Albright, and Gregory Berg for sharing their time and talent with us today.

*Please stand if you are able where there is an asterisk * in the bulletin.*

PRELUDE *(a quiet time to reflect and prepare for worship)*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

A.M.: What does the Lord require of us?

ALL: To do justice

A.M.: What does the Lord require of us?

All: To love kindness

A.M.: What does the Lord require of us?

All: To walk humbly with our God

A.M.: We come to learn, to praise, to pray;

All: We come to worship our God.

All Are Welcome

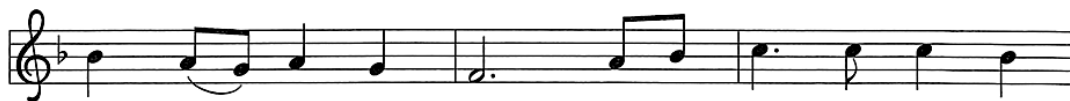
641



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
strang-er bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
laugh-ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
claim the faith of Je - sus:
Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
end to fear and dan - ger:
claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950
Music: Marty Haugen
Text and music © 1994 GIA Publications, Inc.

TWO OAKS
96 86 87 10 and refrain

***CONFESSION OF SINS:**

P. In the presence of God, who knows our hearts and minds, let us confess our sin:

O Holy and loving God,

We acknowledge to you, to ourselves, and to one another that we're not what you have called us to be. We have not always stood by our faith, shared our hope, or reached out with love.

We have done unkind and shameful deeds, and we have left undone, deeds which could have made a difference in the lives of those around us.

Too often, we have failed to speak and act for peace, justice, and kindness in our world.

Have mercy upon our repentance, forgive our sin, and change our lives. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven and loved by God. Go into the world with changed hearts and proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ! **Amen.**

***GREETING:**

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

All: And also with you.

****SONG: Won't You Stand Up**

**Solo: All the lonely people crying, it could change if we just get started.
Lift the darkness, light a fire for the silent and the brokenhearted.**

Refrain:



Won't you stand up, stand up, stand up. Won't you stand up and make a choice.



Won't you stand up, stand up, stand up. Won't you stand up and use your voice.

**Solo: With the comfort, there's a healing, high above the pain and sorrow.
Change is coming, can you feel it? Calling us into a new tomorrow! Refrain:**

**Solo: When the walls fall all around you, when your hope has turned to dust.
Let the sound of love surround you, beat like God's heart in each of us! Refrain:**

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***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

A.M.: Oh God who breaks barriers down and welcomes all:

All: You invite us to walk humbly by your side.

You call us to act with justice.

By your works, you inspire us to serve one another.

We pray that you will give us the courage to make a difference in this world

by treating people with respect and dignity,

bringing healing to the broken,

living in your light

so that those whose spirits are darkened by hopelessness and despair

feel your shining presence and tender love.

A.M. And all God's children say:

All: Help us to walk humbly with you, O God! Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC "Psalm 96" Senior Choir

Sing! Sing! Sing! Sing a New Song to the Lord!

Sing! Sing! Sing to the Lord, all the earth!

Sing! Sing! Sing! Sing and bless the Name of the Lord!

Declare God's glory and wonders to the world.

Great is the Lord and Greatly to be Praised.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness,

and tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is King!

The One who made the earth so firm that it cannot be moved.

Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth rejoice

with the thundering seas and the laughing fields!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Lisa Lequia

NOISY OFFERING

CHILDREN AND YOUTH MAY GO TO CHOIR

WORD

First Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-20

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.

Psalm: Psalm 96:1-13

¹ 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 among the nations
and God's wonders among all peoples.

⁴ **For great is the LORD and greatly to be praised,
more to be feared than all gods.**

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 honor and power.

⁸ **Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the holy name;
bring offerings and enter the courts of the LORD.**

⁹ Worship the LORD in the beauty 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 peoples 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 coming, O LORD,
for you come to judge the earth.**

¹³ You will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with your truth.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**

Cantor: We hear the ancient words of God, whose son once on this earth did trod. So we today could sing out, Hallelujah. With open mind and joyful heart, we listen, then we'll do our part—to help our broken world shout Hallelujah.

REFRAIN:

All:



***Gospel: Matthew 22: 15-22**

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

Glory to you, O God.

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 the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

REFRAIN

SERMON

Pastor Laura Fladten

We Are Called

720



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the
2 Come! O-pen your heart! Show your . . mer-cy to all those in
3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be



Lord! We are called to be light for the king-dom, to
fear! We are called to be hope for the hope-less so
one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth-er as



live in the free-dom of the cit-y of God.
ha-tred and blind-ness . . . will be . . . no more.
sis-ters and broth-ers . . . u-nit-ed in love.



We are called to act with jus-tice, we are called to



love ten-der-ly; we are called to serve one an-



oth-er, to walk hum-bly with God.

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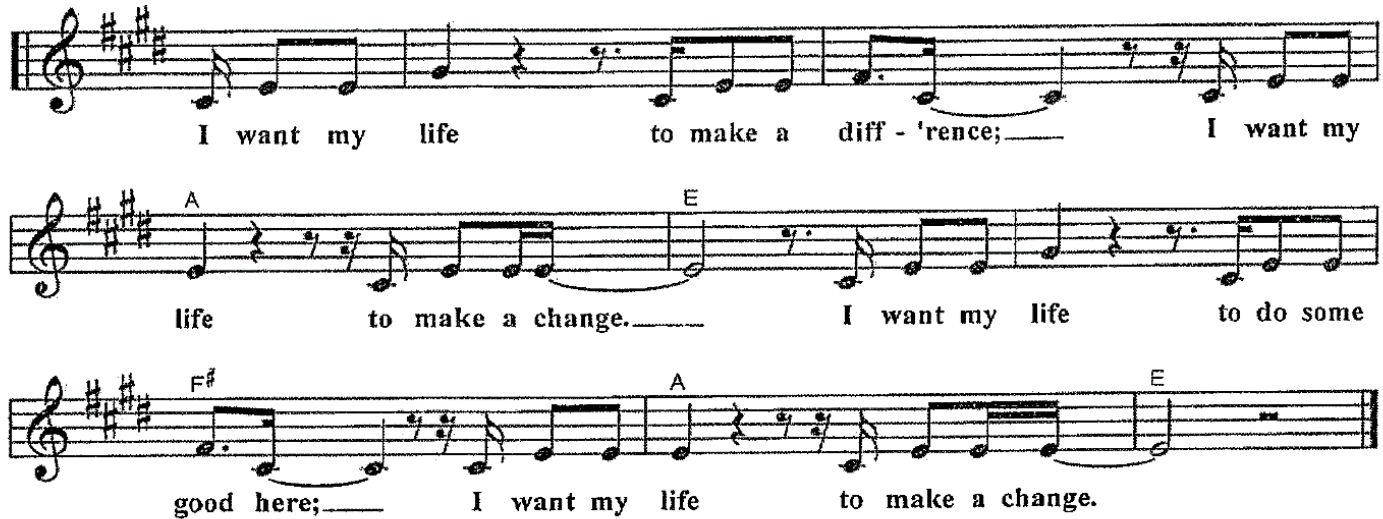
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CHILDREN RETURN TO WORSHIP

***INVITATION SONG: Make A Difference - Rachel Kurtz**

Pastor: You gave your life to make a difference. You gave your life to make a change.
You welcomed all to your table. You're calling us to do the same.

Refrain:



Solo: Working side by side, no out or inside,
Together we can make that change.
With a few or many, with a lot or not any,
Together we can make that change! **Refrain:**

Solo: Crossing the great divide, Joy and peace will abide,
Together we can make that change.
Jesus is our peace, all fighting will cease
Together we can make that change! **Refrain:**

Words of Institution:

Solo: We're the citizens with the saints, We're the sunshine with the rain.
We're the joy with the pain. We're the change!
You healed the sick and fed the poor. You loved the prophet and ended war.
Through us you will do more, You're the change! **Refrain:**

Pastor: You gave your life to make a difference.
You gave your life to make a change.
You welcomed all to your table.
You're calling us to do the same

***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.

DISTRI BUTION OF COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD: *This song begins with a solo. Please watch the song leader who will invite you to sing when all instruments join after the interlude.*

D A . bm A G

Lamb of God you take a-way the sin of the world - have mer-cy

6 on - us. Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world

12 have mer - cy on us.

Take a-way the ha-tred. Take a-way the chains - Take a way the

6 hung-er take a-way - the pain Grant us peace.

A G A D

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN

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On Eagle's Wings



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in this shad-ow for life,



say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"



And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,



make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.



2 The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will bring you no



fear; un-der God's wings your ref-uge, with faith-ful-ness your shield.



3 You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by



day; though thou-sands fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come.

Leader or All 3

4 For to the an-gels God's giv-en a com-mand to

guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will

bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

Final refrain
All

And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,

make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

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***POST COMMUNION BLESSING:**

The Body and Blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,
 strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
 Amen.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

em bm em em C

1. Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for truth, -
2. Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the hearts that

7 D em am D em C A

we turn to you. Make us your own, — your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to
yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants to one an - oth - er, signs of your kind - dom

Dsus4 D G C G em G C D

15

see. ——— Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
come.

Dsus4 D G C G em am D C C G

23

dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath - ered to - day.

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray. (brief silence)

We sing a new song, loving God, of thanksgiving for all that You give us to sustain life and the lives of everyone who is part of the human family. Help us to treat this planet, its resources, and the creatures who live upon it as a precious and irreplaceable gift. Lord in your mercy,

HEAR OUR PRAYER.

We sing a new song, loving God, of concern for those who do not enjoy life's full blessings who are treated unjustly who lack simple necessities because of the greed of others or whose plight is seen with indifference. Just as you have extended grace and mercy to all of us, help us in turn to extend compassion to those who, for whatever reason, find themselves in need. Lord in your mercy,

HEAR OUR PRAYER.

We sing a new song, loving God, of hope for a better world where all may live in safety, where everyone is seen as valuable members of the human family, where we learn to live with one another with greater patience and understanding, where we find ways to work together, laugh together, play together, sing together, grieve together, and learn together. Lord in your mercy,

HEAR OUR PRAYER.

We sing a new song, loving God, of healing and renewal for all who are struggling with burdens or hurts in body, mind and spirit. Today we pray for... Share your life-giving love and grace with them and with those who seek to help and minister to them. Lord in your mercy,

HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Hear these spoken prayers as well as the unspoken prayers of our hearts, that we may continue to know the abundance of your mercy and love, through Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

BLESSING

Congregation, please join in singing the choruses of Amens.

DISMISSAL

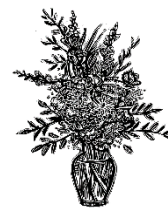
A.M.: Go out in peace. Be led forth in joy.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Please come to the lounge for coffee and fellowship.

Announcements



Altar Flowers

The flowers on the altar today were given by Jim & Lana Buhler and Todd & Laura Jansen in honor of their wedding anniversaries.

Welcome Visitors!

A special welcome to any visitors worshipping with us this morning. Please fill out one of the yellow cards in the pew rack in front of you so we can acknowledge your visit with us. You can put your completed card into the offering plate or give it to an usher or a pastor before you leave. Please join us in the lounge after worship for a time of fellowship.

Communion By Intinction

All are welcome to come to the table for Communion. We offer Holy Communion through Intinction (dipping the wafer into the chalice of wine). There are gluten free wafers and grape juice available in the center. If you feel more comfortable communing in your pew, there are individual cups available on the tables in the back of the sanctuary.

Diaper Ministry

Marianne Jensen is sponsoring the October Diaper Depot delivery in memory of Katharine Jensen. Thank you! If you have children's clothes or books that are no longer needed, please donate and we will give them a new home!

Our next distribution dates are October 28th from 4 - 6PM and November 11th from 11am – 1PM.. Contact Kylee Albright kygregg@mac.com or Amy Larsen amylarsen2406@att.net with questions or to volunteer.

HCLC Food Pantry Updates and Requests for Donations

We're beginning to prepare for Thanksgiving and could use donations of the following: Chicken/Turkey stuffing mix, Jiffy cornbread mix, evaporated milk (12 oz), canned pumpkin (15oz), gravy mixes, instant mashed potatoes, jello, and bar soap. We also appreciate monetary donations for turkeys and are grateful for new or gently used children's books.

Donations can continue to be dropped off M, W, or F from 9am-12pm at the food pantry, otherwise, in the HCLC church office or narthex.

We are so grateful to all our volunteers and church partners for making this ministry possible!

New Members Class

Anyone interested in becoming a member of Holy Communion or thinking about membership is welcome to join us today from 11:00 – 12:30. We will have some goodies to snack on while we share stories and answer questions. New members will be welcomed next week on Reformation Sunday, October 25th.

Craft and Bake Sale Fundraiser for Our Youth

To help the young people who will attend the 2027 Youth Gathering in Minneapolis next year we are going to have a Craft and Bake sale after the worship service on Sunday, Nov. 8, 2026. Please donate your crafts of any kind - soft goods, (table runners, napkins, hand or tote bags), wood items (Christmas trees, welcome signs, shelves), wreaths, paper goods, knitted, scarves, hats or mittens. Please price your items. If you will be donating, please contact Joni Reske, sjreske@gmail.com or Linda Godson, lltgyg1020@gmail.com to let them know so they can figure out how many tables they will need to set up the sale. Not a crafter? How about baking something? Bake a loaf of bread, some cookies, a cake, brownies or pie, and donate that!

We hope everyone will come to see all the wonderful items for sale after worship on November 8th and help us support the youth! If you have any questions, please contact Joni or Linda. Thank you!

No Monday Morning Bible Study Tomorrow

The Monday Morning Bible Study will NOT meet tomorrow. The study will resume next Monday, October 26th to discuss Matthew 5:1-12;

Beer, Brats, and Brownies Next Sunday

Join us on Sunday, October 25th as we celebrate the 509th anniversary of the Reformation and welcome our new members! We will gather following worship to enjoy brats, hot dogs, brownies, and toast Martin Luther. Root beer will also be served, and even some ice cream for floats! If you can contribute a pan of brownies, please let Pastor Laura or the office know. Come join us for a delightful time of fun, food, and fellowship!

Christmas Program Rehearsal Information

Look for the Light, our beloved Christmas program, returns this year on Sunday, December 13, at 9:30 A.M. Rehearsals are already taking place during kids and youth choir time, so please be here as often as you possibly can on Sundays so that the kids sing with confidence and zest! Longer rehearsals will take place during church services on Sundays November 15, 22, 29, and December 6. Please mark your calendars for these important rehearsals. Thanks!!!

Anyone who needs costume instructions, song words, or a practice CD - please see Kate.

Third Tuesday Bible Study

THIRD TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY meets October 20th from 10:00 to 11:30 at the home of Julie Burton (136 Steeplechase Drive). This month's study of Acts is on pages 167 to 179 in William Barclay. It focuses on Acts 19:8 to Acts 20:38. Bring your bibles with the different translations for an interesting discussion. Paul is visiting the many Christian churches on his way to Jerusalem. The Jewish leadership is seeking to shut him up while many Gentiles are accepting Christ. What a tough situation!

Ushers and Altar Guild Volunteers Needed!

The worship team is looking for new faces of two of our important teams, teams that keep our services vibrant and running seamlessly: Ushers and Altar Guild. We are looking for both individuals and families who would like to participate. Your help would be greatly appreciated! Please contact Kate Potter-Barrow at church or via text at 262-498-7593 for more information or to let her know you'd like to join one of our teams. Thanks!

Upcoming Worship, Education, Fellowship, and Service Opportunities

Sunday, October 18 – 9:30 Worship/Sunday School

11:00 New Member Class

Monday, October 19 – No Monday Morning Bible Study

12:30 Food Pantry

Tuesday, October 20 – 10:00 Third Tuesday Bible Study

6:30 Racine Theatre Guild – MHR

Wednesday, October 21 – 4:30 – 7:30 Delta Kappa Gamma lounge & youth room (Val Conner)

7:00 Racine Theatre Guild – sanctuary or choir room

Thursday, October 22 – 6:00 Bell Choir

6:30 Racine Theatre Guild – MHR

Friday, October 23 – 12:30 Food Pantry

Sunday, October 25 – 9:30 Worship/Sunday School

11:00 Beer, Brats, and Brownies

Monday, October 26 – 10:00 Monday Morning Bible Study

12:30 Food Pantry

Tuesday, October 27 – 1:00 Quilters

Wednesday, October 28 – 4:00 – 6:00 Diaper Ministry

7:00 Racine Theatre Guild – choir room

Finance Update

August Finance Numbers

Revenue: \$ 39,459.89

Expense: \$ 50,158.79

Net Income: \$ (10,698.90)

Year to Date Finance Numbers

Revenue: \$ 381,659.00

Expense: \$ 421,024.31

Net Income: \$ (39,365.31)

Holy Communion Church Council

President Joleen Carlson, Vice President Gary Wood, Secretary Laurie Knudson, Treasurer Kylee Albright, Members at large Rose Adamski, Steve Barootian, David Knudson, Rebecca Mason, and Polly Timmerman

In person attendance on October 11, 2026 - 92 Households watching online – 23