



*21<sup>st</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*  
*Augustana Lutheran*  
*Church*  
*October 18, 2026*

Thank you for silencing your mobile device.  
An asterisk (\*) invites the congregation to stand.

**Prelude**

**Shannon Peterson**

**GATHERING**

**Announcements**

**Welcome New Members**

**Announcement of the Day**

*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.*

**\*Opening Hymn** "You Servants of God" #825 v.1,2,3

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

P: Gracious God,

**C: Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from**

**you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C: 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.

**C: And also with you.**

**\*Kyrie (p.120)**

**\*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.**

## **WORD**

**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.*

<sup>1</sup> 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:

<sup>2</sup> 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;  
<sup>3</sup>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.  
<sup>4</sup>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.  
<sup>5</sup>I am the Lord, and there is no other;  
 besides me there is no god.  
 I arm you, though you do not know me,  
<sup>6</sup>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.  
<sup>7</sup>I form light and create darkness,  
 I make weal and create woe;  
 I the Lord do all these things.

### **Response to the Reading**

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Special Music**

Celebration Choir “*Lord, I Call You Friend*” – Choplin

### **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.*

<sup>1</sup> Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,

To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Grace to you and peace.

<sup>2</sup>We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly <sup>3</sup>remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>4</sup>For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>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, <sup>7</sup>so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>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 <sup>10</sup>and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

### **Response to the Reading**

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**\*Gospel Acclamation** (p.124)

**\*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.*

**\*Gospel Announcement and Spoken Response**

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>15</sup> The Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said.

<sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to Caesar or not?" <sup>18</sup> But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? <sup>19</sup> Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. <sup>20</sup> Then he said to them, "Whose head is this and whose title?" <sup>21</sup> 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." <sup>22</sup> When they heard this, they were amazed, and they left him and went away.

**\*Spoken Gospel Response**

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Children's Sermon**

*Pickle Jar funds going to Lutheran Disaster Response*

### **Sermon**

Pastor Chuck Meyer

*Silence for reflection*

**\*Hymn of the Day** "Lift Every Voice and Sing" #841

### **\*Apostles' Creed**

**C:** 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.

### **\*Prayers of Intercession —**

We pray for: Jeanne Alingh; Lily Bodammer; Jackson Bullock; Dan Graben; the family of Terry Goodwin; Terry Heck; Con Heider; Dennis Holton; Lois Irwin; Theresa Krusko; Joe LaScala; Benjamin Lindgren; Dave Lindgren; Terry McAllister; Becky Moos; Eden Roach; Sherry Roatch; Tom Roatch; Shelly Schossow; Jill Simonson; Marge Swanson; Josh Wingert; and those affected by disasters and diseases throughout the world. We pray for the caregivers that give of their time and gentle care for those who are ill. We also pray for the families of the church: Doug Sea; Marty, Aubrey, Mallory, and Steffi Sea; Virginia Sewalson; Kathy Spitz; Rosalie Stenwell.

A: Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

### **\*Sharing of the Peace**

## **OFFERING**

### **\*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.**

### ***Introduction of 1<sup>st</sup> Communion Participants***

## ***MEAL***

**\*Great Thanksgiving** (p.129)

**\*Proper Preface**

**\*Sanctus** (p.130)

**\*Words of Institution**

**\*Lord's Prayer** (p.134)

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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 to Holy Communion**

P: Christ invites you to this table.

All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Lamb of God** (p.135)

**Distribution**—*We believe that the body and blood of Christ are truly present in the Supper of our Lord, in the forms of bread and wine. We also believe that admission to the sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, presented through the Church to those who believe in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. All are welcome to partake in the Lord's Supper at Augustana Lutheran Church. Receive the bread in your hands. Gluten free hosts are available if you prefer. The wine will be served in a small glass. Grape juice is available if you prefer. Those who do not partake of Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

## **Distribution Hymns**

"Take My Life, That I May Be" #583

"We Give Thee but Thine Own" #686

## **\*Post-Communion Blessing**

P: The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

## **\*Post-Communion Prayer**

Sustaining God,

with this bread and cup,

you nourish us with mercy and abundant life.

By your Spirit, send us from this table to serve a needy world.

Make us living signs of your liberation, healing, and love,

following the way of Jesus, in whose name we pray.

**Amen.**

## ***SENDING***

### **\*Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

**Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn** "God of Grace and God of Glory" #705 v.1,4

### **\*Dismissal**

Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

**Shannon Peterson**

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# ***GOD'S LOVE MADE REAL!***

**Today, Sunday, October 18 Worship Leaders**—Presiding Minister: Pastor Chuck Meyer; Assisting Minister: Russ Wooley; Musician: Shannon Peterson; Technical Assistant: Team Madsen; Altar Guild: Ginny Ericson, Gloria Stinton, and Darla Williams; Acolyte: Klara Winter

**Sunday, October 25 Worship Leaders**—Presiding Minister: Pastor Chuck Meyer; Assisting Minister: Shelley Hexom; Musician: Shannon Peterson; Technical Assistant: Team Levine; Altar Guild: Ginny Ericson, Gloria Stinton, and Darla Williams; Acolyte: Dane Henneman

**Attendance for Sunday, October 11—47**

*Today we welcome three new church members to our table fellowship during Holy Communion! After examination by the pastor and with the help of their parents, Stella, Lennon, and Miles Rixner are all joining us at the table! Also, joining Augustana Lutheran Church as members are Jill Simonson, Pam Erickson, and Jim Sanders. Give them a friendly welcome!*

**October Benevolence**—We are collecting funds for Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR). Checks can be made out to Augustana with LDR in the note line.

**50th Sioux City CROP Walk**—Team Augustana/St. John is taking part in the Sioux City CROP Walk **today**, Sunday, October 18th, and we'd love for you to join us! Whether you walk with us or show support with a donation, every step and dollar helps fight hunger in our community and around the world. How to get involved: Walk with us - Come and walk with Team Augustana/St. John on the 18th! Donate - Find the donation link on the Augustana Facebook page, or hand your donation to Shelley Hexom at church. Please make checks out to CWS/CROP. Let's help make the 50th Sioux City CROP Walk the biggest one yet!

**Halloween Carnival**—Our annual Halloween carnival is coming up on Sunday, October 25 from 2:00-4:00pm. We hope to see you there!

**'Coffee Forever' Fundraiser**—ELCA Lutheran Churches in Sioux City are participating in a project to provide "Coffee Forever" for The Warming Shelter. The Warming Shelter offers low-barrier shelter and compassionate support to individuals and families experiencing homelessness in Siouxland. Church members, neighbors, and friends are encouraged to donate packaged or canned coffee (ground coffee, not whole bean). "Coffee Forever" bins are now located at the 8 Sioux City ELCA Lutheran churches. Participating churches are Augustana, First, Riverside, St. John, St. Luke, St. Mark, and United. Donations will be accepted at the churches on Sunday mornings, and on weekdays during church office hours. This ongoing support of the work of The Warming Shelter has begun, and is scheduled to last... forever!

**This week at Augustana**

**Sunday, October 18, 2026**

10:00am Children's Sunday School, Adult Sunday School, Choir

11:00am Holy Communion

2:00pm Magic Club

**Monday, October 19, 2026**

6:15pm Monday Night Women's Bible Study

**Wednesday, October 21, 2026**

5:00pm Confirmation Class

**Next week at Augustana**

**Sunday, October 25, 2026**

10:00am Children's Sunday School, Adult Sunday School, Choir

11:00am Holy Communion

2:00pm Halloween Carnival

**Monday, October 26, 2026**

6:15pm Monday Night Women's Bible Study

**Wednesday, October 28, 2026**

5:00pm Confirmation Class

**Welcome to all visitors; we've been expecting you!** Please worship with us regularly! If you are looking for a church home and would like to attend a new member class, please check the appropriate box on the Fellowship Register as you sign in. The register can be found in three places in the narthex as you enter the nave. Please sign it and check the appropriate boxes.

**There are several ways to find out more about Augustana!** Copies of the *Trumpeter*, Augustana's monthly newsletter, are available in the entryway for visitors. Look for us on the web at [www.augustanasc.org](http://www.augustanasc.org). Check us out on Facebook! Augustana Lutheran, Sioux City is the name of our page.

#### Congregational Mission Statement

A welcoming, caring congregation offering opportunities for worship, spiritual growth, and fellowship.

We express our faith and love to others in the name of Jesus Christ.



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.