



Saint Peter's Lutheran Church

October 25, 2026

2570 St. Peter's Church Road, Salisbury, NC 28146

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Pastor Sue Lynn White

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Reformation Sunday October 25, 2026

* Indicates to stand as you are able. P=Pastor, C=Congregation, A=Assisting Minister, L=Lector

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Prelude

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

***C: Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate God,

***C: 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.

***C: Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

A Mighty Fortress is Our God

ELW 504

APOSTOLIC 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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*P: Let us pray. O Lord God, you are the holy lawgiver, you are the salvation of your people. By your Spirit renew us in your covenant of love, and train us to care tenderly for all our neighbors, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

*C: Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

First Reading

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

L: A reading from Leviticus the 19th chapter.

¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying:

² “Speak to all the congregation of the Israelites and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

¹⁵ “You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor.

¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am the LORD.

¹⁷ “You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”

L: The word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 1

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

² **Their delight is in the law of the LORD,
and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.**

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither;
everything they do shall prosper.

⁴ **It is not so with the wicked;
they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶ **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous,
but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

Second Reading

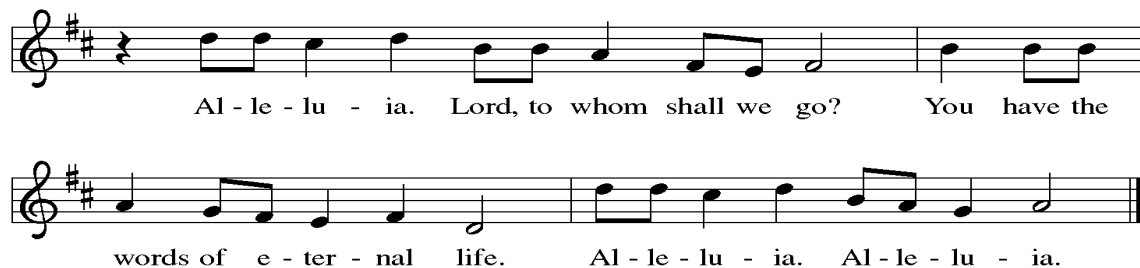
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8

L: A reading from 1 Thessalonians the 2nd chapter

¹ You yourselves know, brothers and sisters, that our coming to you was not in vain, ² but though we had already suffered and been shamefully mistreated at Philippi, as you know, we had courage in our God to declare to you the gospel of God in spite of great opposition. ³ For our appeal does not spring from deceit or impure motives or trickery, ⁴ but, just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the message of the gospel, even so we speak, not to please mortals but to please God, who tests our hearts. ⁵ As you know and as God is our witness, we never came with words of flattery or with a pretext for greed, ⁶ nor did we seek praise from mortals, whether from you or from others, ⁷ though we might have made demands as apostles of Christ. But we were gentle among you, like a nurse tenderly caring for her own children. ⁸ So deeply do we care for you that we are determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us.

L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



*P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 22nd chapter.

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

*The Holy Gospel

Matthew 22:34-46

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

⁴¹ Now while the Pharisees were gathered together, Jesus asked them this question: ⁴² “What do you think of the Messiah? Whose son is he?” They said to him, “The son of David.” ⁴³ He said to them, “How is it then that David by the Spirit calls him Lord, saying,

⁴⁴ ‘The Lord said to my Lord,

“Sit at my right hand,

until I put your enemies under your feet” ’?

⁴⁵ “If David thus calls him Lord, how can he be his son?” ⁴⁶ No one was able to give him an answer, nor from that day did anyone dare to ask him any more questions.

*P: The Gospel of our Lord.

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

Children’s Sermon

The Sermon

Pastor Sue Lynn White

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Built On A Rock

ELW 652

***APOSTLES’ CREED**

*A: Let us profess our faith using the words of the 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

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

A brief silence.

*A: Gracious God, as we remember the Reformation, we thank you for all those who have worked to hold the church accountable to its mission. Protect them as they speak truth to power. Hear us, O God.

***C: Your mercy is great.**

*A: We give thanks for the beauty of the world's islands, coastlines, and low-lying places. Keep them and their inhabitants safe from harm. Hear us, O God.

***C: Your mercy is great.**

*A: We thank you for the diversity of humankind, made in your image. We pray for the future of endangered languages and cultures. Preserve them to show forth your glory. Hear us, O God.

***C: Your mercy is great.**

*A: We pray for the healing of all who are sick or injured, especially those who cannot access medical care. We remember those whom we love who are suffering or in pain. We especially pray for Guy & Betty Puckett, Jim & Phyllis Cornelison, Jerry & Carolyn Sides, Ernie & Linda Cooper, Phil & Carol Boyette, George Lentz, Brenda H. Trexler, Judy Peeler, Lynn DeBerry, Marcia Ritchie, Jean Holshouser, Sue Misenheimer, Thelma Barger, Buddy Waller, Ronnie Pierce, Bobby Lambirth, friends of St. Peter's, and those we hold in our hearts or speak aloud now... *(pause)*. Hear us, O God. ***C: Your mercy is great.**

*A: We give thanks for retired clergy and their families, honoring their faithful service to your church. Bless them as they find new ways to live into their vocation. Hear us, O God.

***C: Your mercy is great.**

*A: We thank you for all the faithful departed who taught us to love God and our neighbor. By their example, help us to seek after you with heart, soul, and mind. Hear us, O God.

***C: Your mercy is great.**

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

***C: Amen.**

PEACE

*P: The peace of Christ be with you always. ***C: And also with you.**

*P: Let us share the peace with one another.

THE OFFERING

Anthem

Offering Hymn

Now the Feast and Celebration

ELW 167

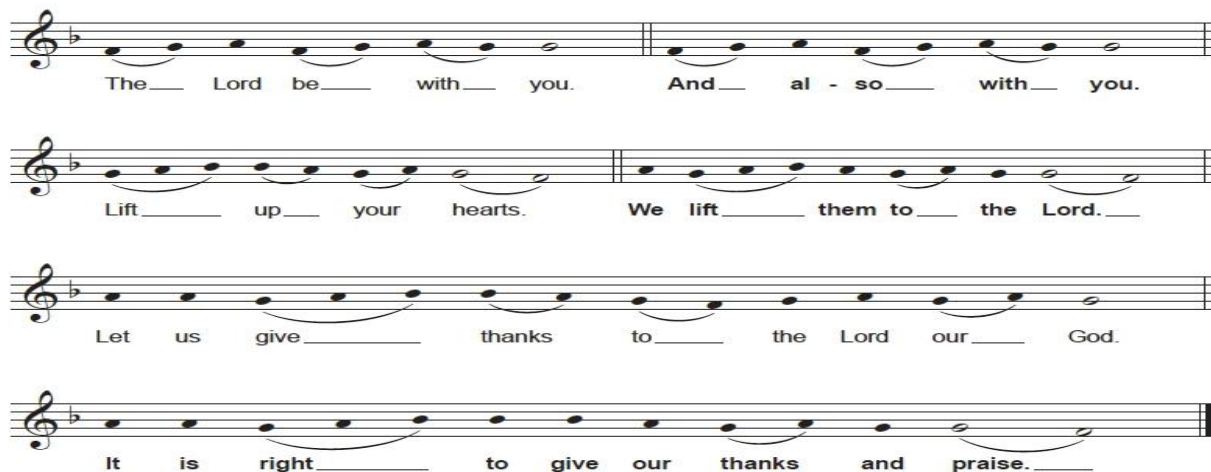
OFFERING PRAYER

*A: Let us pray. 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.

*C: Amen.

MEAL

PREFACE DIALOGUE



The___ Lord be___ with___ you. And___ al - so___ 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 our thanks and praise.____

*P: 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*C: Holy, Holy, Holy



WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

***P:** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught.

***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.

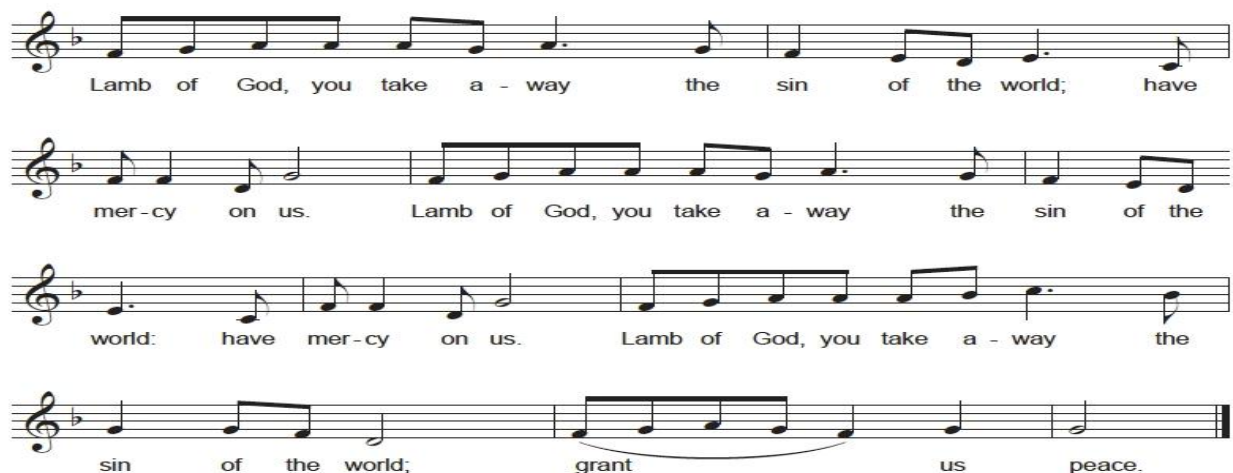
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

LAMB OF GOD



DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION BLESSING

*P: The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in God's 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.

*C: Amen.

SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

BLESSING

*P: The God of love draw you into full accord and one mind, in the body of Christ Jesus.

*C: Amen.

*P: The God of hope grant you strength and joy in all circumstances through the interceding of the Spirit.

*C: Amen.

*P: The God of grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

*C: Amen.

*SENDING HYMN

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

ELW 836

THE DISMISSAL

*A: Rooted in the love of Christ;

***C: We grow in grace and joyfully branch into a broken world!**

***P: Go out in joy. Be led forth in peace.**

***C: Thanks be to God.**