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Week of October 18, 2026
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Community Prayer

Creator of all, you have called us and chosen us to be your people. By the power of your Holy Spirit may we bear witness with joy and conviction to the good news of Jesus Christ. Amen.

*“Reprinted and Revised Common Lectionary Prayers,
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Call to Worship

One: Sing to the Lord a new song! Everyone, even the rocks and trees, sing!

Many: Let us shout out in praise!

One: God does great things for us. See God's amazing works all around us.

Many: Great is the Lord!

One: Tell of God's wonders! Share stories of God's glory.

Many: Let us worship the Lord!

Sermon

From Reverend Sarah Gengler

Matthew 22:15-22

Is it God's or the Emperor's

We Welcome Reverend Sarah Gengler to the Pulpit

This week our guest preacher is Reverend Sarah Gengler. Pastor Sarah earned a double B.A. in Journalism and Political Science, and worked as a newspaper reporter/photographer before answering her call to ministry. She attended the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA graduating in May 2014. She has served congregations in Indiana, Nebraska, Minnesota, and Kansas before returning to the Husker state in July 2026 to work as a full-time chaplain with St Croix Hospice. Some of Pastor Sarah's favorite ministries are pastoral care, mission work, and worship. She enjoys spending her free time with her fiancé, their 3 small dogs, family and friends, as well as sewing, cooking, baking, and listening to audiobooks.

Matthew 22:15-22

“Then the Pharisees went and plotted to entrap him in what he said. So they sent their disciples to him, along with the Herodians, saying, ‘Teacher, we know that you are sincere, and teach the way of God in accordance with truth, and show deference to no one; for you do not regard people with partiality. Tell us, then, what you think. Is it lawful to pay taxes to the emperor or not?’ But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, ‘Why are you putting me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin used for the tax.’ And they brought him a denarius. Then he said to them, ‘Whose head is this, and whose title?’ They 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.’ When they heard this, they were amazed; and they left him and went away.”



Scripture Reading

Exodus 33:12-23

“Moses said to the Lord, ‘See, you have said to me, “Bring up this people”; but you have not let me know whom you will send with me. Yet you have said, “I know you by name, and you have also found favor in my sight.” Now if I have found favor in your sight, show me your ways, so that I may know you and find favor in your sight. Consider, too, that this nation is your people.’ He said, ‘My presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.’ And he said to him, ‘If your presence will not go, do not carry us up from here. For how shall it be known that I have found favor in your sight, I and your people, unless you go with us? In this way, we shall be distinct, I and your people, from every people on the face of the earth.’ The Lord said to Moses, ‘I will also do the very thing that you have asked; for you have found favor in my sight, and I know you by name.’ Moses said, ‘Show me your glory, I pray.’ And he said, ‘I will make all my goodness pass before you, and will proclaim before you the name, “The Lord”; and I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious, and will show mercy on whom I will show mercy. But,’ he said, ‘you cannot see my face; for no one shall see me and live.’ And the Lord continued, ‘See, there is a place by me where you shall stand on the rock; and while my glory passes by I will put you in a cleft of the rock, and I will cover you with my hand until I have passed by; then I will take away my hand, and you shall see my back; but my face shall not be seen.’ ”

Psalms 99

“The Lord is king; let the peoples tremble! He sits enthroned upon the cherubim; let the earth quake! The Lord is great in Zion; he is exalted over all the peoples. Let them praise your great and awesome name. Holy is he! Mighty King, lover of justice, you have established equity; you have executed justice and righteousness in Jacob. Extol the Lord our God; worship at his footstool. Holy is he! Moses and Aaron were among his priests, Samuel also was among those who called on his name. They cried to the Lord, and he answered them. He spoke to them in the pillar of cloud; they kept his decrees, and the statutes that he gave them. O Lord our God, you answered them; you were a forgiving God to them, but an avenger of their wrongdoings. Extol the Lord our God, and worship at his holy mountain; for the Lord our God is holy.”

**EXALT THE LORD OUR GOD, AND
WORSHIP AT HIS HOLY MOUNTAIN;
FOR THE LORD OUR GOD IS HOLY!**

PSALM 99:9



Prayers & Praises

October 18, 2026



In Our Church Family:

- Donna Baker
- Cec Burkhart
- John Burkhart
- Joan Dietrich
- Polly Putney
- Bob Throop
- Marvin Thurber
- Phyllis Thurber
- Jessica Vocasek
- Roger Vocasek

Prayers and sympathy for Elaine Parman, in the death of her brother Ed Gilmore.

Prayers for Rev. Bruce Frogge, Stephanie Frogge's brother, who has been diagnosed with a serious bone marrow disease. Further genetics testing is in progress to determine type and treatment plan.

Prayers for Jim Christ's nephew, Dennis Christ, who has been moved to a hospital in San Francisco, CA, for further testing on the infectious disease he is battling.

Prayers for healing for Vince Ortega's sister, Linda De Los Santos, who has been diagnosed with liver cancer.

Prayers for Marvin and Phyllis Thurber, who have moved to Salt Creek Senior Living.

Prayers for Diane Zabokrtsky's mom, Elaine Clayton, who was in the hospital and has returned home.

Prayers for John Burkhart, who is recovering from heart rhythm issues.

Prayers for Cec Burkhart for continued healing.

Prayers for Bob Throop for the sale of his former home before the end of the year.

Prayers for Roger Vocasek as he looks for a job.

Prayers for Jessica Steblik-Vocasek for her health issues.

Prayers for Katelyn Long for continued healing and strength.

Friends:

- Ron Collamore, *prayers for his health.*

Our Timothy

- Rev. Bruce Frogge, *Cypress Creek CC in Spring, TX*

In the Nebraska Region: Nebraska Regional Staff - Robin, Angie, Holly, & Nathan

Our Global Ministries in: Democratic Republic of Congo

"Lord God Almighty, remember the suffering, the displaced, and the vulnerable—especially in the eastern provinces. Be the refuge for the brokenhearted, the protector of women and children, and the comfort to those who feel abandoned. Grant us national unity and deliver our land from the hands of foreign exploitation, violence, and division. Amen."

Song of the Week

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Immortal, invisible, God only wise, in light inaccessible hid from our eyes, most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days, almighty, victorious, thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unchanging, and silent as light, nor wanting, nor wasting, thou rulest in might: thy justice, like mountains high soaring above; thy clouds, which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all, life thou givest, to both great and small. In all life thou livest, the true life of all. We blossom and flourish like leaves on the tree, then wither and perish; but naught changeth thee.

Thou reignest in glory; thou dwellest in light. Thine angels adore thee, all veiling their sight. All praise we would render; O help us to see 'tis only the splendor of light hideth thee!



For more information and stories about our Global Ministry partners visit www.globalministries.org



OCTOBER

Call to Confession

One:

All too often, we tell God we will do better, and be better, and then just go on living the same way we always have. Let this be the moment when we tell God of our faithlessness and failures, so we can start again and be renewed. Join me as we pray together:

Prayer of Confession

Many:

As you know, Healing God, we stand on the edge of your promises, yet cannot seem to let ourselves cross over into the life you intend for us. Despite the misguided ways of the world, we cling to it and resist your call to follow a different path. Forgive us, Lord, and have mercy upon us. When we continue to do what is wrong, because what is right is unknown and scary, give us courage. Guide us on the paths of righteousness, so that we might delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name.

Good News of God's Grace

One:

Persistently, patiently, lovingly, God pours out grace and joy into our lives, healing our brokenness, forgiving our sins.

Many:

Loved, we are sent to love; forgiven, we are told to forgive; freed, we are called to set free. Thanks be to God. Amen.



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