

Contemporary Worship

October 18, 2026

Time after Pentecost

Lectionary 29

*In today's Gospel Lesson 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.*

GATHERING MUSIC

Above All – Leblanc/Baloche

*Above all powers, above all kings.
Above all nature and all created things.
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man,
You were here before the world began.
Above all kingdoms, above all thrones,
Above all wonders the world has ever known;
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth,
There's no way to measure what You're worth.*

*Crucified, laid behind the stone;
You lived to die, rejected and alone.
Like a rose trampled on the ground,
You took the fall, and thought of me, above all.*

WELCOME

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the companionship of the Holy Spirit be with you all!

Assembly: **And also with you.**

OPENING SONG *

How Great Is Our God/How Great Thou Art

*A * in the order of service indicates that those who are able are invited to stand.*

Verse 1: The splendor of the King, clothed in majesty,
Let all the earth rejoice, all the earth rejoice.
He wraps Himself in light, and darkness tries to hide
And trembles at His voice, and trembles at His voice.

Chorus 1: How great is our God, sing with me
How great is our God, and all will see,
How great, how great is our God.

Verse 2: Age to age He stands and time is in His hands
Beginning and the End, Beginning and the End.
The Godhead, three in One, Father, Spirit, Son
The Lion and the Lamb, the Lion and the Lamb...*chorus*

Bridge: Name above all names, worthy of all praise,
My heart will sing how great is our God.
Name above all names, worthy of all praise,
My heart will sing how great is our God.

Chorus 2: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee;
How great Thou art, how great Thou art...*Chorus 1*

"How Great Is Our God " words and music by Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, and Jesse Reeves

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"How Great Thou Art" words and music by Stuart Wesley and Keene Hine

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HOLY 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.

Leader: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the twenty-second chapter.

Assembly: **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.

Leader: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON

SONG *

Of My Hands

Verse 1: Of my hands I give to You, O Lord.
Of my hands I give to You.
I give to You as You gave to me.
Of my hands I give to You.

Verse 2: Of my gifts I give to You, O Lord.
Of my gifts I give to You.
I give to You as You gave to me.
Of my gifts I give to You.

Verse 3: Of my heart I give to You, O Lord.
Of my heart I give to You.
I give to You as You gave to me.
Of my heart I give to You.

Verse 4: Of my life I give to You, O Lord.
Of my life I give to You.
I give to You as You gave to me.
Of my life I give to You.

*Words and music by Ray Repp
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PRAYERS *

The assembly responds to each petition ending in "Hear us, O God."

Assembly: Your mercy is great.

The assembly responds to the final petition ending with "through Jesus Christ, our Lord."

Assembly: Amen.

PEACE *

Leader: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

Assembly: And also with you!

*The assembly greets each other with
"peace be with you...and also with you."*

*You're invited to share God's peace with those around you.
If you're worshipping on Facebook, you may also greet one another in the comments.*

OFFERING

Greater – Tomlin/Redman/Fielding/Cash

As we respond to hearing God's Word and prepare to feast at God's table we contemplate the many ways we serve the Kingdom of God through our time, talents, and gifts.

Offering plates are available at each entrance to the sanctuary and the QR code below can be used to give our tithes and offering.



*From Him, through Him, and to Him are all things; to God be the glory.
His Word endures from beginning to end; to God be the glory.*

*Greater is the one who lives in me! Greater is the love of Jesus!
Greater than my sin, greater than the grave; above all other thrones,
Above all other names, greater!*

You are greater!

*He was, and is, and forever will be; to God be the glory.
His power in us, He is strength for the weak; to God be the glory.*

*Jesus, You reign forever!
There's no one like You.*

CONFESSION *

Leader: We come before God just as we are—carrying our worries, our regrets,
our questions, and our hopes.

God already knows our hearts and welcomes us with grace.

Let us take a moment to be honest with God and with ourselves.

Silence for reflection.

Leader: Gracious God,

Assembly: we confess that we often put ourselves first.

We hold on to what we have instead of sharing with those in need.

We get caught up in the demands of daily life and forget to make room for you.

We are quick to judge, slow to listen,

and sometimes more concerned with being right than with showing love.

Forgive us when our choices do not reflect your goodness.

Free us from the things that hold us back.

Open our hearts to your grace, our eyes to the needs of our neighbors,

and our hands to the work of justice, mercy, and compassion.

Help us give our whole selves to you and live as people shaped by your love.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS *

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *

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.

HOLY COMMUNION

All those who confess Jesus as Lord and Savior are welcome to the table.

We invite you to come forward to receive the communion elements from the servers.

You will be handed a wafer from the server and are invited to select a cup of wine from the tray.

Pre-packaged elements of grape juice and gluten free wafers are available

in the baskets at the communion rail and at each entrance to the sanctuary.

You may partake of the elements at the communion rail and dispose of the cups and packaging in the baskets at the end of each communion rail or take the elements back to your pew to partake of them and dispose of the cups and packaging after the service.

"Bread from the Lord's Table" and/or a pastoral blessing are available for children who do not yet commune.

Leader: Christ extends the invitation to all people to come and feast.

As you are served communion:

Communion Server: The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you

Communion Receiver: Amen.

Music at Distribution:

Piano Meditations— *Amazing Grace & Morning Has Broken*

Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus

Turn your eyes upon Jesus,
Look full in His wonderful face;
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace.

Words & Music: Hele H. Lemmel - Public Domain

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Let us pray.

Gracious God,

we give you thanks for nourishing us with the body
and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Through this holy meal, strengthen our faith, renew our hope,
and deepen our love for you and our neighbors.

As we go forth from this table,

help us to use the gifts you have entrusted to us with generosity,
to seek justice with courage, and to serve others with compassion.

May our lives reflect your grace and give glory to you,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Assembly: Amen.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONNECTION & SERVICE

BLESSING *

Leader: May God, the giver of every good gift,
 bless you with wisdom to discern what is right,
 courage to stand for justice, and generous hearts to share God's love.
May Jesus Christ, who calls us to give to God what belongs to God,
 guide your choices, shape your service,
 and remind you that your whole life rests in God's gracious hands.
May the Holy Spirit strengthen you to love your neighbors,
 serve with compassion,
 and bear witness to God's goodness wherever you go.
Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and always.

Assembly: **Amen.**

SONG *

We Will Walk with God



We will walk with God, my broth-ers, we will walk with God,
We will walk with God, my sis - ters, we will walk with God,



we will go re - joic - ing till the king-dom has come,



we will go re - joic - ing till the king-dom has come.

Text: Swaziland traditional, trans. by John L. Bell, b.1949, © 2002, The Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent
Tune: Swaziland traditional

DISMISSAL *

Leader: Go in peace.
 Give your lives to God in faith, serve your neighbors in love,
 and let your actions proclaim God's grace.

Assembly: **Thanks be to God.**

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SERVICE PARTICIPANTS:

Pastor Leslie Fox Lott, Transition Pastor

Pastor Denny Asp, Associate Pastor

Deacon Diane Schwiger-Alexander, Director of Youth & Family

Lisa Parrott, Director of Sunday School

Chad Baker, Director of Worship & Music

Praise Team

Ronnie Hernandez-Romito, Communion Meditation Pianist

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FLOWER DEDICATION:

*The altar flowers are given in memory of our parents,
Joe & Joan Fritz, Orlan Kopp, and Pastor Tom & Mary Ann Wolfe,
by Brad and Judy Kopp.*

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