

Season of Pentecost

Crafting the Liturgy — Seasonal Planning Page

The autumn half of Pentecost is a busy time in the church year as Sunday school begins again, followed by budgets for the new year and stewardship campaigns. But it is also a time of continued spiritual growth in the lives of disciples. The lessons for the season point us to how to live in Christian community, to listen for Christ's voice in our lives, and to serve our Lord with great passion and zeal. We await the imminent return of the Lord and continue in his mission until we see him face to face.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SEASON

The following are some ideas for helping to make the season distinct and memorable. Congregations are free to adapt these suggestions, or follow the local customs of the congregation.

Preparing the Worship Space

For the autumn months, consider using fall plants and foliage to adorn the worship space.

Liturgical Color

The liturgical color for Ordinary Time is Green. The color for Reformation Day is red, signifying movement of the Holy Spirit. The color is white for All Saints Sunday and Christ the King Sunday.

The Gathering

Use the alternate liturgical prayers on the Seasonal Page of SOWeR for the gathering rite and other portions of the liturgy.

It is customary to use either the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise during Ordinary Time.

The Creed

Use the Apostles' Creed on green Sundays, the Nicene Creed on red and white Sundays.

The Proclamation of the Word

Consider using "Thy Word" by Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith for the Gospel acclamation this fall. Another option is "Open Our Eyes," by Bob Cull.

Children's Sermons

Children's sermons are available on the SOWeR site for each Sunday. Simply click on the link located on the right-hand side of the weekly worship page assigned to each Sunday.

IDEAS FOR FAMILIES THIS SEASON

- ✦ Include teachers and students in your prayers as school begins again. Offer a blessing to all students and teachers by placing a note of encouragement in their backpacks or laptop bags. One can be found on the Pentecost Autumn Seasonal Page.
- ✦ Check out the Holy Families website for parents and children at www.holyfamilytime.com. You will find many resources to inspire families to spend time in the Word of God and the formation of faith in their children. If you have to miss worship on Sunday, use these devotions as a family!

REMINDERS FOR THE SEASON

- ✦ As Sunday school begins for the school year, use the "Installation of Education Leaders" prayers found under the Liturgies and Services tab on the SOWeR site.
- ✦ If your congregation does an Affirmation of Baptism on Reformation Sunday, there is a printed service for the Rite of Confirmation under the Liturgies and Services tab on the SOWeR site.
- ✦ Remember to collect names of those who died in the past year for the All Saints Day commemoration. If you have a church bell, ring that bell one time as the name is read aloud. If you use votive candles as part of this commemoration, remember to check your supply.
- ✦ If you will be doing a stewardship emphasis in worship this fall, check out Sola's free stewardship resources on the website, found in the Free Resources, located under the Home tab.
- ✦ There is a Thanksgiving service based on hymns that can easily be used for your congregation's Thanksgiving celebration. This can be found on the Autumn Pentecost Seasonal page of SOWeR.

COMMEMORATIONS

September 3: Gregory the Great, pastor (c. 530 – March 12, 604 A.D.)

September 18: Dag Hammarskjöld, peace-maker (July 29, 1905 – September 18, 1961)

October 6: William Tyndale, translator, martyr (c. 1494 – c. October 6, 1536)

October 25: Dorcas (Tabitha), Lydia, and Phoebe, faithful disciples*

November 8: Johannes von Staupitz, Luther's Father confessor (c. 1460 – December 28, 1524)

November 23: Clement of Rome, pastor (c. 35 – 99 A.D.)

LESSER FESTIVALS

September 14: Holy Cross Day

September 21: St. Matthew, apostle and evangelist

September 29: St. Michael and all angels

October 28: St. Simon and St. Jude, apostles

October 31: Reformation Day

November 1: All Saints' Day*

November 30: St. Andrew, apostle

* Falls on a Sunday this church year.

Pentecost 15

September 6, 2026

Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 18 (Year A)

Jesus warned his followers that anyone who caused a child (or one who is childlike in faith) to stumble in the faith would have a worse fate than having a millstone hung around his neck and being thrown into the sea. Followers of Christ are called to be humble and to receive the childlike with grace and mercy, even as they are called to be like children who are in awe of the kingdom of heaven.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Ezekiel 33:7-9

A Spiritual Watchman

The Lord appointed the prophet Ezekiel to be a spiritual watchman over the people of Israel. If Ezekiel failed to warn them about their wicked behavior, he would be responsible for them. However, if the prophet were to warn them and they proceeded in their evil ways, he would not be held responsible.

Psalm 32:1-7

Rejoice in the Lord

The psalmist sang praises to the Lord because he had experienced the wondrous forgiveness of the Lord. Blessed are those whose sins are not held against them! When the psalmist confessed his sin, the Lord forgave all his iniquities.

Second Reading: Romans 13:1-10

God Appoints and Works Via Civil Authority

Paul explained to the Romans that there is no higher authority than God and that all in positions of authority are subject to Him. Therefore, humans are not to resist civil authority, for the civil authorities are God's servants for the good of the community. This includes the paying of taxes for the fulfilling of the law. Paul urged believers to owe no one anything, but to love one another with a holy love.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:1-20

Humble Like a Child

Jesus was asked a question by his disciples about who was the greatest in the kingdom. In response to this question, Jesus pulled a young child onto his lap and pointed to him as the epitome of faith. In order to be great in the kingdom, he instructed his followers, one must humble himself like a child.

Suggestions for the Day:

Liturgical Color: Green

During the Season of Pentecost:

- Use either the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise.

- Use the Apostles' Creed.

Luther wrote about being a servant of God, citing Galatians 5:13, "Through love be servants of one another." He explained that being servants to one another is the highest form of freedom, for "it lacks nothing and receives nothing, but rather gives and bestows." He goes on to say that Paul had this very thing in mind when he said, "Owe no one anything, except to love one another" (LW 25:474, Lectures on Romans).

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
God is So Good	---	---	---	---	27	27
Jesus Loves Me!	---	---	588	595	258	258
Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love	---	765	---	708	---	---
Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now	253	---	902	527	44	44
Holy God, We Praise Your Name	535	---	940	414	13	13
Every Time I Feel the Spirit	---	---	---	---	---	web
Go, My Children, With My Blessing	---	721	922	543	53	53
In Christ There is No East or West	359	---	653	650	---	---
On My Heart Imprint Your Image	102	---	422	811	52	52
Softly and Tenderly, Jesus is Calling	---	734	---	608	177	177

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

You Are My King (Amazing Love)
(CCLI# 2456623)
Here is Love
(CCLI# 3287884)
Watchman
(CCLI# 5462463)
Humble Thyself in the Sight ...
(CCLI# 26564)
Let the Children Come
(CCLI# 4243717)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.

Pentecost 16

September 13, 2026

Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 19 (Year A)

Forgiveness is often a very difficult subject, even for those who know that we are called to forgive if we want to be forgiven. In our human sinfulness we seek to justify ourselves, coming up with reasons why our brother or sister does not deserve to be forgiven. Joseph speaks a word of forgiveness to his scheming brothers, pointing to the reality that God can work through great pain to bring healing of relationships.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Genesis 50:15-21**Joseph's Brothers Conspire Against Him**

After the death of Jacob, their father, Joseph's brothers continued to look out for themselves by coming up with a plan to procure Joseph's forgiveness for their prior betrayal of him. Joseph, despite what he had suffered, was able to see God at work for good, even when his brothers' intentions and actions were evil.

Psalm 103:1-12**Bless the Lord, O My Soul**

The psalmist sang of the God of forgiveness and praised him for his ways throughout the history of Israel. God's steadfast love covers our sins and brings justice for the oppressed, he sang.

Second Reading: Romans 14:1-12**Paul Explains Differences in Piety**

Paul taught the Roman Christians that people express their faith in ways that might be different from one another. One may eat meat while another refrains from eating meat. One may observe a day as special while another sees it as any other day. This is done by faith; personal piety is not meant to be judged as we all live unto the Lord.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 18:21-35**The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant**

Peter posed a question to Jesus about the number of times one offers forgiveness to those who have done wrong. Jesus' parable reminds us that we are all sinners in need of forgiveness. To withhold such a blessing from others is to fail to appreciate the true meaning of having our own debts wiped away.

Suggestions for the Day:

*Liturgical Color: Green**During the Season of Pentecost:*

- Use either the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise.

- Use the Apostles' Creed.

Forgiveness is a wondrous gift we give to others and to ourselves. When we truly understand the forgiveness of Christ, we are more able to offer that same forgiveness to others. Christ forgives our debt of sin and offers us new life.

Consider adding to the worship service today a time of individual blessing and forgiveness after the sermon and before the Hymn of the Day.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Lord of All Hopefulness	469	---	738	765	200	200
Take My Life, That I May Be	406	---	783	685	233	233
Forgive Our Sins As We Forgive	307	---	843	605	---	---
There's a Wideness in God's Mercy	290	---	---	587	186	186
Salvation Unto Us Has Come	297	---	555	590	---	---
Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus	389	---	660	---	78	78
Precious Lord, Take My Hand	---	731	739	773	206	206
Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise	---	801	680	826	41	41
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	543	---	790	858	11	11
For the Bread Which You Have Broken	200	---	---	494	---	---

*The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW=Lutheran Book of Worship, WOVS=With One Voice, ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB=The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC=The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."*

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

Lord Have Mercy
(CCLI# 2989578)
Come Just As You Are
(CCLI# 1189479)
In Jesus' Name
(CCLI# 6454638)
Bless the Lord
(CCLI# 147704)
Thank You, Lord
(CCLI# 4220833)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.

Pentecost 17

September 20, 2026

Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 20 (Year A)

God's generosity to his people is beyond our human understanding. We often count and keep score of what is given to us and compare it to what others have received. This is not the way God works. God gives to each according to their need, and it is given out of love and mercy. It is not for us to compare or to cry "Unfair!" because God's ways are beyond our limited human understanding.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Isaiah 55:6-9**God's Ways are Higher**

God's loving compassion is incomprehensible to the human heart because his ways are so different from our human ways. Isaiah called for a return to the Lord of life, the one who made a covenant with David and is true to his original promise.

Psalm 27:1-9**The Lord is My Light and Salvation**

The psalmist sang of the Lord's protection and mercy. The Lord was his rock and fortress, protecting him in every situation. With God on our side, there is nothing to fear. The psalmist made one request of God: to live in his holy house forever.

Second Reading: Philippians 1:12-14, 19-30**Suffering for Christ**

Paul's suffering in the Lord makes a powerful witness to those who believe. It gave his flock courage in the face of their own suffering, and it advanced the message of the gospel. Paul counted his suffering in the faith as having genuine meaning. He found that to die to his old self was to gain true life in Christ.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 20:1-16**Parable of the Vineyard Workers**

Jesus told a story that illustrated the nature of God's abundant generosity. Whatever God gives to a person is completely up to God. He gives out of compassion and love — which, in Jesus' story, was offensive to those who showed up to work at the beginning of the day only to receive the same wages as those who barely worked. What one person receives as a blessing versus what another receives is entirely a matter of grace, because it all comes from God's generosity.

Suggestions for the Day:

Liturgical Color: Green

During the Season of Pentecost:

- Use either the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise.
- Use the Apostles' Creed.

There are many believers around the world who are suffering for Christ. To read about what is happening around the world to Christians, go to www.persecution.com — the website of Voice of the Martyrs. You will find stories there of believers' houses being burned down because of antagonism toward the Christian faith, people being kidnapped or otherwise separated from family because of their faith, and other violence against believers.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
We Give Thee But Thine Own	510	---	781	686	42	42
Jesus Shall Reign	530	---	832	434	268	268
All Creatures of Our God and King	527	---	---	835	20	20
In You (Thee) is Gladness	552	---	818	867	19	19
Blest Are They	---	764	---	728	---	---
Lord of All Hopefulness	469	---	738	765	200	200
Where Charity and Love Prevail	126	---	845	359	---	---
O Jesus, I Have Promised	503	---	---	810	79	79
Lord of Light	405	---	---	688	---	---
Cup of Blessing That We Share	204	---	---	---	---	---

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship, WOVS = With One Voice, ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB = The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC = The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

Show Me Your Ways
(CCLI# 1151713)
Behold (Then Sings My Soul)
(CCLI# 7068430)
Branches
(CCLI# 7007329)
Good, Good Father
(CCLI# 7036612)
This I Believe
(CCLI# 7018338)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.

Pentecost 18

September 27, 2026

Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 21 (Year A)

Throughout salvation history, humans have struggled with sour grapes, failing to act mercifully toward one another. God's ways of love and mercy are an enigma to the sinful human heart. Even though, like the psalmist, we desire to know and follow God's ways, it is hard for us to reach unity, and we balk at the notion of emptying ourselves as Christ did on the cross. Still, Christ calls us to come to him in faith so that we might serve the world he loves and thereby glorify his holy name.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Ezekiel 18:1-4, 25-32**Who is Unjust?**

The Word of Lord came to the prophet Ezekiel, to set Israel straight on who was just and who was unjust. Who was turning from righteousness? Israel, not God. And who was being wicked? "Turn to me and repent," said the Lord, "and you will not die." The Lord wants no one to die, but all to live, and to live in righteousness in him.

Psalm 25:1-10**Teach Me Your Ways**

The psalmist cried out to the Lord, "Teach me your paths and make me know your ways!" He sang that the Lord instructs his people in his ways that they may not sin. He leads those who are humble, those who keep his covenant. His faithfulness is sure and certain.

Second Reading: Philippians 2:1-4 (5-13) 14-18**One Mind with Christ**

St. Paul admonished the Christians in Philippi to be of the same mind as Christ, putting away all quarrels so that they may be found innocent in the sight of God. In a creedlike statement, Paul talked about how Christ emptied himself, taking on the form of a human, a servant who was obedient unto death on a cross.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:23-27 (28-32)**By Whose Authority?**

The religious leaders approached Jesus as he was teaching in the temple. They wanted to know by whose authority he was speaking. Jesus turned things around by posing a question of his own concerning the source of John the Baptist's ministry. The leaders were caught in a conundrum because of popular opinion that John was a prophet.

Suggestions for the Day:*Liturgical Color: Green**During the Season of Pentecost:*

- Use either the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise.

Being open about disunity and conflict in the parish can be a healing word in the midst of internal trials. Consider inviting worshipers to remember what the passing of the peace is truly about: reconciliation in Christ Jesus our Lord, who brings us together as his people for a definite purpose.

In October, consider using the series of Reformation skits each Sunday. These can be found on the Pentecost Fall Seasonal Page of SOWeR.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
At the Name of Jesus	179	---	512	416	127	127
What Wondrous Love is This	385	---	543	666	254	254
Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult	494	---	---	696	184	184
Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us	481	---	711	789	205	205
Lead Me, Guide Me	---	---	721	768	---	---
You Servants of God	252	---	---	825	---	web
When Peace Like a River	346	---	763	785	224	224
The Church's One Foundation	369	---	644	654	88	88
O God, My Faithful God	504	---	696	---	238	238
O Bread of Life From Heaven	222	---	---	480	84	84

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW=Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV=With One Voice, ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB=The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC=The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

Mind of Christ
(CCLI# 1391456)
The Lord Reigns
(CCLI# 4659820)
10,000 Reasons
(CCLI# 6016351)
Forever Reign
(CCLI# 5639997)
Open the Eyes of My Heart
(CCLI# 2298355)

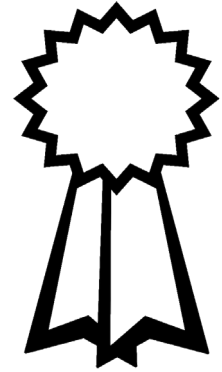
The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.

Pentecost 19

October 4, 2026

Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 22 (Year A)

When it comes to righteousness, Paul says, "I win the medal!" When it comes to following the law to the letter, again he says, "I get the prize!" But now his life is in Christ who showed the apostle the worthlessness of his labors. Paul confesses his zeal for the law and says that whatever he gained by that, he now counts as loss. The only gain we can rejoice in is the love and mercy of Jesus, our Savior.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Isaiah 5:1-7**Wild Grapes**

The Lord lamented that Israel and Judah went astray and likened them to a beautiful vineyard planted with great love and hope. When the grapes came on the vines, they were not what the vinegrower expected; instead, they were wild and unruly. The Lord threatened to tear the vineyard down because of its wild yield.

Psalm 80:7-19**The Ravaged Vine**

The Lord brought a vine out of Egypt and planted it in ground that was cleared specifically for this precious vine. The psalmist lamented that the Lord broke down the protective walls around the vine, making it susceptible to enemies who take its fruit for their own use.

Second Reading: Philippians 3:4b-14**In Christ, All Loss is Really Gain**

Paul wrote to believers in Philippi, explaining that though he had suffered for his faith in Christ, anything he had lost he considers to be gain because of his increasing knowledge of Jesus Christ. He reiterates that righteousness comes not from pedigree, education, or circumstance, but solely through Christ by faith.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 21:33-46**Parable of the Wicked Tenants**

Jesus told a story about a vineyard where wicked tenants beat and killed the vineyard owner's servants as they came to collect the harvest of fruit. The owner of the vineyard then sent his own son. In an allegory of Jesus' own death, when they identify the son, the tenants kill him in an attempt to claim the vineyard for themselves.

Suggestions for the Day:

Liturgical Color: Green

During the Season of Pentecost:

• Use either the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise.

God's vineyard is an image that most people can understand. Even if we don't grow grapes, we have a lawn to care for and we know the plight that occurs when weeds seek to take over and choke out the foliage we desire to see. It takes a lot of work to keep weeds at bay – this reminds us of our deep need to turn our hearts over to God, who is the vine-dresser. Attention to our inner spiritual condition is akin to attention to the vineyard. Grapes (or spiritual fruits) will go wild if left unattended.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
My Hope is Built on Nothing Less	294	---	575	596	192	192
We Plow the Fields and Scatter	362	---	---	680	263	263
There in God's Garden	---	668	---	342	---	---
Children of the Heavenly Father	474	---	725	781	201	201
Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil	---	713	---	512	---	---
If You Will (But) Trust God to Guide You	453	---	750	769	222	222
We Walk By Faith and Not By Sight	---	675	720	635	---	---
Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise	526	---	802	834	40	40
Praise and Thanksgiving	409	---	789	689	---	---
We Who Were Once Dead	207	---	---	495	---	---

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOVS= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

Come, Now is the Time to Worship
(CCLI# 2430948)
The Vineyard of the Lord
(CCLI# 5392966)
Lord, Reign in Me
(CCLI# 2490706)
Whatever Was My Gain
(CCLI# 924192)
Knowing You
(CCLI# 1045238)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.

Pentecost 20

October 11, 2026

Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 23 (Year A)

"You prepare a table before me," the psalmist sang so long ago. God, our Good Shepherd, still goes before us to prepare the way. We need not fear that we are alone; instead, we can be confident that because of God's love for us, we are invited to the great wedding banquet of Christ. The One who rescues us from the power of death calls us to come and eat with him. Will we accept the invitation or turn away?



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Isaiah 25:6-9**A Feast of Rich Food**

The Lord provided a feast for his people on his holy mountain, rescuing them from their enemies and providing comfort for those who grieved. He covered their shame and put an end to death for all time. We can rejoice in his salvation!

Psalm 23**The Lord is My Shepherd**

The Lord shepherds his people into green pastures of safety, solace, and comfort. The restorative character of God is proclaimed by the psalmist, who confessed that God provided for all human need, from material and physical to emotional and spiritual. His promises encompass all of human life.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:4-13**Rejoice Always**

In Paul's final words to the believers in Philippi, he encouraged them to be joyful in the Lord no matter what they may be experiencing. He left them with an exhortation to pray rather than to worry, and to think only of the things that are true, honorable, and worthy of praise.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:1-14**Come to the Banquet**

Jesus taught about a king who invited many guests to a banquet in honor of his son, but all who were called to come made excuses for why they could not attend. In response to this rejection, the king invited both good and bad people to attend instead. The wedding hall was filled to capacity, including one man who did not have the proper attire. The king was insulted by his lack of respect for the feast.

Suggestions for the Day:

Liturgical Color: Green

During the Season of Pentecost:

• Use either the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise.

With children, consider singing "The Wedding Banquet Song" by Medical Mission Sisters. It tells the parable of the same name in a very sweet and lively way.

Reformation Skit #3 can be found on the Pentecost Seasonal page.

Encourage worshipers to make a list of their worries and to give all of those over to God today. Pray for the congregation to focus on the love of Christ and his care for us, rather than on the troubles of the day.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing	210	---	633	362	150	150
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	456	---	709	502	198	198
Now We Join in Celebration	203	---	---	462	---	---
O Christ the Same	---	778	---	760	---	---
O Master, Let Me Walk	492	---	---	818	229	229
Precious Lord, Take My Hand	---	731	739	773	206	206
Take My Life, That I May Be	406	---	783	685	233	233
Be Thou My Vision	---	776	---	793	230	230
On Our Way Rejoicing	260	---	---	537	---	web
Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord	226	---	637	---	---	---

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CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

Here I Am to Worship
(CCLI# 3266032)
Rejoice in the Lord Always
(CCLI# 15692)
The Lord is My Shepherd
(CCLI# 5912360)
The Master's Table
(CCLI# 4829155)
I Will Follow
(CCLI# 5806878)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.

Thanksgiving Day (CA)

October 12, 2026

Thanksgiving Day, Canada (Year A)

Life's trials can be humbling indeed, but through it all the Lord is with us. Moses reminded the Israelites that even though God tested their faith, he provided them with food, shelter, and clothing. Paul, who was persecuted for the mission of Christ, proclaimed that through Christ he can do all things. There is so much to be thankful for, even in the times when life becomes seriously difficult. God is always with us.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Deuteronomy 8:1-10

The Lord Humbled Israel

Moses reminded the people Israel that while they were in the wilderness, the Lord humbled them so that they would know what was in their hearts. Would they trust the Lord or would they rebel? Moses reminded them that God fed them when they were hungry, clothed them when they were cold, and never allowed their walking feet to swell along the 40-year journey.

Psalm 67

Sing for Joy

The psalmist prayed for God's mercy and blessing even as he praised the Lord for his wondrous deeds and bountiful goodness to the house of Israel.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:6-20

Let God Know What You Need

Paul gave the Philippians great counsel when he told them not to be anxious about anything but rather give over all their prayers to the Lord, who would hear them and respond. Paul recalled the hardships he suffered and how thankful he was that his brothers and sisters "shared his trouble." Christ was his strength through all.

Gospel Reading: Luke 17:11-19

Jesus Heals Ten Lepers

Jesus encountered 10 men who suffered from leprosy. As they cried out to him for mercy, Jesus responded by sending them to the priest at the temple. All 10 were healed. No doubt all 10 were thankful — but only one turned back and thanked Jesus for his restorative power in his life. This one was a Samaritan who bowed down before him and praised God. Christian thankfulness has to do with whom we thank.

Suggestions for the Day:

Liturgical Color: Green

- Use the Litany for Thanksgiving as an opening for worship. It is based on Psalm 118 and can be found on the Thanksgiving Day page of SOWeR.
- Consider taking a special offering today for those in need — perhaps for a food bank or ministry that feeds the hungry.
- Consider adding a time for one-on-one prayer during the Thanksgiving service. Invite prayer partners to join together in the front of the sanctuary to pray for anyone who desires private prayer. Have the worship leader play soothing music during this time.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Now Thank We All Our God	534	---	895	839	50	50
Come, You Thankful People, Come	407	---	892	693	261	261
Great is Thy Faithfulness	---	771	809	733	211	211
O Lord, Hear My Prayer	---	772	780	751	---	---
O God, My Faithful God	504	---	696	806	238	238
How Great Thou Art	532	---	801	856	26	26
Let All Things Now Living	557	---	---	881	---	---
For the Fruit of All Creation	563	---	894	679	---	---
Give Me Jesus	---	777	---	770	214	214
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence	198	---	621	490	80	80

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW = Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV = With One Voice, ELW = Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB = The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC = The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

Give Thanks
(CCLI# 20285)
Thank You, Lord
(CCLI# 4220833)
Be Anxious for Nothing
(CCLI# 44158990)
The Greatness of Our God
(CCLI# 5660739)
Search Me, O God
(CCLI# 4065696)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.

Pentecost 21

October 18, 2026

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 24 (Year A)

Though King Cyrus of Persia did not know the God of Israel, God still used him to bring His people back into a covenant relationship. God can and will use foreign rulers to accomplish his will in the world. It does not matter that the person knows nothing of the Lord. All power and authority belong to the one who creates light and darkness, and he will care for his chosen ones by any means necessary.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

The Prophecy of Cyrus' Reign

Isaiah prophesies the word of the Lord concerning an unlikely hero on behalf of Israel. God will call the Persian king Cyrus to the throne many years later, and through him Israel would be delivered from their enemies. All of this would happen unbeknownst to King Cyrus the Great, who was an unbelieving Gentile.

Psalm 96:1-9 (10-13)

Sing to the Lord a New Song

This psalm of praise recounts the wonderful deeds of the Lord. There was nothing but joy to be found in the psalmist's heart as he exalted the goodness and creativity of God, who is worthy to be praised.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10

Thanksgiving for the People

Paul and his traveling companions, Silvanus (Silas) and Timothy, gave thanks for the Thessalonians because of their faithful works in the name of Christ. Paul reminded them of their chosenness and praised their efforts to love their neighbors and proclaim the good news of Jesus.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 22:15-22

The Pharisees Test Jesus

Immediately after Jesus taught his followers about answering the call of God, some Pharisees approached him with a question about paying taxes to Caesar. "Is it lawful?" they challenged. Jesus defeated their trap by pointing them to the image on their own currency, saying, "Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's."

Suggestions for the Day:

Liturgical Color: Green

During the Season of Pentecost:

- Use either the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise.
- The lessons for today edify Martin Luther's teaching on the "two kingdoms" of Christ. One kingdom is spiritual and the other kingdom is earthly. Jesus taught that believers are to be in the world but not of the world. We live here on earth, but we are citizens of heaven. God uses political figures for his own purposes — such as the story of King Cyrus — and while on earth, we are to submit to earthly rulers who have authority over us (Fourth Commandment). All the while, we live in the spiritual kingdom of God here and now.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name	328	---	549	634	16	16
Jesus, Priceless Treasure	458	---	743	775	39	39
If You Will (But) Trust in God to Guide You	453	---	750	769	222	222
Blessed Assurance	---	699	---	638	190	190
Take My Life, That I May Be	406	---	783	685	233	233
Now Thank We All Our God	534	---	895	839	50	50
Praise to the Lord, the Almighty	543	---	790	858	11	11
Sent Forth By God's Blessing	221	---	643	547	58	58
Strengthen Us for Service, Lord	218	---	---	497	---	---
Praise the Lord, Rise Up Rejoicing	196	---	---	544	---	---

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

Sing, Sing, Sing
(CCLI# 5114065)
Here I Am, Send Me
(CCLI# 7074926)
Knowing You
(CCLI# 1045238)
I Exalt Thee
(CCLI# 17803)
Great Are You Lord
(CCLI# 6460220)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.

Reformation Sunday

October 25, 2026

Sunday of the Reformation (Year A)

On this 500th Anniversary of the nailing of the 95 theses on the Castle Church door in Wittenberg, Germany, we remember the firestorm created by a young monk named Martin Luther. Focusing on the Word of God in its purity, Luther challenged the Church of his day to return to the Lord and to forsake manmade pieties that only caused believers to doubt their salvation and carry a heavy burden of guilt.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Revelation 14:6-7

The Hour of Judgment Has Come

St. John received a vision from God of the Lamb standing on Mount Zion with saints and angels surrounding him. An angel flew over his head with a message of eternity for every tribe and nation: "Fear God and give him glory," as the time of judgment was upon the people.

Psalm 46

God, Our Refuge and Strength

God was Israel's help in times of trouble, fully present, creating a fortress around the house of Jacob. Though kingdoms would rise and fall, nothing would keep the Lord of Hosts away from his beloved people.

Second Reading: Romans 3:19-28

Through the Law Comes Knowledge of Sin

Paul explained to the Roman Christians that there is no justification that comes through works of the law. It is solely by faith in Christ that all who believe are made right with God. Paul declared that with God there is no distinction, as all have fallen short of His glory. The good news of the Gospel is that his gift of forgiveness comes to all who believe, not through works, but through Christ alone.

Gospel Reading: John 8:31-36

Abide in My Word

Jesus urged the Jews who were following him to remain in his word of truth. This truth would set them free from sin and death. In their self-justification, they denied their bondage to sin and their need for help. Jesus insisted that he, himself, the Son, is the only one with the power to free them.

Suggestions for the Day:

Liturgical Color: Red

During the Season of Pentecost:

- Use either the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise.
- In the Sola Online Store, check out "The Life of Martin Luther Children's Coloring & Storybook." (Item # L-2020)
- Remind worshipers what the Reformation was all about. A timeline that gives a brief history of the major events leading up to October 31, 1517, can be found on SOWeR for use on this Sunday.
- Consider using the Luther monologue as the sermon for today. It can be found on the Reformation Worship page on the 95 theses.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
A Mighty Fortress Is Our God	229	---	657	504	169	169
Built on the Rock	365	---	645	652	91	91
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee	551	---	803	836	36	36
Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word	230	---	655	517	71	71
O God, Our Help in Ages Past	320	---	733	632	225	225
God's Word is Our Great Heritage	239	---	582	509	70	70
Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty	250	---	901	533	46	46
Come Follow Me, the Savior Spake	455	---	688	799	---	---
Take My Life, That I May Be	406	---	783	685	233	233
Soul, Adorn Yourself (Deck Thyself)	224	---	636	488	81	81

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW=Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV=With One Voice, ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB=The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC=The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

By Faith
(CCLI# 5469291)
Cornerstone
(CCLI# 6158927)
Blessed Be Your Name
(CCLI# 3798438)
A Mighty Fortress
(CCLI# 5488935)
Thy Word
(CCLI# 14301)

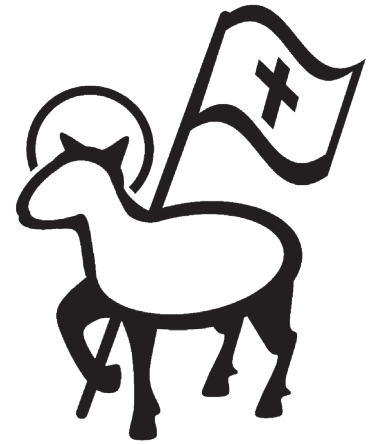
The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.

All Saints Sunday

November 1, 2026

All Saints Sunday (Year A)

In the waters of baptism we were called by God and identified as “saints” even while we were still “sinners.” Our saintliness comes through no work of our own, but on the holiness bestowed on us by Jesus. Out of our chosenness we experience trials and joy, but all are used by God to bring us closer to him. The theme of justice and judgment pervade today’s readings as God works to bring salvation to his people.



THIS WEEK’S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Revelation 7:(2-8) 9-17

The Lamb is Our Shepherd

The vision that came to John was filled with images of the holy ones of God. Dressed in white, the saints and angels surrounded the throne of God, who provided a place for them where there is no more hunger, thirst, excruciating heat or sorrowful tears.

Psalm 149

Be Joyful in Your King

The psalmist called the congregation to praise the name of the Lord, who would bring honor to them in the face of those who were holding them captive. God would act on behalf of his people and use them to bring about God’s righteous justice.

Second Reading: 1 John 3:1-3

We Are Children of God

Through God’s love, those who believe and hope in the Lord are named “children” of God. When God reappears, his children will be like him and see him fully as he is already. This promise is something bestowed upon us and comes from outside ourselves. When we see the Lord, we will know him and be like him.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12

Blessed Are They

Jesus preached his Sermon on the Mount, and in so doing, he described the paradoxical nature of God’s kingdom: holiness revealed under the form of the cross. Jesus said we are blessed when we are down, grieving, hungry for righteousness, enacting mercy on others, making peace, living in purity and innocence, and being persecuted in the name of Christ. In each of these moments there is more of God and less of us — and we must rely solely on God to get us through.

Suggestions for the Day:

Liturgical Color: White

During the Season of Pentecost:

• Use either the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise.

For today’s All Saints worship service, print in the bulletin the names of those who have died in the faith in the past 12 months. Alongside each name, print a Bible verse that is comforting and uplifting. As each name is read, read the Bible verse and ring the church bell one time in memory of the beloved person and in glory to Christ’s name. A candle may be lit by the family as well. Have an acolyte standing by with the candle-lighter to assist the families.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
For All the Saints	174	---	677	422	175	175
Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness	302	---	563	---	---	web
Blest Are They	---	764	---	728	---	---
Give Me Jesus	---	777	---	770	214	214
God Whose Almighty Word	400	---	---	673	---	---
Great is Thy Faithfulness	---	771	809	733	211	211
Hope of the World	493	---	690	---	---	---
Behold a Host, Arrayed in White	314	---	676	425	173	173
Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing	562	---	964	841	---	---
Love Divine, All Loves Excelling	315	---	700	631	14	14

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOVS= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at “Hymns and Music.”

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

The Prayers of the Saints
(CCLI# 2456939)
Sing to the King
(CCLI# 4010902)
Forever
(CCLI# 7001228)
One Thing Remains
(CCLI# 5508444)
No Longer Slaves
(CCLI# 7030123)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.

Pentecost 24

November 8, 2026

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 27 (Year A)

The question of how to be prepared for Jesus' return is answered four times in today's lessons. Being ready for Jesus' return is not passivity on our part; instead, it is an active preparing, an active waiting and serving and doing justice in the world in the name of Christ. There is no reason to fear anything. Christ promised he would return in due time. We await this moment with an active and vibrant faith.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Amos 5:18–24**Let Justice Roll Down**

The prophet Amos conveyed God's anger toward his people for their empty sacrifices and meaningless worship. He called them to act with justice rather than to offer vain gifts, and to live in righteousness rather than sing noisy songs and try to appease him with fattened calves. True peace comes not from solemn assemblies but from serving faithfully in the name of God.

Psalm 70**Deliver Me**

The psalmist cried out to God for deliverance from his enemies. He called the Lord his help and his deliverer, the one who saves his life.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18**The Return of the Lord**

Met with questions about the return of Jesus and the final resurrection of the dead, St. Paul encouraged the Thessalonian Christians not to fear. When Christ comes again, he said, those who are dead will be raised first, followed by those who are alive. Do not grieve, he told them, as those who have no hope.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:1–13**Wise and Foolish Virgins**

Jesus offered a parable about being ready for the bridegroom when he arrives. Ten virgins were awaiting that bridegroom's arrival. Before he arrived, five of the virgins found themselves without enough oil to keep their lamps going. They were advised by the wise virgins to go and buy more oil, but while they were away, the bridegroom returned and those who had left found themselves excluded from the banquet.

Suggestions for the Day:

Liturgical Color: Green

During the Season of Pentecost:

• Use either the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise.

Encourage families to dwell in the Word of God together. Check out the NALC's Holy Families website at www.holyfamilytime.com. There is a new devotion for each day of the year!

As the topic of Christ's return is prominent in the last days of the Church year, Sola has John's *Unfolding Cosmic Drama: A Literary and Theological Analysis of Revelation*, written by Dan Lioy and George Coon along with several Bible Studies on the book of Revelation

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Children of the Heavenly Father	474	---	725	781	201	201
Be Thou My Vision	---	776	---	793	230	230
All Depends on Our Possessing	447	---	732	589	194	194
Behold a Host, Arrayed in White	314	---	676	425	173	173
Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain	301	---	435	---	188	188
My Hope is Built on Nothing Less	294	---	576	597	192	192
Now Thank We All Our God	534	---	895	839	50	50
O Word of God Incarnate	231	---	523	514	---	***
On My Heart Imprint Your Image	102	---	422	811	52	52
Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise	526	---	802	834	40	40

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW=Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV=With One Voice, ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB=The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC=The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

Hear the Call of the Bridegroom
(CCLI# 3639896)
Soon and Very Soon
(CCLI# 11249)
It Is You
(CCLI# 3001606)
Let Justice Roll
(CCLI# 6379562)
When You Return
(CCLI# 1197351)

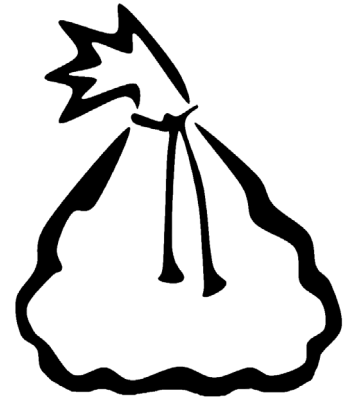
The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.

Pentecost 25

November 15, 2026

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost, Proper 28 (Year A)

The Day of the Lord is ever upon us, even though believers have been waiting for his return since his ascension long ago. Time for us is vastly different than God's time, and so we wait with anticipation and patience for the return of Christ. In the meantime we are encouraged to be good stewards of all that God has given us: investing in others, sharing His Word, and living each day with joy and mercy



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7-16**God Will Intervene**

God's Word came to the prophet Zephaniah, and it was a judgment on the house of Judah. The Lord threatened to sweep away the entire tribe, to wipe them off the face of the earth. Their idolatry of Baal incensed the Lord God, who commanded them to be silent in his presence. The Great Day of the Lord was near, and it would be a day of wrath, ruin, and utter devastation.

Psalm 90:1-12**God, the Everlasting One**

The psalmist sang of the everlasting nature of God for whom a thousand years is like one day. Secret sins are brought to light in the sight of the God of the ages.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**The Coming Day of the Lord**

The day of the Lord will come suddenly like a thief in the night. It will be like the sudden onset of labor pains of a mother ready to give birth. Paul urged the Christians at Thessalonica to keep awake, be sober, do not sleep or fail to be ready, for the coming of the Lord is near. Those who believe bear the marks of faith and are not destined for wrath, but for salvation through Christ.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:14-30**Parable of the Talents**

Jesus taught about stewardship by using a story about a master who entrusted his property to his servants' care while he was away. Two invested what they had been given, realizing a profit before the master's return. One, however, buried his portion in the ground. The master returned to judge the "worthless servant."

Suggestions for the Day:

Liturgical Color: Green

During the Season of Pentecost:

• Use either the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise.

How do we balance the wrathful words of Zephaniah with the grace God has shown us through Christ? Should we be terrified of a judgment day that leaves us in darkness and under rubble? Or should we look forward to the coming Day of the Lord that bring salvation for the faithful? Paul comforts the Thessalonians by reminding them of God's love and that his love has become our love for the world. We are to watch with joyful anticipation for Christ, not sit still and be slothful in our service to Him.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
All Who Believe and Are Baptized	194	---	601	442	75	75
Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending	27	---	336	435	---	---
Chief of Sinners Though I Be	306	---	611	609	187	187
Christ, the Life of All the Living	97	---	420	339	218	218
Come, Thou Almighty King	522	---	905	408	247	247
How Great Thou Art	532	---	801	856	26	26
Great is Thy Faithfulness	---	771	809	733	211	211
Here in this Place (Gather Us In)	---	718	---	532	---	---
O God, Our Help in Ages Past	320	---	733	632	225	225
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence	198	---	621	490	80	80

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

Everlasting God
(CCLI# 4556538)
Ten Talents
(CCLI# 5364107)
Make Me A Servant
(CCLI# 33131)
Better is One Day
(CCLI# 1097451)
Cry of My Heart
(CCLI# 844980)

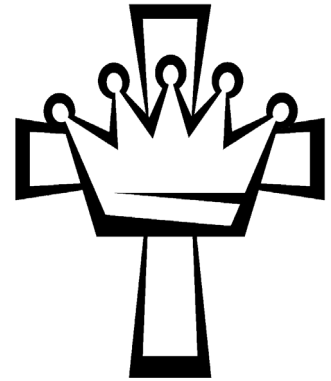
The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.

Christ the King

November 22, 2026

Christ the King Sunday, Proper 29 (Year A)

On the last Sunday of the liturgical year, the church celebrates the identity of Christ as King of kings. This one who is the Good Shepherd of the sheep is a king who serves the outcast, infirm, forsaken, and alone and calls his followers to do the same. The reign of God comes near whenever God's people act in faith and obedience to God's holy will for the other. Jesus is unlike any other king.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

The Lord Will Search Out his Flock

The Shepherd God of Israel would seek out his flock and bring them home, into their own land. He would seek those that are lost, gone astray, injured or weak and bring them unto himself, where they would be fed and kept safe from harm.

Psalm 95:1-7a

Make a Joyful Noise

The psalmist encouraged the congregation to sing songs of praise to the Lord, saying, "He is our God, and we are the people of his pasture." He praised God's wonderful works of creation, urging all to bow down in grateful worship.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

We are Made Alive in Christ

Paul explained that by one man, Adam, all humans have died because of sin. By one man, Jesus, all also would be made alive through his resurrection. Everything comes in the proper order, Paul said. First Christ would bring home those who belong to him, then the end would come and all earthly authority would be destroyed.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 25:31-46

The Final Judgment

Jesus spoke to his followers about the final judgment of God, saying that whenever they serve someone who is hungry or thirsty, visit the imprisoned, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger and so forth, they serve him. When they neglect to serve others, they are also neglecting to serve him. The life of discipleship is one that puts others ahead of self. This is the defining characteristic of righteousness, to serve those who are the "least."

Suggestions for the Day:

Liturgical Color: White

During the Season of Pentecost:

• Use either the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise.

With children, collect a bunch of different crowns and compare them with a crown of thorns. (Using images for this would work as well.) Discuss with kids how different the crowns are and how Jesus' crown was meant to be an insult.

This is the last Sunday of the church year. The cycle of Advent through Pentecost begins again next Sunday. The cycles of the liturgical year are like the cycles of life — endings and new beginnings, times of joy and times of growth, times of quiet, and times of repentance.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Lead On, O King Eternal	495	---	---	805	---	---
Let Me Be Yours Forever	490	---	689	---	7	7
The King of Love My Shepherd Is	456	---	709	502	198	198
We Praise You, O God	241	---	785	870	35	35
What Wondrous Love is This	385	---	543	666	254	254
When Peace Like a River	346	---	763	785	224	224
Come, Thou Almighty King	522	---	905	408	247	247
Crown Him with Many Crowns	170	---	525	855	22	22
Go, My Children, with My Blessing	---	721	922	543	53	53
Beautiful Savior	518	---	537	838	252	252

*The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW=Lutheran Book of Worship, WOVS=With One Voice, ELW=Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB=The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC=The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."*

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

You Are My King (Amazing Love)
(CCLI# 2456623)
You are My All in All
(CCLI# 825356)
Open Up the Heavens
(CCLI# 825356)
Hosanna (Praise is Rising)
(CCLI# 4662491)
Broken Vessels (Amazing Grace)
(CCLI# 7019974)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.

Thanksgiving Day (USA)

November 26, 2026

Thanksgiving Day (Year A)

It is part of our human sinful nature to forget about the Lord when things are going really well in our lives. When we have enough food to eat, clothing to wear, and shelter to protect us, we tend to think that it is our own hard work that has is the source of our comfort. Israel had the same issue repeatedly. God tested them so that they would not forget Him, but rather would lift their hearts to him.



THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE TEXTS

First Reading: Deuteronomy 8:7-18

God is Bringing You in a Good Land

Moses encouraged Israel by reminding them of God's promise to bring them into a land flowing with milk and honey. The caveat of this speech was that Israel should not forget the good God has done for them, but be faithful in keeping his commandments. When the Israelites had all they needed, they were prone to forgetting the Lord, the source of all goodness and freedom.

Psalm 67

Sing for Joy

The psalmist prayed for God's mercy and blessing even as he praised the Lord for his wondrous deeds and bountiful goodness to the house of Israel.

Second Reading: Philippians 4:6-20

Let God Know What You Need

Paul gave the Philippians great counsel when he tells them not to be anxious about anything but rather to give over all their prayers to the Lord, who would hear them and respond. Paul recalled the hardships he suffered and how thankful he was that his brothers and sisters "shared his trouble." Christ was his strength through all.

Gospel Reading: Luke 17:11-19

Jesus Heals Ten Lepers

Jesus encounters 10 men who suffered from leprosy. As they cried out to him for mercy, Jesus responded by sending them to the priest at the temple. All 10 were healed — and no doubt all were thankful, but only one turned back and thanked Jesus for his restorative power in his life. This one was a Samaritan who bowed down before him and praised God. Christian thankfulness has to do with whom we thank.

Suggestions for the Day:

Liturgical Color: Green

- Use the Litany for Thanksgiving as an opening for worship. It is based on Psalm 118 and can be found on the Thanksgiving Day page of SOWeR.
- Consider taking a special offering today for those in need — perhaps for a food bank or ministry that feeds the hungry.
- Consider adding a time for one-on-one prayer during the Thanksgiving service. Invite prayer partners to join together in the front of the sanctuary to pray for anyone who desires private prayer. Have the worship leader play soothing music during this time.

SUGGESTED HYMNS FOR WORSHIP

Hymn Titles:

	LBW	WOV	LSB	ELW	REC	Sola
Now Thank We All Our God	534	---	895	839	50	50
Come, You Thankful People, Come	407	---	892	693	261	261
Great is Thy Faithfulness	---	771	809	733	211	211
O Lord, Hear My Prayer	---	772	780	751	---	---
O God, My Faithful God	504	---	696	806	238	238
How Great Thou Art	532	---	801	856	26	26
Let All Things Now Living	557	---	---	881	---	---
For the Fruit of All Creation	563	---	894	679	---	---
Give Me Jesus	---	777	---	770	214	214
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence	198	---	621	490	80	80

The hymn suggestions above can be found in: LBW= Lutheran Book of Worship, WOV= With One Voice, ELW= Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Augsburg Fortress); LSB= The Lutheran Service Book (Concordia Publishing), REC= The ReClaim Hymnal for Church and Home (ReClaim Resources), and *** means you can find it on SOWeR at "Hymns and Music."

CONTEMPORARY SONGS

Praise Song Titles

Give Thanks
(CCLI# 20285)
Thank You, Lord
(CCLI# 4220833)
Be Anxious for Nothing
(CCLI# 44158990)
The Greatness of Our God
(CCLI# 5660739)
Search Me, O God
(CCLI# 4065696)

The contemporary song suggestions above are noted by their CCLI number. To print these songs, a congregation must have a CCLI license.