

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries
Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



21st Sunday after Pentecost
October 22nd, 2023
9:30 am



20300 Hilliard Blvd
Rocky River, OH 44116
(440) 331-1773

The Rev. Marissa Harrison
pastormarissa@goodsoillutheran.org
Cell Phone: 813-494-6507

Church Administrator Cara Rovella
admin@goodsoillutheran.org

Website: GoodSoilLutheran.org
Facebook: [goodsoillutheranministries](https://www.facebook.com/goodsoillutheranministries)
Instagram: [goodsoilchurch](https://www.instagram.com/goodsoilchurch)
YouTube: [Good Soil Lutheran Ministries](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshiping with you. There's also a "prayground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshiping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Please ask an usher about our hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Children may commune with elements or receive a blessing depending on parent/guardian preference. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice available upon request.

Key:

Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation

Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant

† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

21st Sunday after Pentecost

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.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome

In the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare to assemble around the Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through repentance.

† Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be God,
the one who forms us,
† Jesus who bears the cross,
the Spirit who makes our joy complete.
Amen.

Let us bow before God in humility, confessing our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Steadfast and faithful God,
**you have revealed the ways of justice,
yet we fail to follow you.
We are overwhelmed
by the world's violence and suffering.
We are afraid to risk what we have
for the sake of others.
For the harm we have caused,**

known and unknown, forgive us.
For the unjust demands we place on others
and your creation, forgive us.
For the ways we turn away
from you and our neighbor, forgive us.
Lead us back to you
and set us on the right path;
in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's justice stretches beyond all understanding.
God's compassion is beyond compare.
In Jesus, God is always making a new way for us.
In † Christ, you are already and always forgiven.
Amen.

† **Gathering Hymn: Praise and Thanksgiving - ELW 689**

- 1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.
- 2 God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,
harvesting, milling for daily bread.
- 3 Father, providing food for your children,
by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share
one with another, so that, rejoicing
with us, all others may know your care.
- 4 Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,
freely confessing your gracious hand.
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;
your love sustaining showers the land.

The assembly is greeted with words used by Paul in 2nd Corinthians to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality that signifies trust, love, mutual service, and a shared hope in God.

† 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.

† Hymn of Praise: Glory Be to God in Heaven, v. 1



1 Glo-ry be to God in heav-en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;



Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
Ho - ly One in faith we name you, throned on high, yet near to all:



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!

The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.

† 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.

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Isaiah 45:1-7

To put this reading into context:

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.

Hear now the reading.

¹Thus says the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus,
whose right hand I have grasped
to subdue nations before him
and strip kings of their robes,
to open doors before him—
and the gates shall not be closed:
²I will go before you
and level the mountains,
I will break in pieces the doors of bronze
and cut through the bars of iron,
³I 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.
⁴For the sake of my servant Jacob,
and Israel my chosen,

I call you by your name,
 I surname you, though you do not know me.
⁵I am the Lord, and there is no other;
 besides me there is no god.
 I arm you, though you do not know me,
⁶so 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.
⁷I form light and create darkness,
 I make weal and create woe;
 I the Lord do all these things.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

We welcome the gospel by singing the Gospel Acclamation. We rise, if able, in anticipation of Christ being revealed to us through the Living Word of the Gospel.

† **Gospel Acclamation: Celtic Alleluia – ELW 174**

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Before and after the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading.

† **Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22**

To put this gospel reading into context:

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.

The holy Gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap [Jesus] in what he said. ¹⁶So 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. ¹⁷Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor, or not?" ¹⁸But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. ²⁰Then he said to them, "Whose head is this, and whose title?" ²¹They answered, "The emperor's." Then he said to them, "Give therefore to the emperor the things that are the emperor's, and to God the things that are God's." ²²When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Children 1st grade and younger are invited to step out with one of our Sunday School teachers to join the "learn and grow in faith" class during the sermon. They will return during the Passing of the Peace. Sunday School classes for all children (nursery school - 6th grade) meet after worship.

Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison

Silence for Reflection.

Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice.

You're invited to reflect on the following question:

Take a moment to visualize your most prized possessions...then the relationships that are most important to you...then the natural wonders in the world for which you are most grateful.

All of these things are entrusted to us by God even as they still "belong" to God. How does that impact our understanding of what is "ours"? How do we give thanks and express our gratitude to God for all that God entrusts to us?

† Hymn of the Day: Be Thou My Vision - ELW 793

1 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

2 Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

3 Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

4 Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931

† **Apostle's Creed**

**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.**

*As the church,
we pray for
those in our
community
and around the
world. The
prayers are
also
responsive,
emphasizing
our own
participation.*

*Each petition
addresses a
different topic,
often in the
same pattern:*

*+ The Church
+ Creation
+ Nations and
leaders
+ Those in need
+ This faith
community
+ The great
cloud of
witnesses/those
now resting
with God*

† Prayers of Intercession

Trusting in the transformative power of God's loving Spirit, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Faithful God, your Spirit animates the church throughout the world and connects us into the body of Christ. Equip us for the work of faith, and enlarge our hearts for the labor of love. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Creating God, the sea roars, the earth rejoices, and the heavens are glad at the wonder of all you have made. Bless the work of ecologists and conservationists and all those who safeguard the riches of creation. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Sovereign God, your rule and authority is over the cosmos. As you once worked through the ruler Cyrus for the good of your people, accomplish your purposes through the work of elected leaders and public servants. Guide them with your wisdom and compassion. Bring the horrors of war to an end, especially in Ukraine and Israel/Palestine. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Caring God, your arms enfold all who are lonely, oppressed, despairing, sick, and suffering. We pray especially for: Peter, Helen, Jane, Carl, Phyllis, Joe, Willie, Pat, Char, Keyla, Floyd, Rich, family and friends of Marie, Anna, Jeanette, Archer, Steve, Dick, Khams and his people and family in Manipur, India, Family and friends of Andrew Evatt, ... and all those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, all our life belongs to you. When earthly idols and feelings of entitlement lead us astray, remind us that you alone are the source of everything we have. Open our hearts to be generous

partners with you, supporting your work in the world—remind us of your abundance that is more than we imagine. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Everlasting God, the saints of every age have sung your praise and shared your word. We give you thanks for their witness and your promise that we will join them as citizens of your unending kingdom. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

Gracious God, into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your unending love and amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.

† Passing of the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always
And also with you.

The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.

God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.

The Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support or by using this QR code.

Aim your phone camera at the QR code above, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to take you to our support page.



The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify

† Offering Hymn: Let the Vineyards be Fruitful Lord - ELW 184

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,

*our gratitude
for God's
blessings.*

and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

† Offering Prayer

God of power, God of plenty, all things belong to you.
We bring your gifts to the table, that all might be fed.
Form us into the body of your Beloved,
Jesus Christ, our Savior.
Amen.

† 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

† Sanctus



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 he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

† Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.

† Lord's Prayer

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

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

† Invitation to the Table

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

Amen.

Communion

Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. Children are welcome to come to the Lord's table for communion or for a blessing, depending on parent/guardian's preference.

When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."

Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. You are invited to stand or kneel at the altar rail.

Gluten-free bread is available upon request. The wine (red) is in the outer rings of the tray, the grape juice (white) is in the center. Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.

Communion Hymns

To Be Your Presence - ELW 546

- 1 To be your presence is our mission here,
to show compassion's face and list'ning ear,
to be your heart of mercy ever near,
alleluia!
- 2 To be your presence is our mission bold,
to feed the poor and shelter homeless cold,
to be your hands of justice, right uphold,
alleluia!
- 3 To be your presence is our mission blest,
to speak for all the broken and oppressed,
to be your voice of hope, your love expressed,
alleluia!
- 4 We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice,
to serve your people is our call and choice,
and in this mission we, the church, rejoice,

alleluia!

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939

Text © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

O God of Every Nation - ELW 713

- 1 O God of ev'ry nation,
of ev'ry race and land,
redeem your whole creation
with your almighty hand;
where hate and fear divide us
and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us
and heal our strife-torn world.
- 2 From search for wealth and power
and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower
destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station
and blindness to your way,
deliver ev'ry nation,
eternal God, we pray.
- 3 Lord, strengthen all who labor
that all may find release
from fear of rattling saber,
from dread of war's increase;
when hope and courage falter,
Lord, let your voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter,
your servants undergird.
- 4 Keep bright in us the vision
of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division
give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious

when truth and love shall reign,
and Christ shall rule victorious
o'er all the world's domain.

Text: William W. Reid Jr., b. 1923
Text © 1958, ren. 1986 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.
All rights reserved. Used by permission

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you
and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

The Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

† Blessing

The God of glory,

‡ Jesus Christ, name above all names,
and the Spirit who lives in you,
bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

*Through the
sending hymn
we are sent out
into the world
to follow Jesus.*

† Sending Hymn: God of Grace and God of Glory - ELW 705 v. 1, 3, 4

1 God of grace and God of glory,
on your people pour your pow'r;
crown your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

3 Cure your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,

lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

- 4 Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969

The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body—fed, nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins! The dismissal is based on Good Soil's Purpose Statement.

† Dismissal

Go in peace. God is at work in you.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

You are warmly invited to gather in the upstairs lounge area for coffee fellowship immediately following worship.

Scripture quotations are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible © 1989 Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA. Used by permission.

Worship texts are from sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright 2023. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS020986

Music reprinted under One License #A-719034 or CCLI license #3013830. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Today's Worship Servants:

Livestream: Sean Lanter	Reader: Mary Kay Liston
Ushers: Darlene Wahl & Amanda Inman	Counters: Mary Kay Liston & Jessica Berkshire
Online Usher: Dave Blocksom	Acolyte: Ryan Williamson



Announcements from Good Soil for Sunday, Oct 22nd, 2023

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Peter Alexander, Helen Andrews, Jane Beese, Carl Bruns, Phyllis Clapper, Willie Lee, Pat Lukas, Char Mattson, Keyla Mercado, Floyd Nelson, Archer Oster, Steve Patrick, Rich Petrusky, Dick Schlupe, the family and friends of Marie Sternad, Anna Sykaluk, Jeanette Weidlich, Khams Zotal and his family and people of Manipur, India, and the family and friends of Andrew Evatt.

For those celebrating their anniversary: JoAnne & Michael Wancata (10/26).

For those celebrating the anniversary of their baptism: Janet Whiley (10/22) and Evan Lanter (10/23).

For those celebrating their birthday: Edith Young (10/22), Gloria Weidlich (10/24), and Hannah Alusheff (10/27).

The flowers adorning the altar today are given to the Glory of God in honor of JoAnne and Michael Wancata's anniversary.

Flower Sign-Up- Interested in signing up to adorn Christ's altar with flowers for worship? You can sign up with the flower list on the bulletin board in the hallway or online using this QR code.



Please note: The physical flower sign-up sheet on the bulletin board has first priority. Best efforts will be made to ensure the digital calendar reflects the physical one, but if you happen to digitally sign-up for a date that is already taken on the physical sheet, you will be contacted about rescheduling.

Food ministry volunteer opportunities to help feed our neighbors:

Trinity Lutheran at Lakewood Congregational Church (1375 W Clifton Blvd, Lakewood) - on the third Saturday from 9am-12pm on November 18. Please bring in plastic bags to help support this ministry and the food ministry of New Covenant Lutheran. Please place them in the bin in the sanctuary level hallway.

Coffee Fellowship Volunteers Needed! - Please consider volunteering to host and/or provide healthy snacks or baked goods. Volunteers can sign-up using the Ministry Scheduler Pro platform, the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board



outside of the Lounge, or by contacting the church office. Coffee volunteers aren't expected to provide snacks or baked goods, but can if they would like. Anyone can donate ready to serve healthy snacks or baked goods. Please use the sign-up sheet in the hallway or the QR code to the left.

Generosity Emphasis in October: "More Than We Can Imagine" (Intent Sunday, TODAY)-

As we approach 2024, we can see that God has done so much more than any of us could have imagined in this place. Good Soil has grown in so many ways— in our vision, in numbers, and in our depth of relationships. This year, we want to invite you to imagine continuing to grow in your faith inspired financial commitment that says, "Thank God!" We have so much to look forward to for ministry initiatives in 2024, and the generosity of the congregation makes that meaningful ministry possible. October 22nd is Intent Sunday! Please bring your intent card (will be mailed out this week) to worship with you or you can also access an online intent card with the QR code to the right. Thank you for helping to share God's abundance!



All Saints Day- On Sunday, Nov 5 (All Saints Sunday), we will remember all of the saints



who are now at rest in God's loving arms with a candle lighting rite during worship. Knowing they are in our heart forever, please share the names of your loved ones and friends who have died in the last year (since 11/6/22). Let us know who you would like to remember using the QR code to the left or by calling the church office at 440-331-1773.

Welcome Brynna Bailer Mango, Good Soil's new Worship and Music Coordinator! Council is excited to announce that after an intentional interview process, Brynna Bailer Mango has accepted the position to be our new Worship and Music Coordinator. Brynna earned her Bachelors of Music in Education with honors from CSU in 2021. She brings a wealth of experience including servings as a K-12 music teacher, concert/choral accompanist, and Christian worship leader. Please introduce yourself to her and join us in warmly welcoming Brynna!

Good Soil Sunday School has begun!

DURING WORSHIP

Pray Ground

A special place to worship in the sanctuary- while being a kid! In addition to books, crayons, small toys etc., a “casually intentional” group activity will be available.

“Learn and Grow” time for children Gr. 1 and younger during the sermon

Children move down the hall to a classroom after the Children’s Sermon. They return to the Sanctuary during the Passing of the Peace or Offering collection at the latest.

FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Sunday School for Grades 1 – 6 in Room 1

Junior Sunday School for Preschool/Kindergarten in Room 2

Calendar of Events

Date	Event	Time
Sun, Oct 22	In-Person and Livestream Worship: Intent Sunday	9:30 am
Sun, Oct 29	In-Person and Livestream Worship: Reformation Sunday and Confirmation of Aaron Krankowski	9:30 am
Thurs, Nov 2	Confirmation Class @ Bethesda on the Bay Lutheran	5:45pm
Sat, Nov 4	Ladies Breakfast @ Gene’s Place to Dine	9:00 am
Sun, Nov 5	In-Person and Livestream Worship: All Saints Sunday	9:30 am

Newsletter- Want to keep up with the latest Good Soil news or share the e-news with a friend? Sign up for or share our newsletter *Seeds* with this URL: <https://tinyurl.com/bddjk7yp> or the QR code to the left.

