

THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - 19 NOVEMBER 2023

WE ARE DELIGHTED THAT YOU ARE WITH US THIS MORNING! THIS BULLETIN AND THE BLUE HYMNAL WILL GUIDE YOU THROUGH OUR WORSHIP. AT COMMUNION TIME ALL ARE INVITED TO COME FORWARD AND SHARE IN THE EUCHARIST. THE BREAD IS TAKEN IN THE PALM OF THE RIGHT HAND; IF RECEIVING THE WINE, EITHER DIP (INTINCT) THE BREAD OR SIP FROM THE CUP. YOUR FOLDED HANDS WILL SIGNAL THE PRIEST THAT YOU WOULD PREFER A BLESSING.

FLOWERS ARE GIVEN JOYFULLY TO THE GLORY OF GOD BY Karen McCarthy in loving memory of Robert E. Miller

Hymn 433: We Gather Together To Ask The Lord's Blessing

THE WORD OF GOD

Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

O Lord, open our lips. And our mouths shall proclaim your praise. Praise the Lord. The Lord's Name be praised.

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to, his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,
you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Lord be with you. And also with you. Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

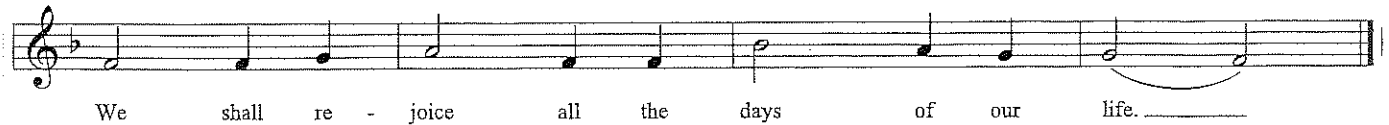
A Reading from the Prophet Zephaniah

In this opening lesson, the prophet proclaims the hastening approach of the day of the Lord, a day of judgment and fearful distress.

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm.' Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

In Psalm 90, the psalmist reflects on the passing character of human life in the face of the Lord's wrath, and asks the everlasting God for wisdom to make use of the time. The cantor sings the refrain; all repeat; and sing as indicated.



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Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another. Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God. R. You turn us back to the dust and say, "Go back, O child of earth." For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night. R. You sweep us away like a dream; we fade away suddenly like the grass. In the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered. R. The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone, R. So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Thessalonians

In this reading, Paul counsels the new disciples to be alert, for the day of the Lord will come swiftly and unexpectedly, although at a time unknown to mortals.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake, since we belong to the day, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet, the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

All stand.

O higher than the cherubim, more glorious than the seraphim, lead their praises, Alleluia!
Thou bearer of the eternal Word, most mighty, magnify the Lord. Alleluia! (5x)

The Lord be with you. And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ, according to Matthew. Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "When the day comes, the kingdom of Heaven will be as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

The Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon -- The Rev. Michael L. Bradley, rector

Our Affirmation of Faith - What do we believe?

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth; I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He 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 the People

We praise your abiding guidance, O God, for you sent us Jesus, our Teacher and Messiah, to model for us the way of love for the whole universe. We offer these prayers of love on behalf of ourselves and our neighbors; responding "Lord, have mercy."

For the whole People of God, that each one may be a true and faithful servant of Christ, let us pray; R.

For those drawing near to the light of faith, that God will always walk with them in their journey; let us pray. R.

For our families and friends, that God will give them joy and satisfaction in all that they do, let us pray; R.

For those who are lonely, hungry, persecuted, or forgotten, that the Lord will comfort and sustain them, let us pray; R.

For our country, that the Lord will help us to contribute to its true growth and well-being, let us pray; R.

For the whole human family, that we may live together in justice and peace, let us pray. R.

Prayers are offered for those on the parish prayer list, for special concerns and for thanksgivings.

The people are invited to offer their own prayers and petitions

Jim Veit, Karen Schulze, Ed Haug, Susan Rich, Lynn Kerber, Donald Burton

We pray also for the forgiveness of our sins. *Silence is kept, then all pray together:*

Have mercy upon us; Most merciful God, in your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown things done and left undone, and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The celebrant concludes with a collect, to which all respond: Amen.

Holy Communion

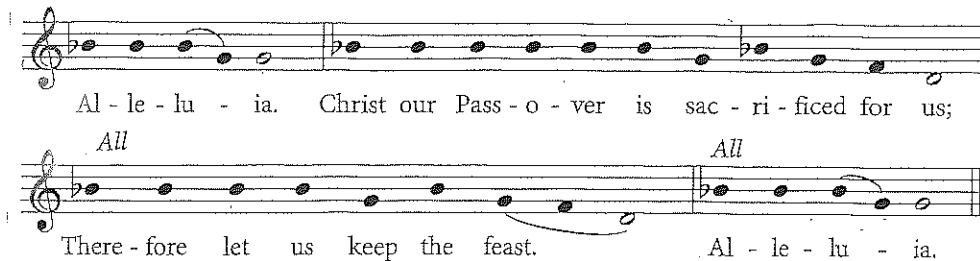
Offertory Hymn Offertory Hymn (insert): All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly; Holy Manna Is Our Bread

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

We praise and thank you, abundant God, for the many gifts and talents you have given us, . . .
who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord; God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest,
hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest,
Hosanna in the highest.

The celebrant continues with the Prayer of Consecration, Memorial Acclamation, and Great Amen.



The gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you.
Feed on him in your hearts by faith, and be filled with thanks.

Music during Communion:

Peace before us, peace behind us, peace under our feet. Peace within us, peace over us: let all around us be peace
Love before us, etc. Let all around us be love.
Light before us, etc. Let all around us be light.
Christ before us, etc. Let all around us be Christ.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia; Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Peace before us, etc. Let all around us be peace (3x)

After all have received, please stand and pray together:

Gracious God; In this sacrament we have shared the body of blood of Christ. May we who have been nourished by
holy things bear witness to his light, and share in his eternal priesthood. Now send us out to do the work you
have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy
Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

The mercy, grace and peace of God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
by upon and remain with you, this day and forever. Amen.

Let us go forth in the Name of Christ. Thanks be to God.

Hymn 290: Come, Ye Thankful People, Come! Raise The Song of Harvest Home

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Our Mission: We share the light of Christ
by loving and serving our neighbors in the world.

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