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170 McMillan Rd. Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236
Pastor Denise M. Grant | pastor@stjamesgp.org

WELCOME

Welcome to Saint James, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Southeast Michigan Synod. Thank you for being part of this gathered assembly as we worship the Risen Lord and receive the sacrament. If this is your first time worshipping with Saint James, we extend a special greeting to you and invite you to introduce yourself to your neighbor in the pew. If you have questions about Saint James or are looking for a spiritual home, please reach out to Pastor Grant (pastor@stjamesgp.org).

TODAY'S SCRIPTURES

In today's first reading God uses the Gentile ruler Cyrus to accomplish divine purposes. 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.

WORSHIP & HOLY EUCHARIST

All of the materials needed for this liturgy can be found in this bulletin and in the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) book found in the pew rack. The celebration of the sacrament, **Holy Eucharist** (also called the Lord's Supper and Holy Communion), is central to our worship. As host of the meal, Jesus extends a wide welcome for all to participate. Distribution information is found on page 10. If you would prefer to commune in the pew, please alert an usher prior to the start of worship.

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

PRELUDE *Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow* Sandra Eithun
Saint James Handbells

STAND

GATHERING

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

The sign of the cross is made in remembrance of Holy Baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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

silence for reflection & personal confession

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.

+
indicates that the sign of the cross may be made here to remember the gift of forgiveness that Jesus has given to us through his death and resurrection.

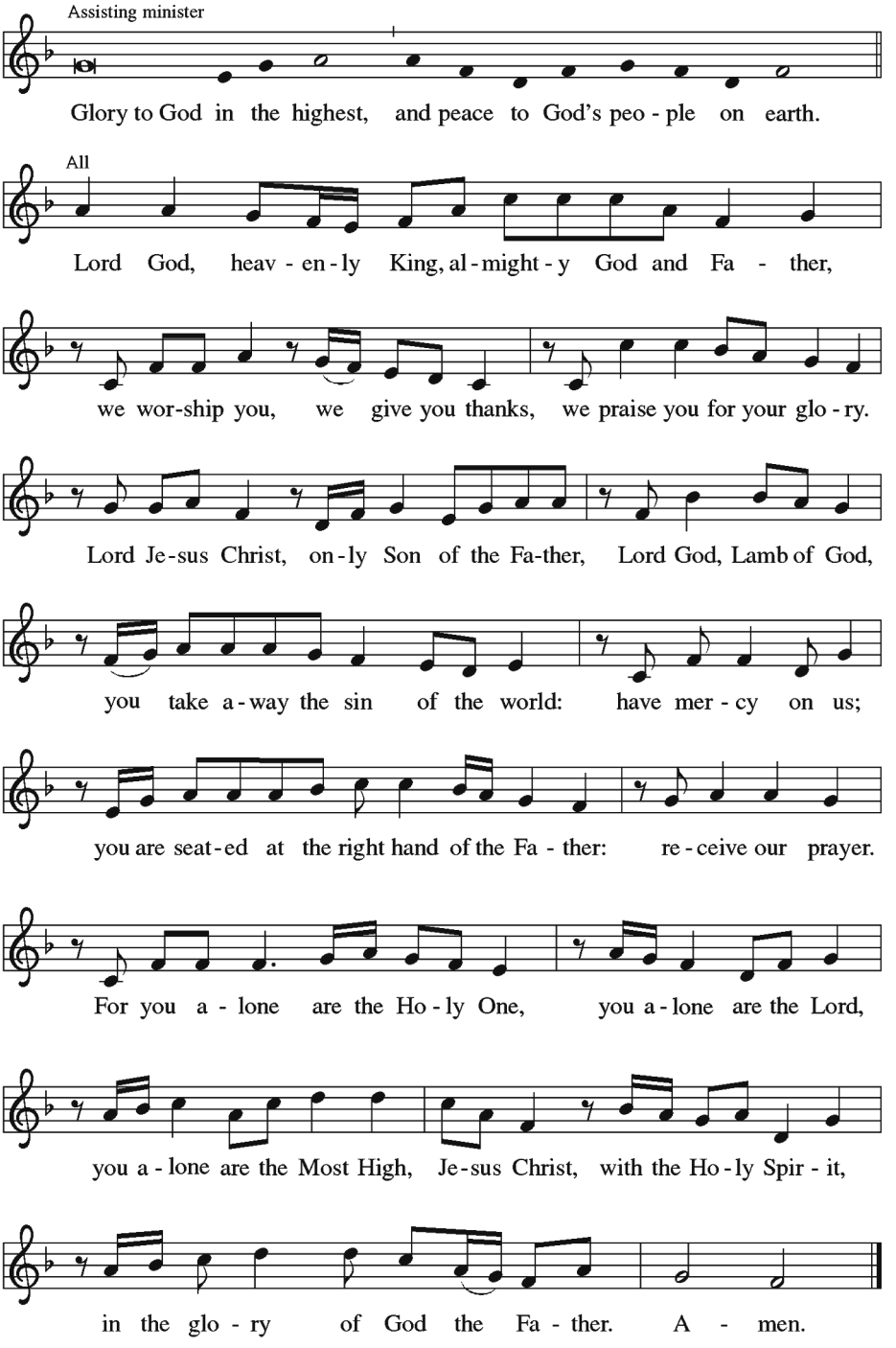
This is the good news:
We have peace with God through Jesus Christ,
in whom there is no condemnation,
but only forgiveness + and the promise of eternal life.
Receive freely this healing gift of grace. **Amen.**

ENTRANCE HYMN ***Sing Praise to God, the Highest Good*** **ELW 871**

APOSTOLIC GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

The **ELW** *(Evangelical Lutheran Worship) is the red worship book in the pew rack. In the* ELW,

HYMN OF PRAISE

Drawn from John 1:29, the hymn of praise gives thanks for Jesus, who is the Lamb of God, whose sacrificial death has taken away the sins of the world.

Blessed are all who worship God, hear The Word, and share in the Holy Meal.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

SIT

WORD

FIRST LESSON ***see page 12 of this bulletin***

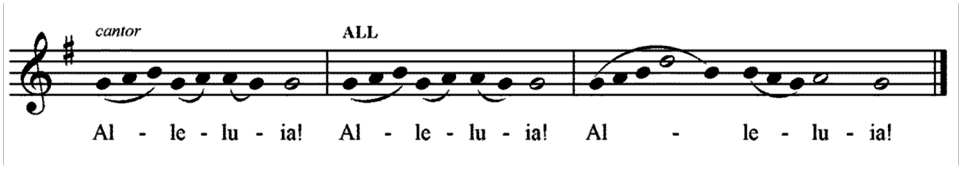
following the lesson
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM ***see page 13 of this bulletin***

SECOND LESSON ***see page 14 of this bulletin***

following the lesson
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA

STAND & SING as the procession moves to the center of the sanctuary.

Verse: *Shine like stars in the world, holding fast to the word of life. (Phil. 2:15,16)*

REPEAT ALLELUIA

HOLY GOSPEL ***see page 15 of this bulletin***

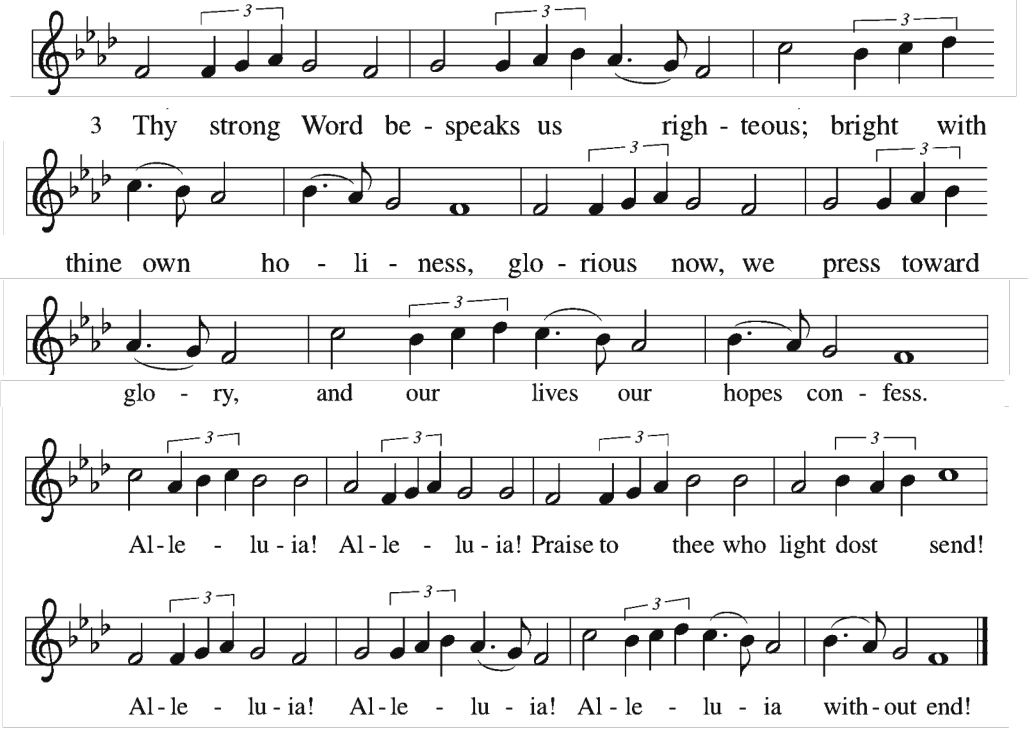
The Holy Gospel (God's Word) is a reminder that our Lord is in our midst.

before the Gospel
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

after the Gospel
The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ***Thy Strong Word***

The procession returns to the chancel as the Acclamation is sung by ALL.



HOMILY

SIT

HYMN OF THE DAY ***O God of Every Nation*** **ELW 713**

STAND

APOSTLES CREED

The Creed is a statement of what Christian people believe about God.

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.

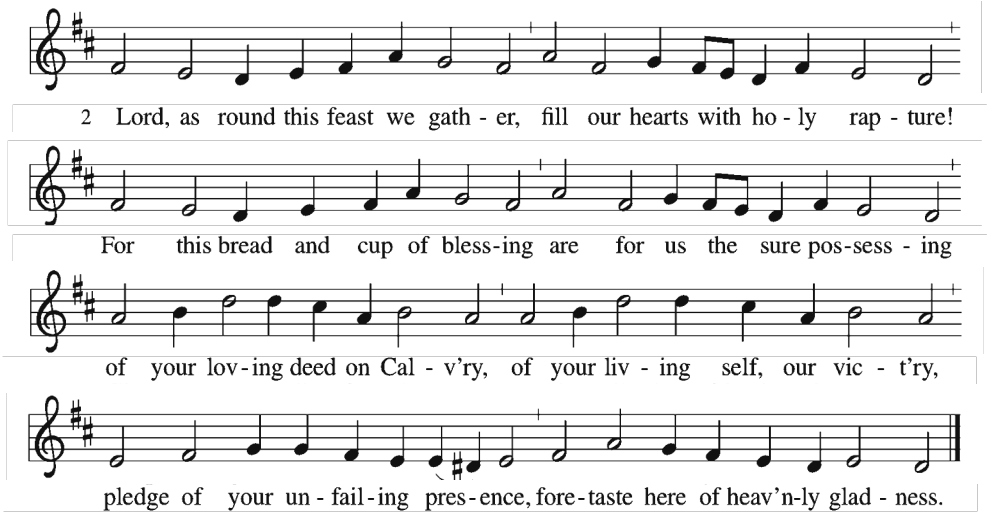
The sign of peace is a greeting between believers that invites the peace of God to dwell within and between each person. This means that sharing the peace is much more than an act of hospitality or hello.

INTERCESSIONS

Lord, in your mercy.
Hear our prayer.

PEACE The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

TABLE SETTING ***Now We Join in Celebration*** **ELW 462:2**



REMAIN STANDING & SING
as the ushers bring the gifts of bread and wine forward as the table is set.

PRAYER

Blessed are you, O Lord, creator of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

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MEAL

The Great Thanksgiving is understood as an act of praise and thanksgiving. Following Jewish customs, the emerging Christian liturgies blessed God (that is, thanked God) for his kindness and love.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

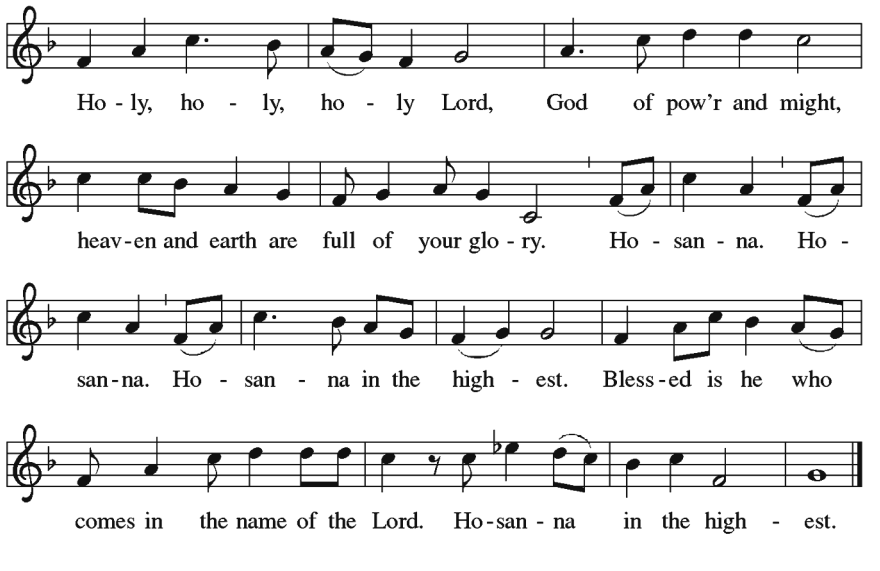
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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 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 there unending hymn:

SANCTUS (Holy, Holy, Holy)

The Sanctus (sanctus, Latin, means holy) is a series of angelic acclamations which accompanied Isaiah's vision of God (Isaiah 6:3 also Psalm 118:26).

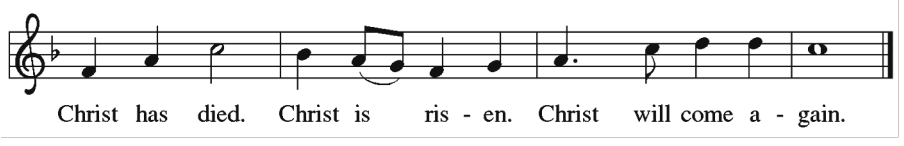


EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

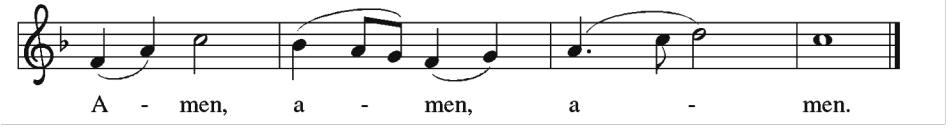
In the Eucharistic Prayer, the church gives thanks for God the Father and creator; for Jesus who saves and redeems us; and for the Holy Spirit that stirs and enlightens our faith that we might proclaim the mighty work of God in word and deed.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

The Words of Institution are spoken.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever.

The word eucharist means 'thanksgiving.' When we use this term for the sacrament the emphasis is on the joy and celebration with which we thank the Risen Lord Jesus for his real presence as we receive his body and blood.



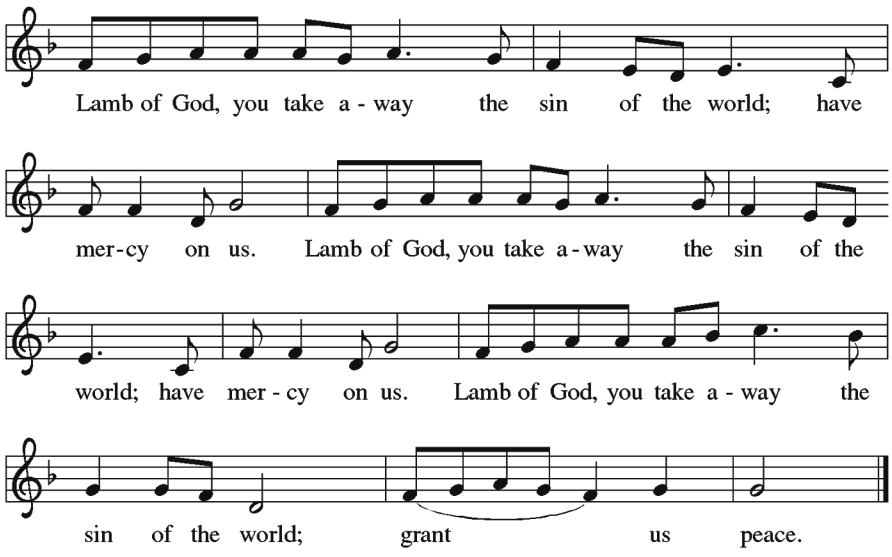
LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven…

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

In Christ's presence there is fullness of joy. Come to the banquet.
Let us rejoice and be glad.

LAMB OF GOD



SIT

DISTRIBUTION

HYMN ***God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*** **ELW 678**

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

STAND

SENDING

SENDING PRAYER

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.

The sign of the cross is made in remembrance of Holy Baptism

BENEDICTION

HYMN ***We Give Thee but Thine Own*** **ELW 686**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the Good News!
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE *Fugue in G* J.S. Bach

SIT
for final prayer and reflection before going into the world to shar the good news.

SAINT JAMES COMMUNION PRACTICE

Welcome	Saint James practices an open table for Holy Communion, which means that all people are invited to participate in the sacrament. Jesus is the host of the meal and extends a wide welcome. Children are welcome to participate, but may also come forward with folded arms to receive a blessing.
Benefit	What is the benefit of sharing in the meal? The words "given for you" and "shed for you" show us that the forgiveness of sin, life, and salvation are given to us in the sacrament. (Luther's Small Catechism)
Distribution	Come forward via the central aisle. Receive the host (bread/Jesus' body) in the hand, then ***dip it*** into the cup with wine (Jesus' blood). Or consume it and take an individual cup of wine (purple) or juice (golden). A gluten free host is offered by saying "gluten free" to the pastor. Return to your place via the outside aisles for private prayer.

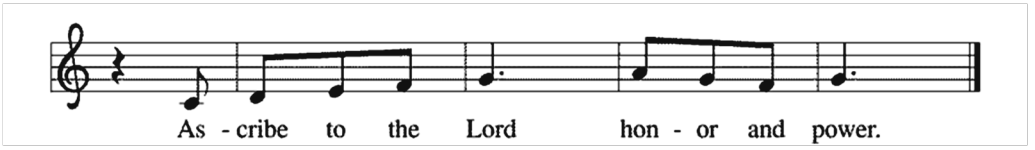
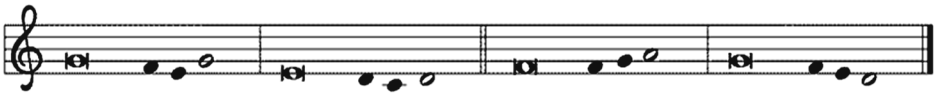
LESSONS FOR PENTECOST 21 October 18, 2026

FIRST LESSON **Isaiah 45:1-7**

The prophet announces that Cyrus the Persian emperor is the one the Lord has anointed to end Israel's exile. The Lord makes this choice so that the whole world will recognize this Lord as the only God. Persia had a god of light and a god of darkness; the Lord claims sovereignty over both light and darkness.

[1] Thus says the LORD to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and to strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
[2] I will go before you
and level the mountains;
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron;
[3] I will give you the treasures of darkness
and riches hidden in secret places,
so that you may know that it is I, the LORD,
the God of Israel, who call you by your name.
[4] For the sake of my servant Jacob
and Israel my chosen,
I call you by your name;
I give you a title, though you do not know me.
[5] I am the LORD, and there is no other;
besides me there is no god.
I arm you, though you do not know me,
[6] so that they may know, from the rising of the sun
and from the west, that there is no one besides me;
I am the LORD, and there is no other.
[7] I form light and create darkness,
I make weal and create woe;
I the LORD do all these things.

following the lesson
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM 96:1-9

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Sing to the LORD | a new song;
sing to the LORD, | all the earth.
[2]Sing to the LORD, bless the name | of the LORD;
proclaim God's salvation from | day to day.
[3]**Declare God's glory a- | mong the nations**
and God's wonders a- | mong all peoples.
[4]**For great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised,**
more to be feared | than all gods. ***Refrain***
[5]As for all the gods of the nations, they | are but idols;
but you, O LORD, have | made the heavens.
[6]Majesty and magnificence are | in your presence;
power and splendor are in your | sanctuary.
[7]**Ascribe to the LORD, you families | of the peoples,**
ascribe to the LORD hon- | or and power.
[8]**Ascribe to the LORD the honor due the | holy name;**
bring offerings and enter the courts | of the LORD.
[9]Worship the LORD in the beau- | ty of holiness;
tremble before the LORD, | all the earth.
[10]Tell it out among the nations: "The | LORD is king!
The one who made the world so firm that it cannot be moved will judge the peo- | ples with equity." ***Refrain***

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SECOND LESSON **1 Thessalonians 1:1-10**

Most likely this letter is the first written by Paul. Paul gives pastoral encouragement and reassurances to new Christians living in an antagonistic environment. Their commitment of faith, love, and hope makes them a model for other new Christian communities.

[1] Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy,
To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:
Grace to you and peace.

[2] We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly [3] remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ. [4] For we know, brothers and sisters beloved by God, that he has chosen you, [5] because our message of the gospel came to you not in word only but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of persons we proved to be among you for your sake. [6] And you became imitators of us and of the Lord, for in spite of persecution you received the word with joy from the Holy Spirit, [7] so that you became an example to all the believers in Macedonia and in Achaia. [8] For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you not only in Macedonia and Achaia but in every place your faith in God has become known, so that we have no need to speak about it. [9] For they report about us what kind of welcome we had among you and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God [10] and to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead—Jesus, who rescues us from the coming wrath.

following the lesson
The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God. ***Return to page 5 for the Gospel Acclamation***

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.

before the Gospel
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.
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.

after the Gospel
The Gospel of our Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ. ***Return to page 5 for the Gospel Acclamation***