

Worship Book for November 16th, 2025
St. Paul's Lutheran Family
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE

WELCOME

The Assembly Stands

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Faithful God,

you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from your paths. We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises. We ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth. We reject your abundance, trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love. Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken, renew our hearts, and bring us to new life. Amen.

Hear the good news: God the Faithful One loves you, ☩ in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven, and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW # 796 How Firm a Foundation

- 1 How firm a foundation, O saints of the Lord,
is laid for your faith in Christ Jesus, the Word!
What more can he say than to you he has said
who unto the Savior for refuge have fled?
- 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dismayed,
for I am your God and will still give you aid;
I'll strengthen you, help you, and cause you to stand,

upheld by my righteous, omnipotent hand."

- 3 "When through fiery trials your pathway shall lie,
my grace, all-sufficient, shall be your supply.
The flames shall not hurt you; I only design
your dross to consume and your gold to refine."
- 4 "Throughout all their lifetime my people shall prove
my sov'reign, eternal, unchangeable love;
and then, when gray hairs shall their temples adorn,
like lambs they shall still in my bosom be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

The Assembly is Seated

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,

whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power and riches and wisdom and strength,
and honor and blessing and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
Sing with all the people of God
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia. Alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Malachi 4:1-2

A reading from Malachi.

Malachi, whose name means "my messenger," warns that "the day is coming." On that day, the evil will be destroyed like stubble in a fire, but the "sun of righteousness" will shine on those who honor God.

¹ See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a} But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

PSALM 98



Psalm 98:9

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In righteousness will the LORD judge the world. (Ps. 98:9)

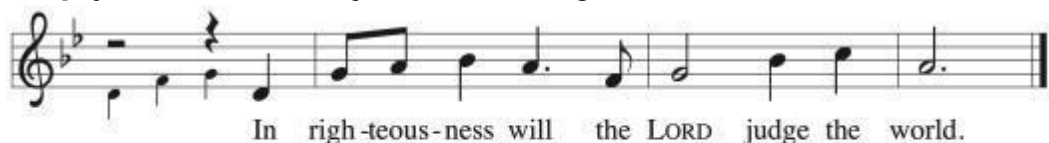
¹ Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done ¹ marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have ¹ won the victory.

² O LORD, you have made ¹ known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight ¹ of the nations.

³You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel:

all the ends of the earth have seen the victory¹ of our God.

**⁴ Shout with joy to the LORD, ¹ all you lands;
lift up your voice, re- ¹joice, and sing. R**



Psalm 98:9

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⁵ Sing to the LORD ¹ with the harp,
with the harp and the ¹ voice of song.

**6 With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷Let the sea roar, and ¹all that fills it,
the world and those who ¹dwell therein.

⁸ Let the rivers | clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to | judge
the earth.

⁹The LORD will judge the ¹ world with righteousness
and the peo- ¹ ples with equity. **R**



Psalm 98:9

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SECOND READING: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

A reading from Thessalonians.

Some members of the Thessalonian community, because of their belief in the nearness of Christ's return, had ceased to work, living off the generosity of other members of the community. The writer of this letter warns them bluntly that if they want to eat, they need to work.

⁶ Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. ⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, ⁸ and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. ⁹ This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. ¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. ¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. ¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right. The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God

CHOIR ANTHEM

It is Well With my Soul

Kelly Boggs, oboe and Vicki Hamilton, piano

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 19:1-10

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the nineteenth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through it. ² A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷ All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." ⁸ Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." ⁹ Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The Assembly is Seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Rev. Paul M. Larson

SERMON Rev. Paul M. Larson

The Assembly stands

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW # 713 O God Of Every Nation

1 O God of ev'ry nation,
of ev'ry race and land,
redeem your whole creation
with your almighty hand;
where hate and fear divide us
and bitter threats are hurled,
in love and mercy guide us
and heal our strife-torn world.

2 From search for wealth and power
and scorn of truth and right,
from trust in bombs that shower
destruction through the night,
from pride of race and station
and blindness to your way,
deliver ev'ry nation,
eternal God, we pray.

3 Lord, strengthen all who labor
that all may find release
from fear of rattling saber,
from dread of war's increase;
when hope and courage falter,
Lord, let your voice be heard;
with faith that none can alter,
your servants undergird.

4 Keep bright in us the vision
of days when war shall cease,
when hatred and division
give way to love and peace,
till dawns the morning glorious
when truth and love shall reign,
and Christ shall rule victorious
o'er all the world's domain.

Text: William W. Reid Jr., b. 1923

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permission.

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I
believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.* On the
third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the**

right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

The Assembly is Seated

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of roots and branches, defend the leaders of your church as they proclaim the gospel using discernment, wisdom, and brave testimony. Keep all the baptized on righteous paths in response to Christ's call. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of roaring seas, in a world of earthquake, famine, and plague, use your mighty power to nurture the land and all that lives upon it. Restore peoples and places experiencing natural disasters. Strengthen organizations who provide aid to any in crisis. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of victory, among quests for power, guide those in government, courts, law enforcement agencies, and the military. Turn them from war and violence to actions of care that build up the common good. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of healing, where injustice and exploitation result in populations that are marginalized or underserved, accompany those abandoned by friends, hurt by family, and harmed by violence or oppression. Care for all who are ill, anxious, or in pain of any kind. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of new songs, in a congregation of faithful believers, energize us for compassionate service and delight us through worship and inspired prayer. Encourage your people in building equitable community where all are valued. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of every generation, we remember the saints with steadfast love and faithfulness. Confident in Christ's victory over death, may we be inspired by the example of the faithful. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Please Share a Sign of Peace with one another

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING HYMN

ELW# 423 Shall We Gather at the River

- 1 Shall we gather at the river,
where bright angel feet have trod,
with its crystal tide forever
flowing by the throne of God?

Refrain

Yes, we'll gather at the river,
the beautiful, the beautiful river;
gather with the saints at the river
that flows by the throne of God.

- 2 On the margin of the river,
washing up its silver spray,
we will walk and worship ever,
all the happy golden day. *Refrain*
- 3 Ere we reach the shining river,
lay we ev'ry burden down;
grace our spirits will deliver,
and provide a robe and crown. *Refrain*
- 4 Soon we'll reach the shining river,

soon our pilgrimage will cease;
soon our happy hearts will quiver
with the melody of peace. *Refrain*

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

**God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever.
Amen.**

The Assembly Stands

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

**Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

The Assembly is Seated

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

There is a place for you at the table of God. Come, receive the food that
does not perish, a taste of life eternal.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS *ELW #469 By Your Hand You Feed Your People*

- 1 By your hand you feed your people,
food of angels, heaven's bread.
For these gifts we did not labor,
by your grace have we been fed:

Refrain

Christ's own body, blessed and broken,
cup o'erflowing, life outpoured,
given as a living token
of your world redeemed, restored.

- 2 In this meal we taste your sweetness,
bread for hunger, wine of peace.
Holy word and holy wisdom
satisfy our deepest needs. *Refrain*

- 3 Send us now with faith and courage
to the hungry, lost, bereaved.
In our living and our dying,
we become what we receive: *Refrain*

ELW #468 Around You O Lord Jesus

- 1 Around you, O Lord Jesus,
your own you gather still
to share the feast you give us
with grace our lives to fill.
You say to us so lovingly,
"Take, eat! This is my body!"

Take, drink! This is my blood!"

- 2 We hear your invitation,
and heed, O Lord, your call;
your word of consolation
is spoken here to all.
It draws us to your loving heart;
it brings to us your blessing,
which never will depart.
- 3 We are your own forever;
until our final breath
we will be true and never
in joy, in grief, in death
depart from you, for you are still
among your people dwelling,
as you have said you will.

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772-1847; tr. composite

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ELW #466 In The Singing

- 1 In the singing, in the silence,
in the hands expectant, open,
in the blessing, in the breaking,
in your presence at this table,

Refrain

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the wine of grace;
Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ,
be the bread of peace.

- 2 In the question, in the answer,
in the moment of acceptance,
in the heart's cry, in the healing,
in the circle of your people, *Refrain*

Text: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

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The Assembly Stands

COMMUNION BLESSING

Now may the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his peace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.

Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

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

Amen.

The Assembly is Seated

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

The Assembly Stands

SENDING SONG

ELW #632 O God, Our Help In Ages Past

- 1 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,

our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

- 2 Under the shadow of your throne
your saints have dwelt secure;
sufficient is your arm alone,
and our defense is sure.
- 3 Before the hills in order stood
or earth received its frame,
from everlasting you are God,
to endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.
- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the harvest.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE