Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church

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



21st Sunday after Pentecost

Saturday, October 17, 2026, 4:00 PM

Sunday, October 18, 2026, 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.

Sunday services are livestreamed, and some worshipers may be seen in the worship 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 SONG "God is Here!" ELW 526

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**: Isaiah 45:1-7**
A reading from Isaiah:

1 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 96:1-9 *(read responsively)*

[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.

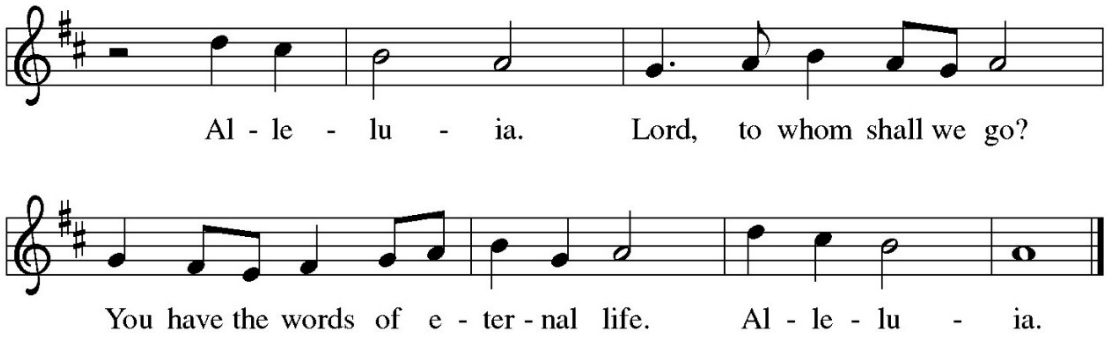
SECOND READING: **1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**
A reading from First Thessalonians:

[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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *ELW Setting 4*



GOSPEL: **Matthew 22:15-22**
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

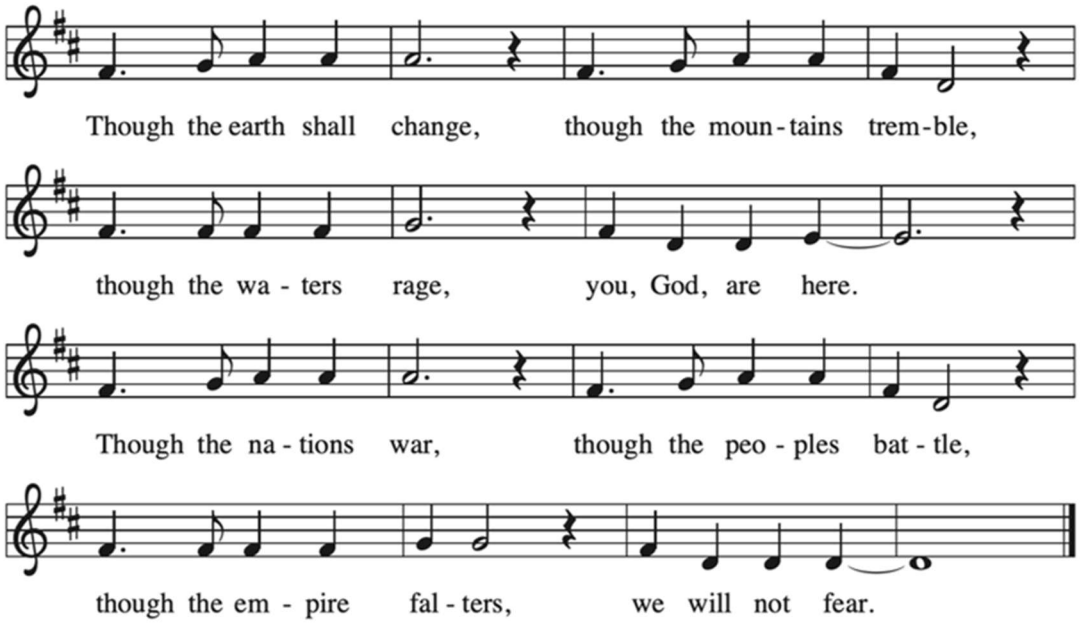
15 The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. 16 So they sent their disciples to him,
along with the Herodians, saying, “Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in
accordance with truth, and show deference to no one, for you do not regard people with partiality. 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.**

SERMON: Pastor Nathan Pratt

HYMN OF THE DAY “We Give Thee but Thine Own” ELW 686

SONG FOR PRAYER *(sing once before and once after the prayers)*
“Though the Earth Shall Change” (from Psalm 46; ACS 1035)



IN OUR PRAYERS

Darrell Reynolds, Julie Reynolds, Eric, Gary Brown, Janelle Schowalter, Jill, Jim Broetzmann, Julia, Pastor Marcy Wieties, Ray Palenik, Ron, Scott, Laura Gifford, Dan Wright, Callie Holguin, Betty Boetcher, Gabie Smith

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

Use the QR code to reach MPLC's online giving page:

CHOIR ANTHEM (Sun.) "Gather at the River" Susan LaBarr

BLESSING FOR COMMITMENT WEEKEND

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: 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.

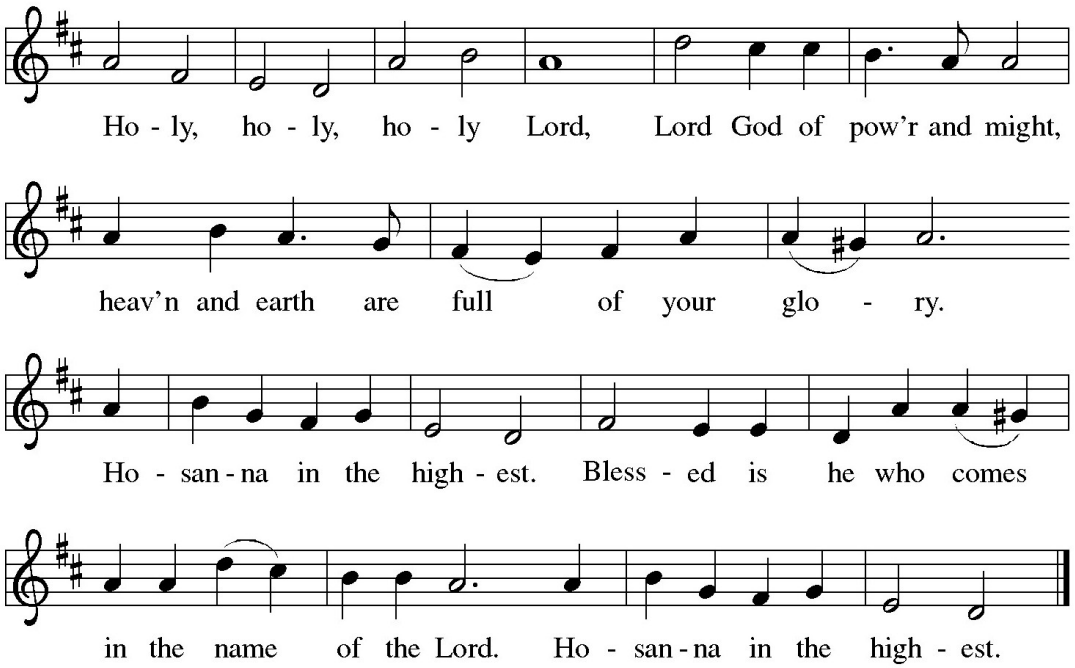
And also with you.

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.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

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 "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending" ELW 678

DISMISSAL

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

POSTLUDE

Today's Worship Leaders

Preacher: Pastor Nathan Pratt; Presider: Pastor Beth Ann Stone
Musician: Michael Becker
Interim Choir Director: Gregory Schroeder
Sun. Greeter: The Meader Family
Welcome Desk Host: Bob Peck
Sat. Reader: *One Needed*; Sun. Reader: Karen Magee
Sun. Communion Assistants: Elaine Klandrud, Carol Wiechers
Video Producer: Chris Ryshkus
Coffee Hour Treats: Chris Pearson, Kathy Peck

Worship Leaders for 10/24 and 10/25:

Sun. Greeter: Maxine Silvius
Welcome Desk Host: Ron Hurner
Sat. Reader: *One Needed*; Sun. Reader: Carol Wiechers
Sun. Communion Assistants: Karen Magee, Harold Solberg
Video Producer: Becky Litwin

ACKNOWLEGEMENTS

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Mt. Pleasant Lutheran Church
Stewardship Appeal for 2027

Commitment Weekend
October 17 – 18, 2026

When it's "all hands on deck!", that's the signal that EVERYONE'S needed! It takes the contributions of all of us – our time, our energy, and our resources – to do together what God calls Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church to do. Our mission depends on it!

"Christ makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love."

(Ephesians 4:16, NLT)

This weekend, all MPLC members and supportive friends of MPLC are invited to share your intent to give to our congregation's mission and ministry in 2027. Stewardship packets including a Commitment Card were mailed to all members earlier this week. Extra cards and envelopes are found at the top of the ramps.

Please place your completed Commitment Card in one of the large wooden boxes at the top of the ramps. Or use the QR code to complete a digital version. Thank you for your partnership in this mission we share!

THIS WEEK AT MPLC: Oct 18 - 25

Sun. Oct 18
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: Open Table (Fellowship)

Mon. Oct 19
1:00 PM: Caregiver Class (Mygatts)

Tues. Oct 20
11:00 AM: Chair Yoga (Fellowship)
6:30 PM: Bell Choir Practice (Sanctuary)
6:30 PM: Congregational Council (Mygatts)

Wed. Oct 21
11:00 AM: Midweek Bible Study (Mygatts)
5:30 PM: Prayer Vigil (Sanctuary)
6:30 PM: Confirmation (Mygatts)
7:00 PM: Adult Choir (Choir Room)

Thurs. Oct 22
9:30 AM: Quilters (Fellowship)

Sat. Oct 24
10:00 AM: Confirmation Brunch and Rehearsal (Fellowship & Sanctuary)
4:00 PM: Worship (Sanctuary)

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 – “Showboat” (Fellowship)

MPLC STAFF DIRECTORY

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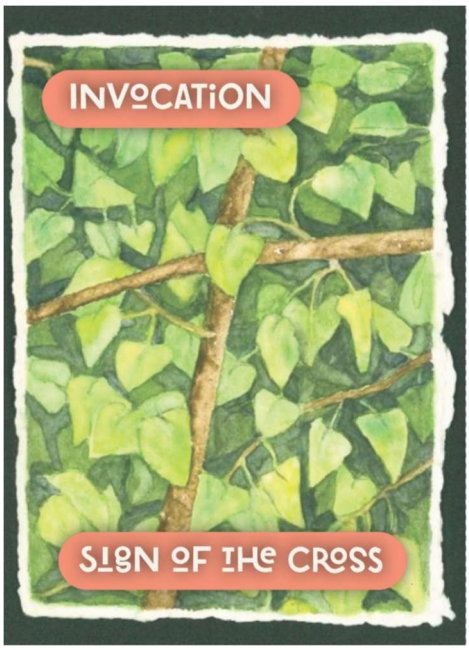
Organist/Accompanist Michael Becker	michael@mplc.us
Bell Choir Director and Interim Choir Director Greg Schroeder	gschroeder89@gmail.com
Business Manager Jessica Sexton	jessica@mplc.us
Communications Director Elaine Martin	elaine@mplc.us
General Information	info@mplc.us
Council President Andy Steenrod	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

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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