

*WELCOME TO WORSHIP
AT
WHITNALL PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH*



*Confirmation Service
October 26th, 2025
(10:30 am Service)*

Pastor Michael Fazio is presiding.

We have come together today as members and guests to worship God and celebrate new life in Jesus Christ. We hope our worship will be uplifting and provide a source of hope and strength for the week ahead. Please sign our Guest Register and introduce yourself as you leave worship today.

If you believe that the Lord is truly present for us in the Sacrament in body and blood for the forgiveness of sin, you are welcome to join us as we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS ~ PRELUDE ~ PAT GRUTZA

CALL TO WORSHIP 651 *Oh, Praise the Gracious Power (Vs 1)*

- 1 Oh, praise the gracious pow'r that tumbles walls of fear
and gathers in one house of faith all strangers far and near:

Refrain: We praise you, Christ! Your cross has made us one!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the + Holy Spirit.

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: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we
have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you
with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us,
renew us and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in
your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the + Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN 505 *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God*

- 1 A mighty fortress is our God, a bulwark never failing;
our helper frees us from the flood of mortal ills prevailing.
For still our ancient foe, forsworn to work us woe,
with guile and dreadful might is armed to wage the fight:
on earth there is no equal.
- 2 If we in our own strength confide, our striving turns to losing;
the righteous one fights by our side, the one of God's own choosing.
You ask who this may be: Christ Jesus, it is he,
the Lord of hosts by name. No other God we claim!
None else can win the battle.
- 3 Though all the world with devils fill and threaten to devour us,
we tremble not, we trust God's will: they cannot overpow'r us.
Though Satan rant and rage, in fiercest war engage,
this tyrant's doomed to fail; God's judgement must prevail!
One little word shall triumph.
- 4 God's Word shall stand above the pow'rs, shall end all their thanksgiving.
The Spirit and the gifts are ours, for God with us is living.
Let goods and kindred go, this mortal life also;
though all of these be gone, they yet have nothing won.
The kingdom's our forever!

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 ELW 155

1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
2 Chris - te e - lei - son. Chris - te e - lei - son.
1, 3 Lord, . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
2 Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son.
Chris - te e - lei - son.
Lord, . . . have mer - cy.
Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

HYMN OF PRAISE *Glory to God in the Highest ELW Setting 3 Pg 139*

Cantor: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth

All: Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;

you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

in the glory of God the Father. Amen

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST READING *a reading from Jeremiah 31:31-34* *Rosemary Fiedler*

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

³¹ The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³² It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more. This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 46

The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold. (Ps. 46:7)

¹ God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.

² **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**

³ though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

⁴ **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**

⁵ God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.

⁶ **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.**

⁷ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

⁸ **Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**

⁹ behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear and burns the shields with fire.

¹⁰ **“Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations. I will be exalted in the earth.”**

¹¹ The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SECOND READING *a reading from Romans 3:19-28*

Julia Kruschke

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

¹⁹ Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰ For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹ But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²² the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³ since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴ they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom

God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶ it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus. ²⁷ Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸ For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law. This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *ELW 142 Setting 3*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal Life.

Alleluia. Alleluia

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel *according to John 8:31-36*

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³² and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³ They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

³⁴ Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵ The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶ So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." This is the Holy Gospel of Our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY 729 *The Church of Christ, in Every Age*

- 1 The church of Christ, in ev'ry age beset by change, but Spirit-led, must claim and test its heritage and keep on rising from the dead.
- 2 Across the world, across the street, the victims of injustice cry for shelter and for bread to eat, and never live before they die.
- 3 Then let the servant church arise, a caring church that longs to be a partner in Christ's sacrifice, and clothed in Christ's humanity.

- 4 For he alone, whose blood was shed, can cure the fever in our blood, and teach us how to share our bread and feed the starving multitude.
- 5 We have no mission but to serve in full obedience to our Lord.
to care for all, without reserve, and spread his liberating word.

**AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM ~ Confirmands & Presenters come forward
for the individual readings of their faith statements.**

P: These persons have been instructed in the Christian faith and desire to make public affirmation of their baptism ~ *Rosemary Fiedler and Julia Kruschke*

***Upon completion of faith statements all confirmands
and parents come forward***

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, we rejoice that you desire to make public profession of your faith and assume responsibility in the life of our Christian community and its mission in the world. In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of his Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from his Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been nourished at his holy table and called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now, therefore, I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

Congregation please stand.

P: Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

C: I do.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: 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 into hell. 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

Congregation may be seated.

P: **Rosemary and Julia** you have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear his Word and share in his supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Confirmands: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me ~

parents may lay hands on child

P: People of God, do you promise to support these confirmands and pray for them in their life in Christ?

C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

P: Let us pray. Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made these young people your own. You forgave them all their sins and brought them to newness of life. Continue to strengthen them with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in them your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Father in heaven, for Jesus' sake, stir up in those whom you have called, the gift of your Holy Spirit; confirm their faith, guide their lives, empower them in their serving, give them patience in suffering, and bring them to everlasting life.

C: Amen.

P: Let us rejoice together in the life giving gift of Christ.

C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism; in the hope, peace and grace given to us through our Lord Jesus Christ. Together we will give thanks and praise to God, proclaim the Good News to all the world, and live lives of mercy and justice in His Holy Spirit, now and forever more. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

a brief silence.

A: Free your church, O God, with grace, mercy, and love to be transformed by your word. Direct your church to be united in word and deed so that all creations know the uniting and transforming power of the gospel.
God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Renew creation, O God, so that all living creatures thrive together. Guide those who work to restore and renew creation. Preserve and care for endangered species throughout the world. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Bring peace among the nations, O God, so violence and terror are not the norm on your earth. Inspire leaders of communities to work for peace and justice. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

A: Forgive us our sins, O God, and grant us your grace. Move us to understanding and reconciliation between people of all faiths. Mend hurt feelings and heal wounds we have caused one another. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Heal all who suffer, O God, and bring them peace. Draw near to people who are incarcerated. Give hope to all experiencing housing or employment insecurity, or discrimination. Heal those who are ill Be our stronghold at all times. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We give you thanks, O God, for the life and witness of all your saints. Give us hope in your son's victory through the cross. God of grace,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ Our Lord.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY HYMN 182 Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.**

**Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.**

**Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.**

**Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray **Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *ELW Setting 4 Pg 153*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
Heav'n 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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father; endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Through Abraham you promised to bless all nations. You rescued Israel, your chosen people. Through the prophets you renewed your promise; and at the end of all the ages, you sent your Son, who in words and deeds proclaimed your kingdom and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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 in 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 in remembrance of me.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and place and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, 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.**

COMMUNION

THE BODY OF CHRIST, GIVEN FOR YOU. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, SHED FOR YOU.

As we accept the Lord's gift of His body and blood, we will receive Him in our refilled cups containing the wafer and juice or by intinction in the fullness of faith that God's love and grace have been poured into these holy elements.

One Body, One Mind, One Lord Jesus Christ. This is God's precious gift for you.

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God Setting 3 Pg 146*

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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS *685 Take My Life, That I May Be 712 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE *208 Praise To You, O God of Mercy*

Praise to you, O God of Mercy, Thanks be to You forever!

Raising high the weak and lowly, Thanks be to You forever!

Thanks be to You forever!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray . . . We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, Son and † Holy Spirit bless you, now and forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN 654 *The Church's One Foundation*

- 1 The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
- 2 Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.
- 3 Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
- 4 Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.
- 5 Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace,
that we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace, Share the Good News!

C: Thanks be to God.

