

21st Sunday after Pentecost October 18, 2026

Welcome

P This is the day that the Lord has made!

C Let us rejoice and be glad in it!



Confession and Forgiveness

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

P Confident that God justifies us by grace through faith, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P 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.**

P 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.**

Greeting

P 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.**

Praise Songs

*Arise and Sing
How Majestic is Your Name*

(I'll add lyrics for the praise songs)

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray. **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.**

The Peace

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

First Reading ***Isaiah 45:1-7***

The Lord said to Cyrus, his chosen one:

I have taken hold of your right hand to help you capture nations and remove kings from power. City gates will open for you; not one will stay closed. As I lead you, I will level mountains and break the iron bars on bronze gates of cities.

I will give you treasures hidden in dark and secret places. Then you will know that I, the Lord God of Israel, have called you by name. Cyrus, you don't even know me! But I have called you by name and highly honored you because of Israel, my chosen servant.

Only I am the Lord! There are no other gods. I have made you strong, though you don't know me. Now everyone from east to west will learn that I am the Lord. No other gods are real. I create light and darkness, happiness and sorrow. I, the Lord, do all this.

...This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalms ***96:1-9***

¹ Sing a new song to the Lord! Everyone on this earth, sing praises to the Lord,

² **sing and praise his name. Day after day announce, "The Lord has saved us!"**

³ Tell every nation on earth, "The Lord is wonderful and does marvelous things!

⁴ **The Lord is great and deserves our greatest praise! He is the only God worthy of our worship.**

⁵ Other nations worship idols, but the Lord created the heavens.

⁶ **Give honor and praise to the Lord, whose power and beauty fill his holy temple."**

⁷ Tell everyone of every nation, "Praise the glorious power of the Lord.

⁸ **He is wonderful! Praise him and bring an offering into his temple.**

⁹ Everyone on earth, now tremble and worship the Lord, majestic and holy."

Second Reading ***1 Thessalonians 1:1-10***

From Paul, Silas, and Timothy.

To the church in Thessalonica, the people of God the Father and of the Lord Jesus Christ.

I pray that God will be kind to you and will bless you with peace!

We thank God for you and always mention you in our prayers. Each time we pray, we tell God our Father about your faith and loving work and about your firm hope in our Lord Jesus Christ.

My dear friends, God loves you, and we know he has chosen you to be his people. When we told you the good news, it was with the power and assurance that come from the Holy Spirit, and not simply with words. You knew what kind of people we were and how we helped you. So, when you accepted the message, you followed our example and the example of the Lord. You suffered, but the Holy Spirit made you glad.

You became an example for all the Lord's followers in Macedonia and Achaia. And because of you, the Lord's message has spread everywhere in those regions. Now the news of your faith in God is known all over the world, and we don't have to say a thing about it. Everyone is talking about how you welcomed us and how you turned away from idols to serve the true and living God. They also tell how you are waiting for his Son Jesus to come from heaven. God raised him from death, and on the day of judgment Jesus will save us from God's anger.

... *This is the Word of the Lord.*

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Verse

Please stand as you are able

Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel ***Matthew 22:15-22***

The Pharisees got together and planned how they could trick Jesus into saying something wrong. They sent some of their followers and some of Herod's followers to say to him, "Teacher, we know that you are honest. You teach the truth about what God wants people to do. And you treat everyone with the same respect, no matter who they are. Tell us what you think! Should we pay taxes to the Emperor or not?"

Jesus knew their evil thoughts and said, "Why are you trying to test me? You show-offs! Let me see one of the coins used for paying taxes." They brought him a silver coin, and he asked, "Whose picture and name are on it?" "The Emperor's," they answered.

Then Jesus told them, "Give the Emperor what belongs to him and give God what belongs to God." His answer surprised them so much that they walked away.

...*The Gospel of the Lord.*

(sung) ***Praise to you, O Christ.***

Choir Anthem

Home on the Rock

Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

A Let us profess our faith through the words of the Apostles Creed.

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 the Church

A Seeking the Spirit of God who makes all things new, we pray for the church and the world.

A brief silence.

Living and true God, you inspire us to share the message of the gospel. Give your spirit of love to seminarians and those beginning their lives in ordained ministry. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We give you thanks for the majesty of our oceans. Protect the abundant life within them and sustain all those who work to preserve them. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We seek your wisdom in all things. Direct all who hold positions of authority around the world, that they act with compassion, seeking the good of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for all people who work in dangerous or degrading environments. Grant them safety and courage, and heal all those who are injured, sick, or suffering. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those impacted by war and violence, for our men and women in the armed forces, and for all first responders. We also ask for your blessing on Glenda and Arlen, and for those for whom we now pray, either in our hearts or aloud:

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We ask your blessing on those who do the quiet, unseen work of the church, and especially for the ministries of TOL, Augustana, Good Shepherd and Pr. Sohail's South Asian Ministry. Encourage them in their work of faith and labor of love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We thank you for our ancestors and loved ones who have been called home to you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Trusting in your boundless grace, O God, we lift up these spoken prayers and those in our hearts; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

Please stand as you are able

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 God thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. Fulfilling the promise of the resurrection, you pour out the fire of your Spirit, uniting in one body people of every nation and tongue. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn (*sung*):

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your Kingdom and teach us to pray. **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.**

*{P Christ invites you to this table.
All who are thirsty, all who are hungry, come!}*

Communion Song

Please be seated

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion: Please be seated until the usher directs your row to the communion rail. Please come to the communion rail and stand or kneel. If you do not wish to receive communion, please come for a blessing. All who share our confession that Christ is present in the Sacrament are welcome to join us at the Lord's table. White grape juice is available in the center of the communion cup tray. If you would like a gluten free wafer, please let Pastor know.

The Body of Christ given for you.

The Blood of Christ shed for you.

Post-Communion Blessing

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray. 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.**

Blessing

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

Dismissal

A Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.

C Thanks be to God.

MINISTERS: All the Members of Our Congregation
Leading Worship Today: Charlie Schmidtke
Church Office: 716-836-4868 Office Email:
trinityoldlutheranchurch@gmail.com
Website: www.trinityoldlutheran.com
Music Minister: Don Grabau Media Minister: Jeff Ward
Worship Assistant: Rev. Lynn Scarpine
Prayer Partner: Don Grabau

Prayers and Announcements

Prayers

Welcome: We extend a very warm welcome to everyone worshiping with us today. If you are visiting, we are delighted to have you here, and we hope you enjoy your worship time here with us.

Thank you: To Charlie Schmidtke, for leading us in worship today. We look forward to hearing your message, Charlie!

Prayer Partner Ministry: If you are in need of additional prayer, please come to the Parents' Room in the back of church following worship. Prayers are confidential.

Today's Altar Flowers: The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God from Cristel and family, in loving memory of Haidy Reitz - we miss you!

Offering: Thank you for your gifts to TOL. There is an offering plate at the back of the sanctuary. If you send your offering through the US mail, please use checks only-please don't mail cash. We also have online giving through tithe.ly, which can be accessed through TOL's website (www.trinityoldlutheran.com) or on your smartphone.

Mission for October: The mission for October is Operation Christmas Child. Please use the marked envelopes in the narthex. Donations can also be made through [tithely](http://tithely.com). Thank you.

4th Annual Harvest House Baby Shower: Now through the end of October, we are joining with other local Lutheran churches in collecting diapers, baby wipes, new children's socks, bottles and feeding supplies. Please place your items in the marked container in the donation basket in the hallway. Thank you for your continued support.

Pr. Fred New Address: Pastor Fred and Anne's temporary new address is 719 Holter Street, Helena, Montana 59601. Pr. Fred's email is popitude@gmail.com.

Upcoming Tri-Church Worship:

Next Sunday, October 25: Reformation Sunday is next Sunday. The three churches will worship at Augustana at 9:30 am. There will NOT be a service at TOL next Sunday!

Then on:

Sunday, November 15: Tri- church worship Veteran's Day Worship at TOL 11:00 am

Sunday, December 6: We will celebrate a Christmas program at Good Shepherd

Adult Education Fall 2026 through Spring 2027: The classes take place on **Mondays at 1 pm**, in person and on Zoom. The focus will be on religious leaders, led by Charlie Schmidtke: The next two classes are as follows.

Monday, Oct. 19 The Apostles

Monday, Oct. 26 Early Christian women leaders

TOL Fall Chicken Chowder: Volunteers are needed for soup prep on **Friday, Oct. 23** and the day of the sale, which is **Saturday, Oct. 24 starting at 12 noon**. See the chart in the narthex for how you can help with donations of soup ingredients. Please speak to Matt Grabau.

Fall Fest at Augustana: After you purchase your chowder, you are invited to visit Augustana (same day – **Saturday, Oct. 24** from 11 am till 2 pm) for some apple cider and donuts, games and activities, and trunk or treat. Bring the family!

Grief Support Meeting at TOL: For those who have experienced the death of a child or grandchild. We meet the first Tuesday of each month, next on **Tuesday, Nov. 3**. Please see Charlie or Diane Schmidtke for a Zoom link. The meetings begin at 10 am.

Curtains Up: On **Saturday, Nov. 7**, please join us at Ellicott Creek Playhouse for a live performance of "Man of LaMancha." There is a sign up sheet on the main bulletin board, and there are 30 seats available.

Women's Lunch Group: We will meet on **Thursday, November 12** at Raintree Bar and Grill, 2970 Colvin Blvd., Tonawanda.

Augustana Book Club: Will meet on **Thursday, November 12** at 6:30 and we will discuss Whistler by Ann Patchett.

Niagara Frontier Chord Authority Presents: Silver and Gold for the Holidays, an A Cappella Concert, at TOL on **Thursday, Dec. 12 at 7:30 pm**. As the holidays approach, we celebrate in song! Come enjoy our toe tapping music and a special visit by everyone's favorite holiday couple, Santa and Mrs. Claus! Then socialize with some wonderful people and enjoy complimentary refreshments while you browse crafts, wreaths, and baked goods sale. Admission \$12 presale; \$15 at the door, children under 12 free. nfcachorusinfo@gmail.com for tickets. Website: www.nfcachorus.org or see Barb Yendall.

Devotionals: If you would like a "Christ in Our Home" devotional for **October through December 2026**, please pick one up in the narthex or call the church office.

Friends of Night People: Thanks to our volunteer teams who continue to prepare and deliver 100 sandwiches each week! We also collect clothing, sleeping bags, blankets, warm clothing, hygiene items, lip balm & mugs. Please place donations in the blue barrel in the hallway. Thanks!

Book and Puzzle Sale: Please visit our Book Sale in the Resource Library, which is the first room in the hallway near the main bulletin board. Books and puzzles are always being added and are available for a fraction of the cost at retail. No cost for the greeting cards available. Proceeds are used for church building interior improvements.

Thank You for your Continuing Support of these ministries:

- Non-perishable food items for the food pantry at Good Shepherd.
- Aluminum can pull tabs for Ronald McDonald House – bin in hallway.
- Dash's Tapes for the Niagara Lutheran Health System – bin in hallway.
- Cans and bottles to be recycled – barrel in hallway.
- Clothing and hygiene items for Friends of Night People– blue barrel.
 - Items or cash donations for Operation Christmas Child boxes – bin in hallway.

This week's calendar

<i>Please notify the Church Office of any schedule changes, member illness, prayer request, etc., so church staff can respond accordingly.</i> <i>Office hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, 9 am–12 noon.</i>	Sun	10/18	9:30 am 9:45 am 11 am 3:30 pm 7 pm	Worship at Augustana Sunday School Worship at TOL Abiding Faith Worship GA Meeting
	Mon	10/19	10 am 1 pm 5:45 pm 6 pm 6:30 pm	OA Meeting Adult Ed Yoga Sandwich Team #3 AA
	Tues	10/20	5:45 pm 7:30 pm	Chair Yoga CoDA
	Wed	10/21	5:45 pm	Yoga Flow
	Thur	10/22	9 am 9:30 am 5:45 pm 7 pm	Weavers' Guild – all day Yoga Yoga GA Meeting
	Fri	10/23	9 am 11 am	Chicken Chowder Prep South Asian Lutheran Community
	Sat	10/24	11- 2 pm 4 pm 6 pm	Chicken Chowder Sale Fall Fest at Augustana So. Asian Worship Service Contra Dance
	Sun	10/25	9:30 am 3:30 pm 7 pm	Tri-Church Worship at Augustana No Worship at TOL Abiding Faith Worship GA Meeting

TOL's Free WiFi and Password:

N7W7y; Password = limp82hewer43dig

