

A Service of Holy Communion for the Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Lectionary 28, Year C | October 12, 2025 | 10:30 a.m.



University Lutheran Church
66 Winthrop St., Cambridge, Mass.
unilu.org

PRELUDE “Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters” [BEACH SPRING] — Tune from *The Sacred Harp* (1844); setting by Janet Linker (b. 1938)

GATHERING

BELL AND WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✙ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper. **Amen.**

Trusting in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful and loving God, **we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.**

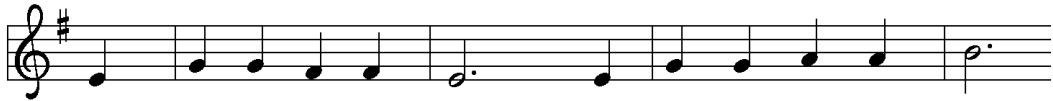
Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ✙ Jesus, your sins are forgiven! **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN ELW 641 “All Are Welcome”

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

KYRIE





we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Almighty and most merciful God, your bountiful goodness fills all creation. Keep us safe from all that may hurt us, that, whole and well in body and spirit, we may with grateful hearts accomplish all that you would have us do, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORD

FIRST READING 2 Kings 5:1–3, 7–15c

A reading from Second Kings.

¹Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Aram, was a great man and in high favor with his master because by him the LORD had given victory to Aram. The man, though a mighty warrior, suffered from a skin disease. ²Now the Arameans on one of their raids had taken a young girl captive from the land of Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, "If only my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his skin disease."

⁷When the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, “Am I God, to give death or life, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his skin disease? Just look and see how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me.”

⁸But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, he sent a message to the king, “Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come to me, that he may learn that there is a prophet in Israel.” ⁹So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and halted at the entrance of Elisha’s house. ¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go, wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.” ¹¹But Naaman became angry and went away, saying, “I thought that for me he would surely come out and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God and would wave his hand over the spot, and cure the skin disease! ¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” He turned and went away in a rage. ¹³But his servants approached and said to him, “Father, if the prophet had commanded you to do something difficult, would you not have done it? How much more, when all he said to you was, ‘Wash, and be clean’?” ¹⁴So he went down and immersed himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

¹⁵Then Namaan returned to the man of God, he and all his company; he came and stood before Elisha and said, “Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel.”

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 111

The cantor chants the psalm verses; the congregation sings the response at the beginning and when indicated below.

Response



¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the LORD with | my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.

²Great are your | works, O LORD,
pondered by all who de- | light in them.

³Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds,
and your righteousness en- | dures forever.

⁴You cause your wonders to | be remembered;
you are gracious and full | of compassion. **Response**

⁵You give food to | those who fear you,
remembering forev- | er your covenant.

⁶You have shown your people the power | of your works
in giving them the lands | of the nations.

⁷The works of your hands are faithful- | ness and justice;
all of your pre- | cepts are sure.

⁸They stand fast forev- | er and ever,
because they are done in | truth and equity. **Response**

⁹You sent redemption to your people
and commanded your cove- | nant forever;
holy and awesome | is your name.

¹⁰The fear of the LORD is the begin- | ning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding.
God's praise en- | dures forever. **Response**

SECOND READING 2 Timothy 2:8–15

A reading from Second Timothy.

⁸Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, a descendant of David—that is my gospel, ⁹for which I suffer hardship, even to the point of being chained like a criminal. But the word of God is not chained. ¹⁰Therefore I endure everything for the sake of the elect, so that they may also obtain the salvation that is in Christ Jesus, with eternal glory. ¹¹The saying is sure:

If we have died with Christ, we will also live with Christ;

¹²if we endure, we will also reign with Christ;

if we deny him, he will also deny us;

¹³if we are faithless, he remains faithful—

Christ cannot deny himself.

¹⁴Remind them of this, and warn them before the Lord that they are to avoid wrangling over words, which does no good but only ruins those who are listening. ¹⁵Do your best to present yourself to God as one whom God approves, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly explaining the word of truth.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav-ing word.



Let it burn like fire with-in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL Luke 17:11–19

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹¹On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. ¹²As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, ¹³they called out, saying, “Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!” ¹⁴When Jesus saw them, he said to them, “Go and show yourselves to the priests.” And as they went, they were made clean. ¹⁵Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. ¹⁶He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. ¹⁷Then Jesus asked, “Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? ¹⁸Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?” ¹⁹Then Jesus said to the Samaritan, “Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON *Carrie Ballenger*

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 445 “Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters”

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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
and born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
Who descended to the dead
and on the third day rose again.
Who ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
Who will come again 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

Individuals will be invited to offer prayers aloud or write them in the book found at the entrance to the worship space. Prayers may also be typed in the Zoom chat box to be read by the intercessor.

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

Each prayer petition may be concluded with one of these (or similar) responses:

God, in your mercy,

Bless we the Holy One!

or

Hear our prayer.

Thanks be to God!

We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

MEAL

OFFERTORY MUSIC “Balm in Gilead” — from *The Revivalist* hymnal (1868), as reworked by Becky Wright and Nicole Singer (2021)

Long hast thou wept and sorrowed Poor mourner, dry thy tears
Behold, with light and comfort, The God of love appears.

**Refrain: There’s balm in Gilead To cure a sin-sick soul
There’s balm in Gilead To make the wounded whole.**

The storm may roar about you, Your heart may low be laid;
But God is ever near you, And can you be dismayed? **Refrain**

The seed, before it flourish, Must low in darkness lie
And love, to live forever, Must for a season die. **Refrain**

Green pastures are before you, Which yet you have not seen;
Bright skies will soon be o’er you, Where darkest clouds have been.

Refrain

For soon the day is coming; The darkness shall be gone;
And o’er the night of weeping A brighter day shall dawn. **Refrain**

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Please visit unilu.org/giving if you would like to set up an electronic funds transfer, or a credit card donation on a recurring or one-time basis. You can also give by mailing a check to: 66 Winthrop St., Cambridge, MA 02138.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are quarter notes, and the lyrics are written below the staves. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The third staff has a double bar line at the end. The fourth staff has a double bar line at the end.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . .

. . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

The thanksgiving may include this acclamation:

Christ has died. Christ is ris-en. Christ will come a - gain.

The thanksgiving may conclude:

A - men, a - men, a - men.

LORD'S PRAYER

In the Bible, Jesus often speaks of God as “Abba,” Father, reflecting a profound intimacy with the creator of all worlds. Here, we extend that intimacy to name God as our Mother.

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

**God our Mother, God our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO RECEIVE AND SHARE COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them.

Come to this meal of mercy.

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

For those worshipping via Zoom, individuals may commune themselves and households may serve one another with the same words.

HYMNS DURING COMMUNION

ELW 467 “We Place upon Your Table, Lord”

ELW 472 “Eat This Bread” (*Jesus Christ, Bread of Life*)

TABLE BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING OF THE HARVARD SQUARE HOMELESS SHELTER

BLESSING

The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✝ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ACS 1017 “Come to Me, O Weary Traveler”

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE “Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters” [BEACH SPRING] — Tune from *The Sacred Harp* (1844); setting by Wilbur Held (1914–2015)

SERVING TODAY

Presiding Minister and Preacher: Carrie Ballenger;
Reader: Anne Howarth; *Intercessor:* Susan Worst;
Musicians: Imogene Stulken and Lorraine Fitzmaurice;
Tech Vergers: Holly Druckman and Kiefer Hicks;
Hospitality: John Gregg and Susan Worst

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE are asked for:

Cheri Agaskar—UniLu member
Matt Arnie—relative of Pastor Carrie Ballenger and Brittany Browning
Ellen Bartlett—sister of Gail Bucher
Lorraine and Roland Blanchard—friends of Gail Bucher
Ed Bucher—UniLu member
Gail Bucher—UniLu member
Alice Conway—sister of Karin Kutrieb
Bob Flannery—UniLu member
Barbara Frank—mother-in-law of Anne Howarth
Nancy Gould—UniLu member
Charles Jaferian—grandson of Nancy Gould
Duncan McCoy Norton—son of Megan McCoy
Anne Minton—colleague of Imogene Stulken
The Ralston-Lamb family—UniLu members
Jeanette Searson—sister of Imogene Stulken
Judy Steele—sister of Phyllis Steele
Judee Tomlinson—aunt of Susan Worst
Julie Wilson—UniLu member

For our siblings at Faith Lutheran Church in Cambridge and their pastor, Robin Lutjohann.

For First Church Somerville and the Somerville Homeless Coalition as they face legal challenges.

For our siblings in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, including the staff of Augusta Victoria Hospital on the Mount of Olives and all those for whom they provide care.

For all who are seeking refuge, who are facing immigration challenges, who have been deported to homes that are not home, and who have been separated from their families.

In the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle, we remember the peoples of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua, and Panama.

(revised 10/6/2025)

SERVING THE COMMUNITY

Carrie Ballenger, *Pastor*

Gracious Moyo, *Associate Pastor*

Kristian Kohler, *Office Administrator*

Lorraine Fitzmaurice, *Music Director—Choir / Building Manager*

Imogene Stulken, *Music Director—Organ*

Holly Druckman, *Tech Verger*

Mary Pederson Metelmann, *Council President*

Ed Bucher, *Treasurer and Bookkeeper*

Gail Bucher, *Service Deacon*

Chris Porter, *Financial Secretary*

Susan Worst, *Webmaster*

Joyce DeGreeff, *Lutheran Chaplain at Northeastern University*

Andrew Heisen, *Lutheran Chaplain at MIT*

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Welcome to University Lutheran Church, a Christian witness and ministry of and to members of the academic and wider communities in Cambridge-Boston — and, virtually, across the world! We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation, welcoming people of all sexual orientations and gender identities. We are also a member congregation of the Greater Boston Interfaith Organization (GBIO).

Land Acknowledgment: *University Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Pawtucket and Massa-adchu-es-et (Massachusetts) peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have called, and who continue to call, this land their home.*