Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church

"Growing Relationships with God, Each Other, and Our Neighbors in the Way of Jesus"



Reformation Sunday / 22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday, October 24, 2025, 4:00 PM

Sunday, October 25, 2025, 9:00 AM

Welcome…There's a place for you here!

Welcome to the Lord's Table

All Christians, regardless of church membership or affiliation, are invited to the Lord's Table to share Holy Communion. You may come forward through the center aisle to share communion around the table and then return to your seat through the side aisles. You may also share communion while remaining in your seat. Bread and cups prepared in advance are available from baskets at the top of the ramps, or you may let an usher know to have those who are serving at the table come to serve you.

Bread, wheat wafers, or gluten-free wafers are available, as well as alcoholic wine (lighter color) or nonalcoholic grape juice (darker color). Trays are available in the front pews on either side for empty glasses. Those who are not partaking may also come forward to receive a verbal blessing.

Welcome to all God's children

During the Sunday service, the youngest children of God are invited to come forward for a message especially for them. "Busy bags" with quiet activities for children are available hanging along the low wall next to the choir. Children of all ages are welcome to share holy communion with a grownup's guidance.

You'll find a changing table in the restroom near the top of the spiral staircase in the entryway. Another changing table is located just outside the glass-enclosed "cry room" behind the choir. An unstaffed nursery is located at the bottom of the spiral staircase in the entryway, as a place for a grownup to stay with their child.

Restrooms

in the entryway are single-occupant and gender-inclusive. They are found in two "cubes" with mirrored exteriors, one on either side of the entryway.

Note: our Sunday service is livestreamed, and some worshippers may be seen in the broadcast. Those seated behind the ramps will not be seen on camera.

(thank you for silencing your phone as you worship)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

(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: 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.

GATHERING HYMN "Great God, Your Love Has Called Us" ELW 358

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (Sun.)

FIRST READING: **Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18**
A reading from Leviticus:

[1] The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:
[2] "Speak to all the congregation of the Israelites and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.
[15] "You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. [16] You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am the LORD.
[17] "You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. [18] You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: **Psalm 1** *(read responsively)*

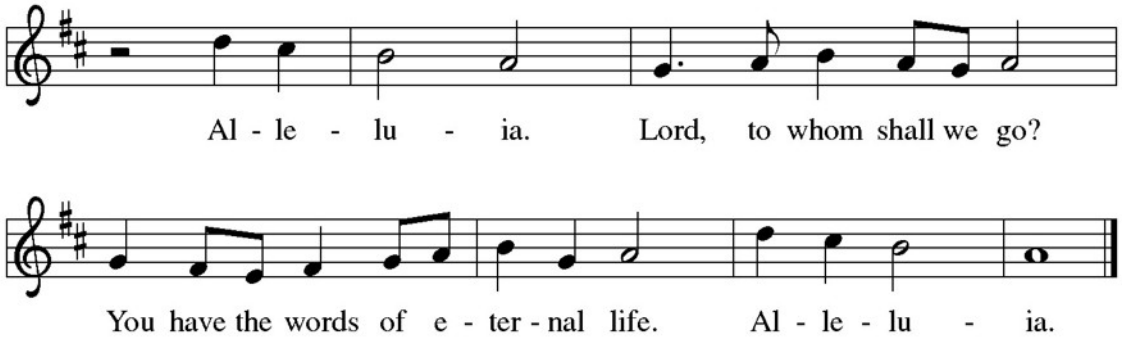
[1] Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked,
nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
[2] **Their delight is in the law of the LORD,**
and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.
[3] They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season,
with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.
[4] **It is not so with the wicked;**
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.
[5] Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes,
nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
[6] **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,**
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.

SECOND READING: **1 Thessalonians 2:1-8**
A reading from First Thessalonians:

[1] You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, [2] but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. [3] For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, [4] but, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals but to please God, who tests our hearts. [5] As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed, [6] nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, [7] though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. [8] So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW Setting 4



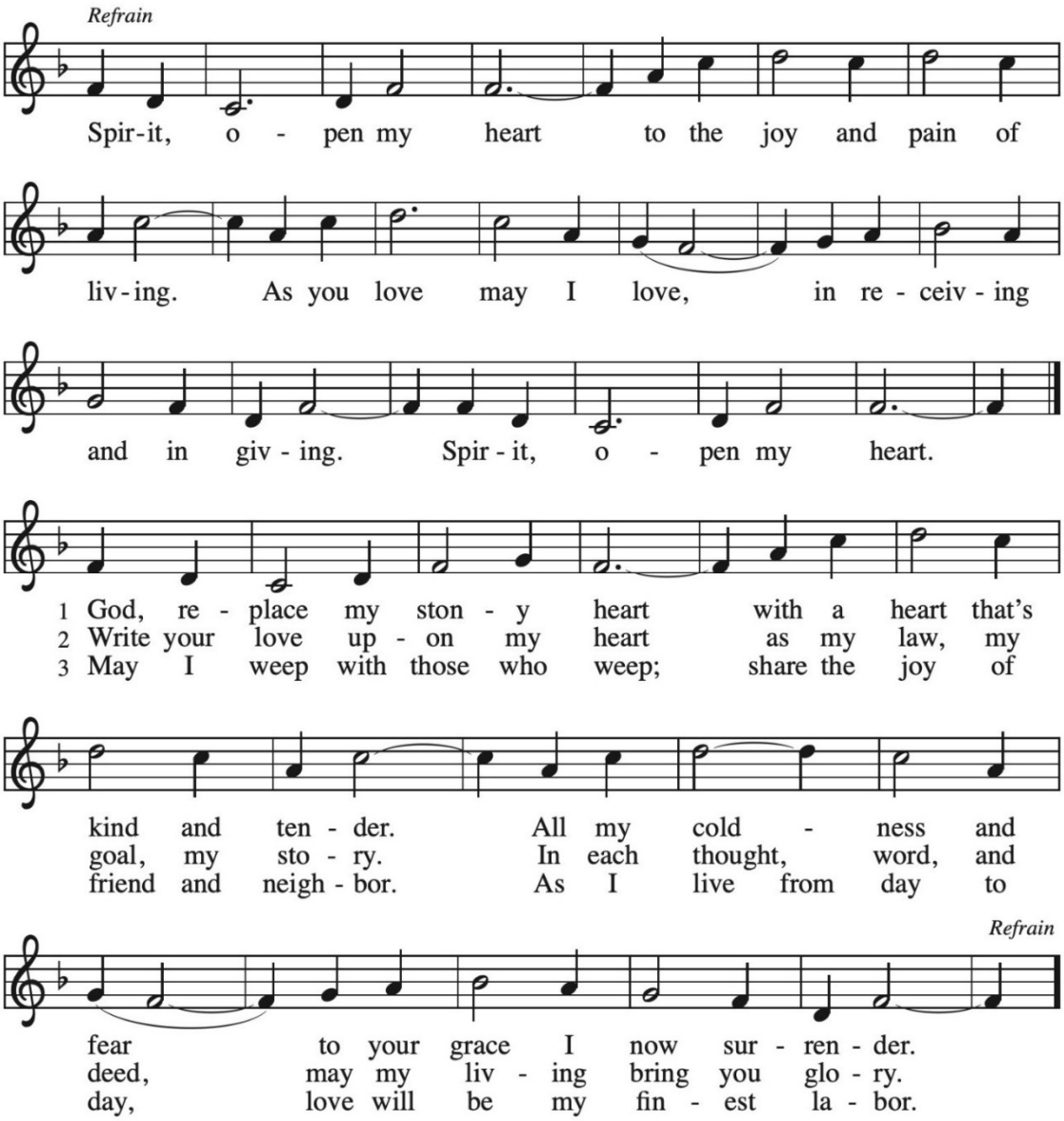
GOSPEL: **Matthew 22:34-46**
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

34 When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, 35 and
one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. 36 "Teacher, which commandment in
the law is the greatest?" 37 He said to him, " 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with
all your soul and with all your mind.' 38 This is the greatest and first commandment. 39 And a second is like
it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the
Prophets."
41 Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: 42 "What do you
think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?" They said to him, "The son of David." 43 He said to them, "How is
it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,
44 'The Lord said to my Lord,
"Sit at my right hand,
until I put your enemies under your feet" '?
45 "If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?" 46 No one was able to give him an answer, nor
from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: Pastor Nathan Pratt

HYMN OF THE DAY “Spirit, Open My Heart” ACS 1043



APOSTLES’ CREED (Sat.)

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.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM (Sun.)

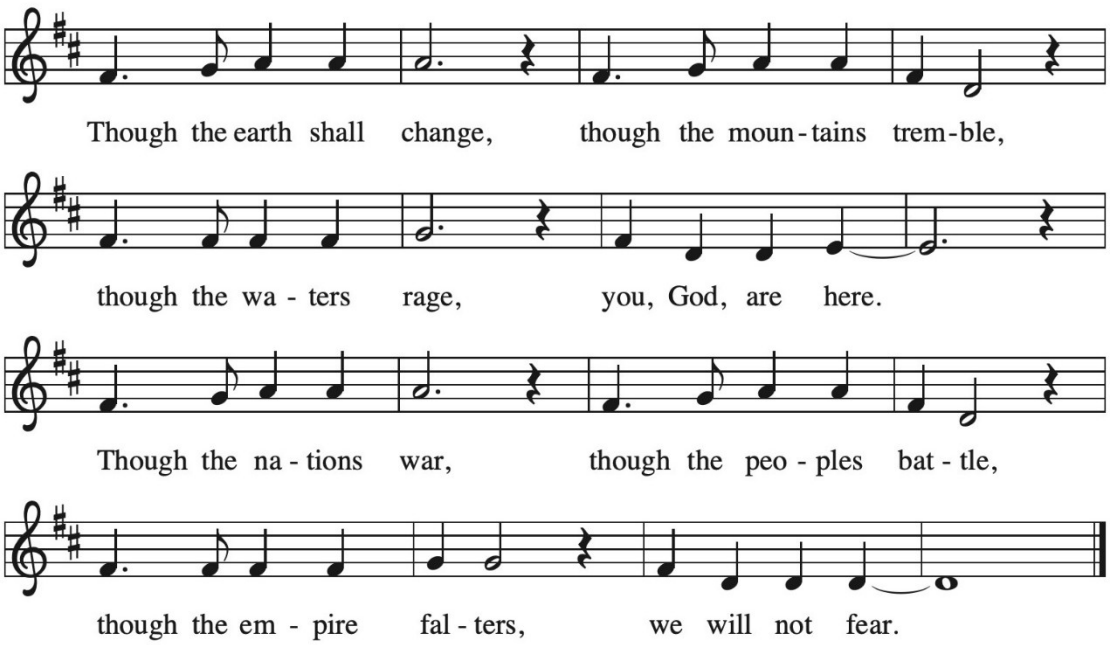
...People of God, do you promise to support these young people and pray for them in their life in Christ?
We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Let us pray...*(A prayer is offered for each person affirming their baptism)*

...Let us rejoice with these siblings in Christ.
We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

SONG FOR PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(sing once before and once after prayers)*

"Though the Earth Shall Change" (ACS 1035)



PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM (Sun.) "Fantasy on Kingsfold" Dean Wagner

OFFERING

Use the QR code to reach our online giving page:

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 ELW Setting 4

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

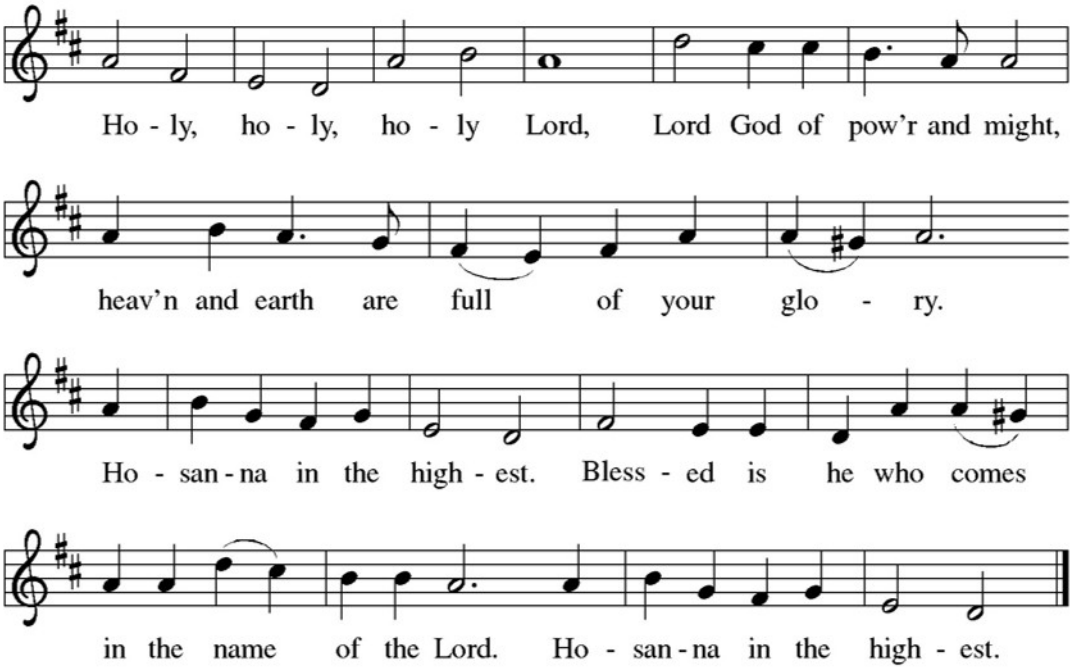
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

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.

INVITATION

DISTRIBUTION *(see inside of bulletin cover for communion directions)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" ELW 631

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Celebrating Our Confirmands

Luna Diefenbach
Sadie Sweetman
Marisa West

The congregation is invited to join the confirmands in the Fellowship Hall following the Sunday service for cake and refreshments in their honor.

Today's Worship Leaders
Preacher: Pastor Nathan Pratt; Presider: Pastor Beth Ann Stone
Musician: Michael Becker
Interim Choir Director: Gregory Schroeder
Sun. Greeter: Maxine Silvius
Welcome Desk Host: Ron Hurner
Sat. Reader: *One Needed*; Sun. Reader: Marisa West
Sun. Communion Assistants: Luna Diefenbach, Sadie Sweetman
Video Producer: Becky Litwin

Worship Leaders for 10/31 and 11/1:
Sun. Greeter: Chuck & Peggy Svoboda
Welcome Desk Host: Ed Jacobs
Sat. Reader: *One Needed*; Sun. Reader: Jan Fuller
Sun. Communion Assistants: Stephen Gifford, Kirsten Graves
Video Producer: Fritz Obernberger
Coffee Hour Treats: Elaine Klandrud, *One Needed*

ACKNOWLEGEMENTS
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THIS WEEK AT MPLC: Oct 25 - Nov 1

Sun. Oct 25
9:00 AM: Worship (Sanctuary)
10:00 AM: Coffee Hour (Fellowship)
10:15 AM: Sunday School (Education)
10:20 AM: Adult Ed (Mygatts); Prayer Shawl Ministry (Conference)
11:30 AM: Book Club (Mygatts)
1:00 PM: Movie Matinee – "Showboat" (Fellowship)

Mon. Oct 26
1:00 PM: Caregiver Class (Mygatts)
5:00 PM: GriefShare (Mygatts)

Tues. Oct 27
11:00 AM: Chair Yoga (Fellowship)
6:30 PM: Bell Choir Practice (Sanctuary)

Wed. Oct 28
11:00 AM: Midweek Bible Study (Mygatts)
5:30 PM: Pray Without Ceasing (Sanctuary)
6:30 PM: Confirmation (Mygatts)
7:00 PM: Adult Choir (Choir Room)

Sat. Oct 31
4:00 PM: Worship (Sanctuary)

Sun. Nov 1
9:00 AM: Worship (Sanctuary)
10:00 AM: Coffee Hour (Fellowship)
10:15 AM: Sunday School (Education)
10:20 AM: Adult Ed (Mygatts)
4:00 PM: Community Meal (Living Faith)

MPLC STAFF DIRECTORY

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Council President Andy Steenrod	asteenrod@gmail.com

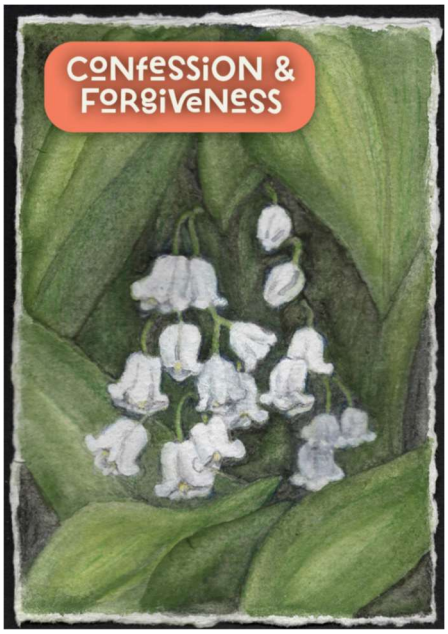
We are called by Jesus to **love God and one another**, to practice generous hospitality, and to serve all unconditionally. We fully welcome you to join us, embracing your race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical abilities, mental abilities, socioeconomic position, family status, background, and wherever you are in your faith journey. You are a unique and beloved child of God and are welcome here. You are accepted and openly affirmed just as you are. We commit ourselves to undertaking the work of racial equality and social and economic justice. We invite you to join us as we joyfully and inclusively love and serve God and our community, as **we are all one in Christ Jesus.**

Children's Message for Today

See if you can spot this image on the large "Tree of Life" poster hanging on the ramp!

Collection folders for youngest children of God are stored at the Welcome Desk. Please return them there before you leave today.

Wonders of Worship is a project of Nourishing Vocation with Children
through the Lutheran Center for Faith, Values, and Community at
St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN.
Original artwork by artist Vonda Drees.



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