

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 19, 2023

8:15 A.M.

(Divine Service Five, Beginning on Page 213 of the Hymnal)

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS +

OPENING HYMN

“Praise the Almighty”

#797

**Praise the Almighty, my soul, adore Him!
Yes, I will laud Him until death;
With songs and anthems I come before Him
As long as He allows me breath.
From Him my life and all things came;
Bless, O my soul, His holy name.
Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Trust not in rulers; they are but mortal;
Earthborn they are and soon decay.
Vain are their counsels at life's last portal,
When the dark grave engulfs its prey.
Since mortals can no help afford,
Place all your trust in Christ, our Lord.
Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Blessèd, oh, blessèd are they forever
Whose help is from the Lord Most High,
Whom from salvation can nothing sever,
And who in hope to Christ draw nigh.
To all who trust in Him, our Lord
Will aid and counsel now afford.
Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Penitent sinners, for mercy crying,
Pardon and peace from Him obtain;
Ever the wants of the poor supplying,
Their faithful God He will remain.**

**He helps His children in distress,
The widows and the fatherless.
Alleluia, alleluia!**

**Praise, all you people, the name so holy
Of Him who does such wondrous things!
All that has being, to praise Him solely,
With happy heart its amen sings.
Children of God, with angel host
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!
Alleluia, alleluia!**

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CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

(p. 213)

- P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**
P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C: **who made heaven and earth.**
P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)

- P: O almighty God, merciful Father,
C: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**
P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

INTROIT

Psalm 143:2, 5–6, 10–11; antiphon: v. 1

- P: Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!
- C: Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.**
- P: I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done; I ponder the work of your hands.
- C: I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.**
- P: Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!
- C: For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life! In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!**
- All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**
- P: Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy! In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

KYRIE

(p. 186)

**Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

“All Glory Be to God on High”

#947

**All glory be to God on high
And thanks for all His favor;
No harm can touch or terrify
A child of God forever.
God shows His good and gracious will
And grants His peace, the world to fill –
All strife at last has ended.**

**We praise and laud and worship You;
We give You thanks forever,
O Father, for Your rule is true
And just and changes never.
With boundless pow'r, Your mighty reign
Fulfills whatever You ordain.
Lord, grant us ev'ry blessing!**

**O Jesus Christ, the only Son
Begotten of the Father,
Your saving death has made us one
With God and with each other.
O Lamb of God, to You on high
In our distress we sinners cry,
Have mercy on us, amen!**

**O Holy Spirit, our delight
And source of consolation,
Protect us from the devil's might
Through Jesus, our salvation,
Who by His death upon a tree
Has rescued us from misery:
To this we hold forever.**

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SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

(p. 214)

(Congregational responses are spoken.)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

+ WE HEAR GOD'S WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 1:7-16

(Page 1463 in the Pew Bible)

Be silent before the Sovereign Lord, for the day of the Lord is near. The Lord has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated those he has invited. On the day of the Lord's sacrifice I will punish the princes and the king's sons and all those clad in foreign clothes. On that day I will punish all who avoid stepping on the threshold, who fill the temple of their gods with violence and deceit. "On that day," declares the Lord, "a cry will go up from the Fish Gate, wailing from the New Quarter, and a loud crash from the hills. Wail, you who live in the market district ; all your merchants will be wiped out, all who trade with silver will be ruined. At that time I will search

Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, 'The Lord will do nothing, either good or bad.' Their wealth will be plundered, their houses demolished. They will build houses but not live in them; they will plant vineyards but not drink the wine. "The great day of the Lord is near - near and coming quickly. Listen! The cry on the day of the Lord will be bitter, the shouting of the warrior there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness, a day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the corner towers.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 90:1-12; antiphon: v. 17

L: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

C: **Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

L: You return man to dust and say, "Return, O children of man!"

C: **For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when it is past, or as a watch in the night.**

L: You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning:

C: **in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.**

L: For we are brought to an end by your anger; by your wrath we are dismayed.

C: **You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence.**

L: For all our days pass away under your wrath; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

C: **The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength eighty;**

L: yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.

C: **Who considers the power of your anger, and your wrath according to the fear of you?**

L: So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

EPISTLE READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
(Page 1840 in the Pew Bible)

Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains

on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL (*Congregational responses are spoken.*) Matthew 25:14-30
(Page 1541 in the Pew Bible)

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

C: **Glorify you, O Lord.**

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his property to them. To one he gave five talents of money, to another two talents, and to another one talent, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received the five talents went at once and put his money to work and gained five more. So also, the one with the two talents gained two more. But the man who had received the one talent went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received the five talents brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five talents. See, I have gained five more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' "The man with the two talents also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two talents; see, I have gained two more.' "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' "Then the man who had received the one talent came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your talent in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.' "Take the talent from

him and give it to the one who has the ten talents. For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken from him. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

CREED

"We All Believe in One True God"

#953

**We all believe in one true God,
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Ever-present help in need,
Praised by all the heav'nly host;
All He made His love enfolds,
All creation He upholds.**

**We all believe in Jesus Christ,
Son of God and Mary's son,
Who descended from His throne
And for us salvation won;
By whose cross and death are we
Rescued from all misery.**

**We all confess the Holy Ghost,
Who from both in truth proceeds,
Who sustains and comforts us
In all trials, fears, and needs.
Blessed, holy Trinity,
Praise forever be to Thee!**

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CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dani Landholm

HYMN OF THE DAY

"The Day Is Surely Drawing Near"

#508 vv. 1-4

**The day is surely drawing near
When Jesus, God's anointed,
In all His power shall appear
As judge whom God appointed.
Then fright shall banish idle mirth,
And flames on flames shall ravage earth
As Scripture long has warned us.**

**The final trumpet then shall sound
And all the earth be shaken,
And all who rest beneath the ground
Shall from their sleep awaken.
But all who live will in that hour,
By God's almighty, boundless pow'r,
Be changed at His commanding.**

**The books are opened then to all,
A record truly telling
What each has done, both great and small,
When he on earth was dwelling,
And ev'ry heart be clearly seen,
And all be known as they have been
In thoughts and words and actions.**

**Then woe to those who scorned the Lord
And sought but carnal pleasures,
Who here despised His precious Word
And loved their earthly treasures!
With shame and trembling they will stand
And at the judge's stern command
To Satan be delivered.**

SERMON

"God's Faithful Servant"

Matthew 25:14-30

+ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD +

HYMN OF RESPONSE

"The Day Is Surely Drawing Near"

#508 vv. 5-7

**My Savior paid the debt I owe
And for my sin was smitten;
Within the Book of Life I know
My name has now been written.
I will not doubt, for I am free,
And Satan cannot threaten me;
There is no condemnation!**

**May Christ our intercessor be
And through His blood and merit
Read from His book that we are free
With all who life inherit.**

**Then we shall see Him face to face,
With all His saints in that blest place
Which He has purchased for us.**

**O Jesus Christ, do not delay,
But hasten our salvation;
We often tremble on our way
In fear and tribulation.
O hear and grant our fervent plea:
Come, mighty judge, and set us free
From death and ev'ry evil.**

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OFFERING

OFFERTORY

“Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings”

#782 vv. 1, 4

**Gracious God, You send great blessings
New each morning all our days.
For Your mercies never ending,
For Your love we offer praise.**

(Refrain)

**Lord, we pray that we, Your people
Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,
Through the sharing of Your blessings
May bring glory to Your name.**

**Heav'nly Father, may our caring
Bear the imprint of Your grace;
With the Son and Holy Spirit,
Praise be Yours in ev'ry place! (Refrain)**

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: 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. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: 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. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: 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. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: 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. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Lord our God, hear the prayers of Your people near and dear to us, including Katie, Joan, MaryAnn, Duane, Peg, Carolyn, Ron, Roxann, Cohen, Dorothy, Rick, Elizabeth, Walter, Arlyce, Ben, Bill, Craig, Julie, Larry, Sarah, and Jessica

as well as those known only to You. As fits Your gracious plans for them, give healing, relief, and comfort, so that they may live out each day in peace and joy. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

Special Requests

Our Missionaries: Pastor Shauen, Krista, Josiah, Elijah, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Esther Trump; **Our Seminary Student:** Ethan Hart; **Those who are celebrating:** Rod & Karen Royuk's 40th Wedding Anniversary

P: 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.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

(p. 217)

+ WE LEAVE GOD'S HOUSE +

BENEDICAMUS AND BENEDICTION

(p. 218)

(Congregational responses are spoken.)

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING

P: Empowered by God, let us go and do the work He has given us to do.
Our mission is...

C: To make known the love of Christ!

CLOSING HYMN

“There Is A Redeemer”

(WAC#206)

**There is a Redeemer, Jesus God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.**

(Chorus)

**Thank You, O my Father,
For giving us Your Son,
And leaving Your Spirit
Till the work on earth is done.**

**Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names;
Precious Lamb, of God, Messiah,
O for sinners slain. (Chorus)**

**When I stand in glory, I will see His face,
There I'll serve my King forever
In that holy place. (Chorus)**

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