



November 19, 2023

The Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

Prelude

Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

- ♪ Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee, Praising Thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, Drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, Fill us with the light of day.
- ♪ All Thy works with joy surround Thee, Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee, Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird, and flowing fountain Call us to rejoice in Thee.
- ♪ Thou art giving and forgiving, Ever blessing, ever blest,
Well-spring of the joy of living, Ocean-depth of happy rest!
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Fountain-head of love divine:
Joyful, we Thy heav'n inherit! Joyful, we by grace are Thine!

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Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:19b

Amen.

The LORD has prepared a sacrifice

And consecrated His guests.

Zephaniah 1:7b

Encourage one another

And build one another up.

1 Thessalonians 5:11

To everyone who has will more be given,

And he will have an abundance.

Matthew 25:29a

Confession and Absolution

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and
cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

1 John 1:8-9

Let us in all honesty hear His Word again and confess our sins.

The Lord has consecrated His guests,

**But we have been more attentive to the things of this world. Let the favor of the Lord
our God be upon us.**

Build one another up,

**But we are used to the darkness of this world and fear His coming like a thief in the
night. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us.**

To everyone who has will more be given,

But we seldom recognize the abilities and opportunities He has given. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us.

The favor of the Lord is on you! Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Prayer

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Hymn of Praise *Please Be Seated*

“This Is the Feast”

~This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

♪ Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,

Whose blood set us free to be people of God. ~This is the feast...

♪ Power, riches, wisdom and strength,

And honor, blessing, and glory are His. ~This is the feast...

♪ Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation.

Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

~This is the feast...

♪ For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. ~This is the feast...

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Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 1:7–16

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^[a] 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gradual Hymn

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

♪ Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee;

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

♪ Holy, holy, holy! All the saints adore Thee,

Casting down their golden crowns around the glassy sea;

Cherubim and seraphim falling down before Thee, Which wert and art and evermore shalt be.

♪ Holy, holy, holy! Though the darkness hide Thee,

Though the eye of sinful man Thy glory may not see,

Only Thou are holy; there is none beside Thee, Perfect in pow’r, in love, and purity.

♪ Holy, holy, holy! Lord God Almighty!

All Thy works shall praise Thy name in earth and sky and sea.

Holy, holy, holy, merciful and mighty! God in three persons, blessed Trinity!

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

Glory to You, O Lord.

¹⁴“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And 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.’ ²¹His 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.’ ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ ²³His 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.’ ²⁴He 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, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For 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. ³⁰And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.**Nicene Creed****Children’s Message** *Please Be Seated***The Hymn**

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

- ♪ Take my life and let it be Consecrated, Lord, to Thee; Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise, 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, Swift and beautiful for Thee.
- ♪ Take my voice and let me sing Always, only for my King; Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee, Filled with messages from Thee.
- ♪ Take my silver and my gold, Not a mite would I withhold; Take my intellect and use
Ev’ry pow’r as Thou shalt choose, Ev’ry pow’r as Thou shalt choose.
- ♪ 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, It shall be Thy royal throne.

♪ Take my love, my Lord, I pour At Thy feet its treasure store; Take myself, and I will be Ever, only, all for Thee, Ever, only, all for Thee.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 784-Text: Frances R. Havergal 1836-79;
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Proclamation of the Word

“Faithful or Slothful”

Matthew 25:14–30

Offering and Musical Offering

Prayer of the Church *Please Stand*

Let us pray for the Church around the world, for ourselves in this place, for people in positions of authority, for families, and for all in need.

Guide and protect Your Church, Lord Jesus, as it endeavors to share the Gospel in the many circumstances of this sin-ridden world. Embolden leaders to speak Your Word with conviction, open the ears of those who hear the Good News in all circumstances, and grant increase of faith and numbers wherever people gather around Word and Sacrament.

Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray. O Holy Spirit, strengthen this congregation so that we are a beacon of Your gracious love, calling one and all to join us to celebrate the Good News shining in this darkened world.

Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray. Lord over all, guide and protect the officers of nations; armed forces deployed and police at home; leaders of large corporations; those who work in the media; those who grow, tend, and distribute food; and all who respond in emergencies, that together they work for the common good.

Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray. Heavenly Father, grant peace and love in families, give wisdom to parents and willingness to learn to children, and provide faithful congregations, caring friends, and extended relatives to support them through all the changes in life.

Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.

Special Intercessions

These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Admonition to Communicants

I exhort you in Christ that you give attention to His Testament in true faith, and above all take to heart the words with which He presents to us His body and blood for our forgiveness; that you take note of and give thanks for the boundless love that he showed us when he saved us from the wrath of God, sin, death, and hell by His blood; and that you then externally receive the bread and the wine, that is, His body and blood, as a guarantee and pledge. Let us then in His name, according to His command, and with His own words administer and receive the Testament.

Lord's Prayer

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Words of Our Lord

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

Distribution Hymns *Please Be Seated*

“Lamb of God”

♪ Your only Son, no sin to hide, But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod, And to be called the Lamb of God.

~O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God!

O wash me in His precious blood, My Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God!

♪ Your Gift of love they crucified, They laughed and scorned Him as He died:
The humble King they named a fraud, And sacrificed the Lamb of God. ~O Lamb...

♪ I was so lost, I should have died, But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod, And to be called a lamb of God. ~O Lamb....

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 550 -Text & Tune: Twila Paris b.1958;
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“Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness”

♪ Jesus, Thy blood and righteousness My beauty are, my glorious dress;
Midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.

♪ Bold shall I stand in that great day, Cleansed and redeemed, no debt to pay;
Fully absolved through these I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

♪ Lord, I believe Thy precious blood, Which at the mercy seat of God
Pleads for the captives' liberty, Was also shed in love for me.

♪ Lord, I believe, were sinners more Than sands upon the ocean shore,
Thou hast for all a ransom paid, For all a full atonement made.

♪ When from the dust of death I rise To claim my mansion in the skies,
This then shall be my only plea: Jesus hath lived and died for me.

♪ Jesus, be endless praise to Thee, Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made, An everlasting ransom paid.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 563 -Text: Nicolaus Ludwig Zinzendorf 1700-60; tr. John B. Wesley 1703-91;
Tune: George J. Elvey 1816-93; Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal 1941; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.*

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

Numbers 6:24–26

Amen.

Recessional Hymn

“Christ the Eternal Lord”

♪ Christ the eternal Lord, Whose promise here we claim, Whose gifts of grace are freely poured
On all who name Your name; With thankfulness and praise We stand before Your throne,
Intent to serve You all our days And make Your glory known.

♪ Christ the unchanging Word To ev’ry passing age, Whose timeless teachings still are heard
Set forth on Scripture’s page; Transform our thought and mind, Enlighten all who read,
Within Your Word by faith to find The bread of life indeed.

♪ Christ the redeeming Son, Who shares our human birth, And by His death salvation won
For ev’ry child of earth; Inspire our hearts, we pray, To tell Your love abroad,
That all may honor Christ today And follow Him as Lord.

♪ Christ the unfading Light Of everlasting day, Our Morning Star in splendor bright,
The Life, the Truth, the Way; That light of truth You give To servants as to friends,
Your way to walk, Your life to live, Till earth’s brief journey ends.

*Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 829 -Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith b.1926; ©1999 Hope Publishing Co.
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Postlude