

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

- P** 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,
- C** **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.**
- P** 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!**

Processional Hymn

“Here I Am To Worship”

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

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

Kyrie

Cantor: *In peace, in peace...*

Refrain

Assistant: *Congregation:*

Let us pray to the Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have
mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy. *to Verses*

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

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

Assistant:

Help, save and de - fend us, O

Congregation:

God. A - men.

Hymn of Praise: "Now the Feast"

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free - dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1

Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of
God. *to Refrain*

Verse 2

Congregation or Congregation 2:

2. Pow - er and rich-es, wis - dom and
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ
for ev - er. *to Refrain*

Verse 3

Congregation:

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to
make us peo - ple of God; to make
all things new. *to Refrain*

Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

- P** 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.**

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. ⁸And 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. ⁹On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. ¹⁰"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. ¹¹Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. ¹²At 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.' ¹³Their 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." ¹⁴The 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. ¹⁵A 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, ¹⁶a 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

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While 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. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But 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. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore 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

Congregation:

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we
go? You have the words of e - ter - nal
life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 6/8 time. The first staff is labeled 'Congregation:' and contains the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we'. The second staff continues with 'go? You have the words of e - ter - nal'. The third staff concludes with 'life. Al - le - lu - ia!' and includes a double bar line with repeat dots, labeled 'Optional Repeat'.

Alleluia

Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:14–30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

G **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.

G **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

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

"Graves Into Gardens"

Chorus

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

Bridge

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

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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

You Are Holy (Prince of Peace)

Offertory Prayer

- P** 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.
C **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.
C **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:

C **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.

C **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)

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you are the way of mer - cy and
world:
love. have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

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

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 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

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

Closing of the Table

Post-Communion Canticle

Praise to you, O God of mer - cy:

Thanks be to you for ev - er! Rais - ing high the

weak and low - ly: Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your love, re -

mem - b'ring your cov - e - nant of life with us.

Praise to you O God of mer - cy: Thanks be to you for

ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly:

Thanks be to you for ev - er. Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

Post-Communion Prayer

- ☐ Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing 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

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

Verse 2

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

P Lord Jesus you lead us! Now we go as....

C **Disciples 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.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Rev. Scott Henze, Pastor

Mr. Jeremy Becker, DCE, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

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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

