

October 18, 2026

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost



**“...wait for
His Son
from heaven...”**

1 Thessalonians 1:10



Immanuel Lutheran Church & School

1449 34th Street NW, Winter Haven, FL 33881

www.WinterHavenLutheran.com

Rob Sauers, Pastor (920) 602-3242

Neil Bernthal, Teacher (863) 967-5145

Katie Naumann, Teacher (253) 230-4184

As We Gather

What does a living faith look like? When the Holy Spirit brings a person from darkness into His marvelous light, it is never a hidden event—it alters the very pulse of our existence. The Apostle Paul rejoiced over the believers in Thessalonica because their lives had become a vibrant, undeniable display of God’s grace. As we gather this morning, we are invited to examine the heartbeat of our own faith. What defines our days as we walk through a world that does not know our Savior? Today, we will explore the anatomy of the Christian life—a life claimed by the cross and safely anchored in eternity. Prepare your hearts as we discover what it means to truly turn, serve, and wait.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

19 (1-2, 5-6) – All Praise to God, Who Reigns Above

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Opening Sentences

Isaiah 45:21b-22; 1 Thessalonians 1:9-10

P The Lord is a just God and a Savior;

C **There is none besides Him.**

P Look to Him and be saved, all you ends of the earth!

C **For He is God, and there is no other.**

P Let us turn to God from our idols,

C **To serve the living and true God.**

P And to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead,

C **Even Jesus, who delivers us from the wrath to come.**

Confession and Absolution

P We gather today in the name of the true and living God, the Creator of light and the Maker of peace. Yet, if we are honest, we know that our hearts have often turned away from Him. We have given our allegiance to the things of this world rather than the One who formed it. We have failed to serve our neighbor, and we have grown impatient in our waiting for the Lord’s return. Let us therefore come before our heavenly Father, confessing our sins and seeking His forgiveness.

C Almighty God, we confess that we have not rendered to You the things that are Yours. We have chased after false idols, trusting in our own strength and the fading treasures of this world. We have been slow to serve You by serving others, and we have lived as though this present age is all there is, forgetting to wait in eager expectation for the return of Your Son. Have mercy upon us. Forgive our sins, turn our hearts back to You, and empower us by Your Spirit to live lives of joyful service, always watching for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

P God is a just God and a Savior, and He has not left us to bear the wrath to come. He has given His only Son, Jesus Christ, to die for you, rendering the perfect payment for all your sins. Therefore, as a called servant of the Word, I announce the grace of God to all of you, and in the stead and by the command of our Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Glory be to the Father

Gloria Patri

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

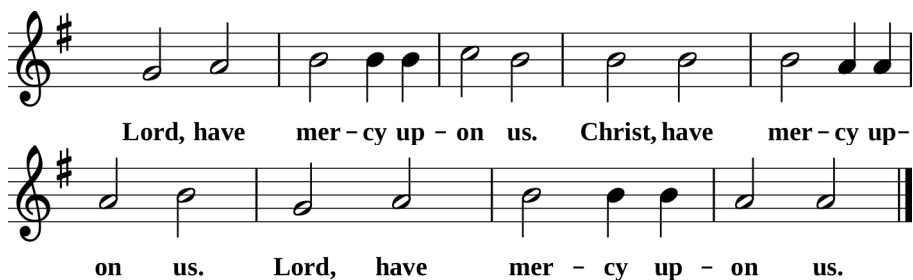


Glo - ry be to the Fa - ther and to the Son
and to the Ho - ly Ghost; As it was in the be-gin-ning,
is now, and ev-er shall be for - ev-er more. A - men.



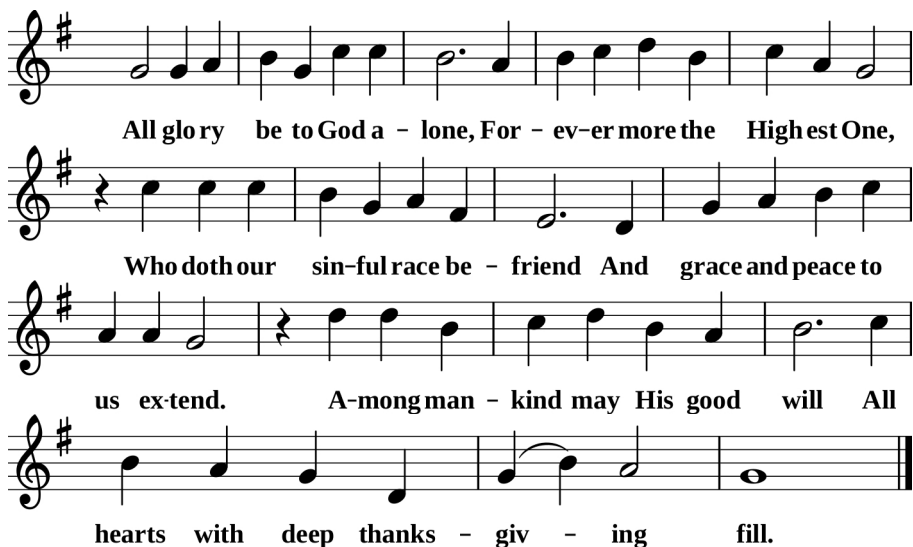
Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie



Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis – 238 (1)



Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray...

... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Old Testament Reading

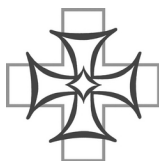
Isaiah 45:1-7

¹ “Thus says the LORD to His anointed, To Cyrus, whose right hand I have held— To subdue nations before him And loose the armor of kings, To open before him the double doors, So that the gates will not be shut: ² ‘I will go before you And make the crooked places straight; I will break in pieces the gates of bronze And cut the bars of iron. ³ I will give you the treasures of darkness And hidden riches of secret places, That you may know that I, the LORD, Who call you by your name, Am the God of Israel. ⁴ For Jacob My servant’s sake, And Israel My elect, I have even called you by your name; I have named you, though you have not known Me. ⁵ I am the LORD, and there is no other; There is no God besides Me. I will gird you, though you have not known Me, ⁶ That they may know from the rising of the sun to its setting That there is none besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other; ⁷ I form the light and create darkness, I make peace and create calamity; I, the LORD, do all these things.’

Psalm of the Day

Psalm 96:1-9

- P** Oh, sing to the Lord a new song!
- C** **Sing to the Lord, all the earth.**
- P** Sing to the Lord, bless His name;
- C** **Proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.**
- P** Declare His glory among the nations,
- C** **His wonders among all peoples.**
- P** For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised;
- C** **He is to be feared above all gods.**
- P** For all the gods of the peoples are idols,
- C** **But the Lord made the heavens.**
- P** Honor and majesty are before Him;
- C** **Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.**
- P** Give to the Lord, O families of the peoples,
- C** **Give to the Lord glory and strength.**
- P** Give to the Lord the glory due His name;
- C** **Bring an offering, and come into His courts.**
- P** Oh, worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
- C** **Tremble before Him, all the earth.**



Gospel Reading

Matthew 22:15-22

¹⁵ Then the Pharisees went and plotted how they might entangle Him in His talk. ¹⁶ And they sent to Him their disciples with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are true, and teach the way of God in truth; nor do You care about anyone, for You do not regard the person of men. ¹⁷ Tell us, therefore, what do You think? Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar, or not?" ¹⁸ But Jesus perceived their wickedness, and said, "Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? ¹⁹ Show Me the tax money." So they brought Him a denarius. ²⁰ And He said to them, "Whose image and inscription is this?" ²¹ They said to Him, "Caesar's." And He said to them, "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's." ²² When they had heard these words, they marveled, and left Him and went their way.

Alleluia

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.



Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Hymn

421 – Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake

Sermon Text

1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

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 from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. ² We give thanks to God always for you

all, making mention of you in our prayers, ³ remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father, ⁴ knowing, beloved brethren, your election by God. ⁵ For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake. ⁶ And you became followers of us and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Spirit, ⁷ so that you became examples to all in Macedonia and Achaia who believe. ⁸ For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place. Your faith toward God has gone out, so that we do not need to say anything. ⁹ For they themselves declare concerning us what manner of entry we had to you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God, ¹⁰ and to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead, even Jesus who delivers us from the wrath to come.



Sermon

Turn, Serve, Wait: The Anatomy of the Christian Life

Offertory

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from Your
pres-ence, and take not Your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -
store un-to me the joy of Your sal - va - tion; and up -
hold me with Your free spir-it. A - men.

Offering

Offering Hymn

788 (1)

Lord, You love the cheer-ful giv-er Who with o-pen
heart and hand Bless-es free-ly as a riv-er
That re-fresh-es all the land. Grant us, then, the
grace of giv-ing With a spir-it large and true
That our life and all our liv-ing
We may con-se-crate to You.

General Prayer

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.

Benediction

- P

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
- C

Amen.

Hymn

400 – Take My Life and Let It Be

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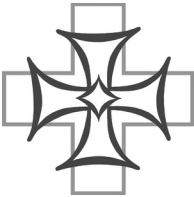
✝ Announcements ✝

Upcoming Schedule – winterhavenlutheran.com/church-calendar		
October 18	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service
October 23	10:30 am	Learning with Littles
October 25	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
October 30	6:30 pm	Family Fall Festival
November 1	9:15 am	Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Quarterly Voters’ Meeting/Board of Education/Board of Elders

Upcoming Meetings: Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

- **November 1** – Education/Elders/Quarterly Voters’ Meeting
- **December 6** – Board of Trustees/Church Council
- **January 3** – Annual Voters’ Meeting

In Our Prayers: Please keep our shut-in members in your prayers: Don Beymer, Bob & Joan Doriot, Johanna Jaehnigen, Elsie Kleinschmidt, Shirley Rosenberry, and Mike Sheffield.



Looking Forward to Next Sunday: Next Sunday, we celebrate the Reformation, remembering those who bravely stood on God's Word against earthly opposition. While we often think of Luther, this bold spirit echoes throughout Scripture. In Daniel 6, an aging prophet faces a literal lions' den. When a royal decree demanded his silence, Daniel knelt in his upper room and prayed, "as was his custom since early days" (Daniel 6:10). His faith refused to be muted by threats of death. Next week, our sermon theme is "A Confession That Cannot Be Silenced." Join us to discover how the Lord who shut the lions' mouths continues to embolden His Church today to fearlessly confess His saving truth.

Church Work Day – November 7: Mark your calendars for our church work day on Saturday, November 7. We’ll be working together on various projects around the church and school grounds. There will be jobs for a variety of ages and abilities, so please plan to join us if you are able. Many hands make light work, and it’s always a good opportunity to enjoy some fellowship while caring for the property God has entrusted to us. More details will be shared as the date approaches.

CLC Call News: Pastor Neal Radichel of Messiah Lutheran Church, Eau Claire, WI, has received the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Michael Wilke of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Saginaw, MI, has received the call to Gift of God Lutheran Church, Mapleton, ND, and to St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, Ponsford, MN. <> Pastor Frank Gantt of Zion Ev. Lutheran Church, Loganville, GA, and Faith Lutheran Church, Manchester, MO, has received the call to St. Luke’s Ev. Lutheran Church, Lemmon, SD. <> Pastor Paul Krause of Trinity Lutheran Church, Watertown, SD, and Zion Lutheran Church, Hidewood Township, SD, has received the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI.

Fruits of Faith October 11, 2026		Attendance: WH – 21 ORL – 9	
<u>Immanuel Lutheran Church</u>		<u>Church of the Lutheran Confession</u>	
<i>General Budget</i>		<i>General Budget</i>	
\$1,547.00	General Budget	\$100.00	CLC General Budget
\$1,362.00	Weekly Need	\$67.31	Weekly Need
+\$185.00	-Under / +Over	+\$32.69	-Under / +Over
\$53,708.67	Year to Date Offerings	\$1,625.00	Year to Date Offerings
\$55,842.00	Year to Date Need	\$2,759.71	Year to Date Need
-\$2,133.33	Year to Date (+/-)	-\$1,134.71	Year to Date (+/-)
<i>Non-Budgetary</i>		<i>Non-Budgetary</i>	
\$100.00	Building Fund	\$150.00	Kinship
\$50.00	Property Improvement		
Memorial: \$327.00 for Gail Sedberry (to General Budget)			

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

October 19–24, 2026

Monday - *1 Kings 18:20-39*

The prophet Elijah confronts the prophets of Baal on Mount Carmel, challenging the people to stop faltering between two opinions. When the fire of the Lord finally falls and consumes the sacrifice, the people fall on their faces and declare, "The LORD, He is God! The LORD, He is God!" (v. 39), abandoning their false worship to follow the true Creator.

Tuesday - *Romans 1:8-17*

The apostle Paul expresses his profound thankfulness for the Roman Christians, noting that their faith is spoken of throughout the whole world. He boldly declares his confidence in the message of Christ, reminding us that the gospel "is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes" (v. 16), creating a vibrant and active trust in our hearts.

Wednesday - *Romans 12:1-13*

In response to God's incredible mercies, believers are urged to dedicate their entire lives to Him. We are called to "present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God" (v. 1), ensuring that our daily actions, brotherly love, and use of spiritual gifts reflect our gratitude rather than conforming to the patterns of this world.

Thursday - *1 Peter 2:11-21*

Peter provides practical guidance on how Christians are to live as honorable sojourners and pilgrims under earthly authorities. While we respectfully submit to human governments for the Lord's sake, our ultimate allegiance belongs to the Almighty, as we are instructed to "Fear God. Honor the king" (v. 17).

Friday - *Philippians 2:12-18*

The apostle Paul encourages believers to work out their salvation with fear and trembling, knowing that it is God who is continually working in them. He urges them to do all things without complaining or disputing, so that they may become blameless children of God who "shine as lights in the world" (v. 15).

Saturday - *Titus 2:1-14*

The grace of God not only brings salvation but actively trains us to live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age. As we live out our days pursuing good works, we do so while "looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ" (v. 13).

