



Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

October 18, 2026

Proper 24

Prayers written by Kellan Sarles.

PRELUDE "This is My Father's World" Dale Wood

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We come here to worship - a unique practice that stands apart from everything else we do.

People: For an hour, we choose to be small. We practice submitting to God, humbling ourselves before a higher wisdom, silencing our own will, thanking the One who feeds and heals us.

Pastor: Outside, we hear others shout and posture, buy friends, boast of their own accomplishments, deceive themselves, malign strangers, and dishonor their creator.

People: Though we, too, are selfish and petty, in this hour we watch for the Spirit's arrival, for the Son's glory, for the profound presence of God Almighty. May our worship be pleasing in God's eyes. Amen.

HYMN #307 "God of Grace and God of Glory"

PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

Guide: Holy God, creator of all things and source of all good, we lack the words to praise you fully. We thank you for the gift of Jesus Christ, through whom we are able to see You clearly and by whose life we have a model for our own. We thank you for the magnificence of nature, the tenacity of life, and the wonder of new birth.

People: Week after week, we confess the same sins, pledge the same vows, resolve to be different, better, more Christ-like. Help us, O Lord, to follow Christ daily, to spend time daily with Jesus. Give us a hunger for Christ and an ability to recognize Him in the faces of those around us. Trusting God's strength, we confess our weaknesses.

- Silent Confessions -

Guide: Draw us closer to you, O God, and listen as we bow our heads and pray as Christ taught us. ***"Our Father.... The Lord's Prayer" (debts/debtors)***

PROMISE OF THE GOSPEL

Guide: The promise of the gospel is not comfort, long life, wealth, or status. It is far greater -strength, forbearance, patience, wisdom, joy, and Christ-with-us. May we accept this promise and offer it, in God's name, to others.

CHORAL RESPONSE (in unison)

#582 "Glory to God, Whose Goodness Shines on Me"

ANTHEM "Amazing Grace" by Craig Courtney

FAMILY SERMON Joy Bornhoeft

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Reader: God of Wisdom, silence our busy minds and critical spirits. Allow the text to speak the message that each one of us needs to hear. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Isaiah 45:1-7

1 The Lord says to his anointed, to Cyrus, whom I have grasped by the strong hand, to conquer nations before him, disarming kings, and opening doors before him, so no gates will be shut:

2 I myself will go before you, and I will level mountains. I will shatter bronze doors; I will cut through iron bars.

3 I will give you hidden treasures of secret riches, so you will know that I am the Lord, the God of Israel, who calls you by name.

4 For the sake of my servant Jacob and Israel my chosen, I called you by name. I gave you an honored title, though you didn't know me.

5-6 I am the Lord, and there is no other; besides me there is no God. I strengthen you - though you don't know me - so all will know, from the rising of the sun to its setting, that there is nothing apart from me. I am the Lord; there's no other.

7 I form light and create darkness, make prosperity and create doom; I am the Lord, who does all these things.

All: This is the Word of the Lord. Amen.

Matthew 22:15-22

15-16 Then the Pharisees met together to find a way to trap Jesus in his words. They sent their disciples, along with the supporters of Herod, to him.

17 "Teacher," they said, "we know that you are genuine and that you teach God's way as it really is. We know that you are not swayed by people's opinions, because you don't show favoritism. So tell us what you think: Does the Law allow people to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

18-20 Knowing their evil motives, Jesus replied, "Why do you test me, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used to pay the tax." And they brought him a denarion. "Whose image and inscription is this?" he asked.

21-22 "Caesar's," they replied. Then he said, "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God." When they heard this they were astonished, and they departed.

All: Thanks be to God. Amen.

SERMON "Church and State" Pastor Joseph

APOSTLE'S CREED

Leader: Family of faith, children of God, what do we believe?

All: We believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;

Leader: who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified dead, and buried;

All: he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

Leader: from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

All: We believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN #343 Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Pastor: Heavenly father, who desires that we, Your Church, should be Your agent of peace and love in the world, we come to you in our neediness and in our grief.

People: As the people of Erin Presbyterian, we pray for our fellow churches, our ministry in this community, our witness to the world. We pray for our members who are sick, troubled, grieving or weighted with cares. We pray for those places where hunger, suffering, and loss are the grim results of warfare. Have mercy, we pray, on these your children.

— *Silent prayers for others and ourselves. A candle is lit.* —

Pastor: Jesus promised His followers, “I will not leave you as orphans.” So we know that God sees us and knows us, and he promises to give us all we need in order to accomplish his will. Therefore, we anticipate His call as we keep our lamps lit for the journey and know that the Light of the World walks with us. Amen.

OFFERTORY "All Things Bright and Beautiful" Dale Wood

***OFFERING** *(in unison)* “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending”
***God, whose giving knows no ending, from your rich and endless store,
Nature’s wonder, Jesus’ wisdom, costly cross, grave’s shattered door;
Open wide our hands in sharing as we heed Christ’s ageless call,
Healing, teaching, and reclaiming, serving you by loving all.***

DEDICATION *(unison)*

Lord, we bring you our bread crumbs, knowing You can transform them into loaves and fish. Jesus, we bring a cup of water, knowing that you can bring forth wine. May all be fed, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #708 We Give Thee but Thine Own

BENEDICTION Pastor Joseph

DOXOLOGY *(in unison)* #606

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

POSTLUDE Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" John Behnke

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

The last Sunday in October is often celebrated as "Reformation Sunday," in celebration of Martin Luther nailing his 95 theses to the door of All Saints Church in Wittenburg, Germany in 1517. As we prepare to celebrate such a major moment in our history, what does scripture teach us about what we have received? How can we hold on to our history while still watching for the new thing God is doing among us?

MONDAY Psalm 63

TUESDAY Daniel 3:19-30

WEDNESDAY Proverbs 8:12-31

THURSDAY Titus 1:5-16

FRIDAY John 5:39-47

SATURDAY Psalm 1

SUNDAY Matthew 22:34-46