# The Divine Service

Twenty-fifth Sunday of Pentecost

November 19, 2023

# AS WE GATHER

The Last Day may come soon, but in the meantime, many people are neglecting to use their abilities and opportunities for God's purposes. Zephaniah writes that it will be a day of wrath and mourning. But for those who have realized God's blessings over the years, as Psalm 90 recalls, though the times are mean, each day is an opportunity to "encourage one another and build one another up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11). Today is an opportunity to hear God's very gracious Word, "well done!" and be strengthened to respond by using the talents He has loaned to us.

# Prelude

# Invocation

- **P** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.
- C Amen.

# Confession and Absolution

If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just who and has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self examination

- P Most merciful God,
- have mercy on us. We confess to you that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not trusted you with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and our truth. Amen.
- With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in (+) Jesus Christ.
- C Thanks be to God!

# "Here I Am To Worship"

# Processional Hymn

# Verse 1

Light of the world You stepped down into darkness Opened my eyes let me see Beauty that made This heart adore You Hope of a life spent with You

# Chorus

So here I am to worship Here I am to bow down Here I am to say that You're my God And You're altogether lovely Altogether worthy Altogether wonderful to me

# Verse 2

King of all days Oh so highly exalted Glorious in heaven above Humbly You came To the earth You created All for love's sake became poor

# Bridge

And I'll never know how much it cost To see my sin upon that cross And I'll never know how much it cost To see my sin upon that cross

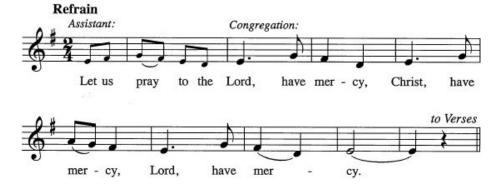
CCLI Song # 3266032 Tim Hughes © 2000 Thankyou Music

# Greeting

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

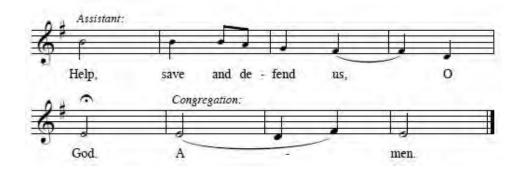
# Kyrie

Cantor: In peace, in peace...



Cantor: For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the ... <u>Refrain</u>

Cantor: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word, let us pray to the ... <u>Refrain</u>







# Salutation

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

# Prayer of the Day

- Let us pray. Heavenly Father, Your Son died for the sins of the whole world.
   Embolden us to share His love with everyone we meet until the day we hear His gracious blessing, "Well done, good and faithful servant"; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

# The Old Testament

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. <sup>8</sup>And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice "I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. <sup>9</sup>On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. <sup>10</sup>"On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. <sup>11</sup>Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. <sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.' <sup>13</sup>Their goods 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." <sup>14</sup>The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. <sup>15</sup>A day of wrath is that day, 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, <sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

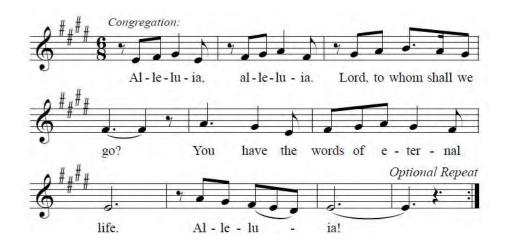
# Epistle

#### 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup>But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. <sup>5</sup>For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. <sup>7</sup>For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

- A This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

# Alleluia and Verse





# **Holy Gospel**

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
- Glory be to thee, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more. 'His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to be to thee, O Christ.

#### Hymn of the Day

#### Verse 1

I searched the world but it couldn't fill me Man's empty praise and treasures that fade Are never enough Then You came along and put me back together And every desire is now satisfied here in Your love

#### Verse 2

Chorus

"Graves Into Gardens"

Oh there's nothing better than You There's nothing better than You Lord there's nothing Nothing is better than You

#### Bridge

	Bilago
I'm not afraid to show You my weakness	You turr
My failures and flaws	You give
Lord You've seen them all	You turr
And You still call me friend	You're t
'Cause the God of the mountain	You turr
Is the God of the valley	You turr
There's not a place	You turr
Your mercy and grace won't find me again	You're t

You turn mourning to dancing You give beauty for ashes You turn shame into glory You're the only one who can You turn graves into gardens You turn bones into armies You turn seas into highways You're the only one who can

CCLI Song # 7138219Brandon Lake | Chris Brown | Steven Furtick | Tiffany Hudson © 2019 Brandon Lake Music; Maverick City Publishing Worldwide; Music by Elevation Worship Publishing; Bethel Music Publishing

#### Sermon

**Frank Ahrens** 

# **Apostles' Creed**

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

**Prayer of the Church** *Petitions end, "Lord, in your mercy... "Congregation responds,* **"Hear our Prayer."** 

# Offering

#### **Offertory Prayer**

God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Receive now these gifts you have first given us and fill us with good things at your table, that we might joyfully and generously share all you have given us, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.

#### A word about Holy Communion

We are about to receive the Lord's Supper. Before you receive, you might consider the following questions: Do you believe you are a sinner? Do you believe Jesus Christ died for you and shed his blood for you on the cross for the forgiveness of your sins? Do you believe that in the Lord's Supper he gives you his true body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins and strengthens your faith in him and your love for others? If you are a baptized Christian and share these Biblical truths, please come! Those who have not yet received instruction may come forward for a blessing, crossing their arms over their chest to indicate they are not receiving the elements.

#### Service of the Sacrament

# Preface

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

# **Proper Preface**

#### The Lord's Prayer

- **P** Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:
- 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.

Words of Institution

The Peace of the Lord

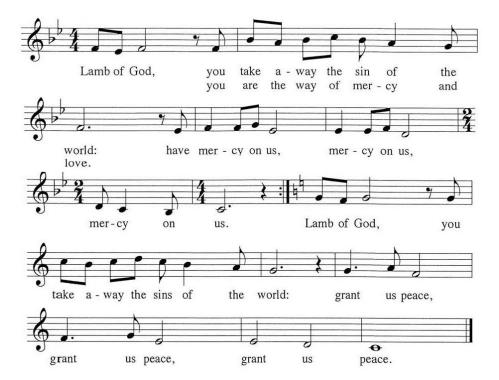
P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

# • And also with you.

(The congregation and minister may greet each other with the peace of the Lord)

Agnus Dei

(Congregation may be seated following the Agnus Dei)



#### Hymns during Distribution

# "The Lamb"

#### Verse 1

The Lamb, the lamb, O Father, where's the Sacrifice Faith sees, believes God will provide the Lamb of price! Verse 2 The Lamb, the Lamb, One perfect final offering. The Lamb, the Lamb, Let earth join heaven His praise to sing. Chorus Verse 4 He sighs, He dies, He takes my sin and wretchedness. He lives, forgives, He give me His own righteousness. Chorus

#### Verse 1

Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord to Thee Take my moments and my days Let them flow in ceaseless praise Take my hands and let them move At the impulse of Thy love Take my feet and let them be Swift and beautiful for Thee

#### Chorus

Here am I all of me Take my life it's all for Thee

#### Chorus:

Worthy is the Lamb whose death makes me His own! The Lamb is reigning on His throne!

#### Verse 3

The Lamb, the Lamb, As wayward sheep their shepherd kill. So still, His will on our behalf the Law to fill. **Chorus Verse 5** He rose, He rose, My heart with thanks now overflows. His song prolong 'Till ev'ry heart to Him belong. **Chorus** 

#### "Take My Life"

#### Verse 2

Take my voice and let me sing Always only for my King Take my lips and let them be Filled with messages from Thee Take my silver and my gold Not a mite would I withhold Take my intellect and use Ev'ry power as You choose

#### Verse 3

Take my will and make it Thine It shall be no longer mine Take my heart it is Thine own It shall be Thy royal throne Take my love my Lord I pour At Your feet its treasure store Take myself and I will be Ever only all for Thee

CCLI Song # 4162843 Chris Tomlin | Frances Ridley Havergal | Henri Abraham Cesar Malan | Louie Giglio © 2003 Rising Springs Music; Vamos Publishing; worshiptogether.com songs

# Closing of the Table

#### **Post-Communion Canticle**



#### **Post-Communion Prayer**

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing P power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

#### Announcements

#### Benediction

#### **Recessional Hymn**

# "My Lighthouse"

#### Verse 1

Verse 2

In my wrestling and in my doubts In my failures You won't walk out Your great love will lead me through You are the peace in my troubled sea whoa oh You are the peace in my troubled sea

#### Chorus

My Lighthouse my Lighthouse Shining in the darkness I will follow You oh My Lighthouse my Lighthouse I will trust the promise You will carry me safe to shore Safe to shore safe to shore safe to shore

# Bridge

Fire before us You're the brightest You will lead us Through the storms

CCLI Song # 7002032 Chris Llewellyn | Gareth Gilkeson © 2013 Thankyou Music

# In the silence You won't let go In the questions Your truth will hold Your great love will lead me through You are the peace in my troubled sea whoa oh

You are the peace in my troubled sea

#### Verse 3

I won't fear what tomorrow brings With each morning I'll rise and sing My God's love will lead me through You are the peace in my troubled sea whoa oh

You are the peace in my troubled sea

# Dismissal

- ▶ Lord Jesus you lead us! Now we go as....
- **D**isciples making disciples.
- **P** Go in peace and serve the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God!

# Mark your calendars!

November 22nd, Thanksgiving Eve Worship 7:30pm

December 1st Middle School Youth Group Christmas Party 7:00 PM-

All Middle School students are invited!

**December 2nd Drive Thru Live Nativity** 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM Mark your calendars for this special presentation of the Christmas story. Live animals, music and more. Invite your friends and neighbors!

December 6th Holiday Bazaar 8:30 AM - 11:30 AM

Midweek Advent Evening Worship Services Wednesdays, December 6, 13 & 20th at 7:30 PM

**December 8th OWLS** Older Wiser Lutherans will meet at 7:00 p.m. in rooms 201/202. Come and mingle in fellowship. For more information contact Heidi Wellnitz.

**December 10th A Quiet Christmas Service** 7:00 PM - All are invited for an evening of inspirational readings and music in preparation of the Birth of Christ. A holiday reception will follow service.

Go to www.stpaulweston.org for all the latest information.



Stephen Ministers provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties. Call the church office at 954-384-9096 if you or someone you know would like to speak with a Stephen Minister.



Rev. Scott Henze, Pastor Mr. Jeremy Becker, DCE, Director of Youth and Family Ministry Mrs. Kathy Henze, Preschool Director 580 Indian Trace, Weston, Florida 33326 Church Office (954) 384-9096 + office@stpaulweston.org www.stpaulweston.org Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM Sunday School for children and youth : 9:45 AM Adult Bible Study: 10:00 AM





Website and online