

**23<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY of PENTECOST  
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY  
November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025 – 10 AM**

**WELCOME**



The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right."

✝ Preacher – The Reverend Wes Smith

✝ Officiant – Pr. Rudy Schneider

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

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

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.

Most merciful God, **you asked for my hands that you might use them for your purpose. I gave them, but then withdrew them for the work was too hard. You asked for my eyes to see the needs around me, but I closed them for I did not want to see. You asked for my life that you might work through me. I gave a small part that I might not get too involved. Lord, forgive my efforts to serve you only when it is convenient for me to do so. Renew me and lead me, so that I may delight in your will and walk in your ways. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake, God forgives you all your sins. Live now as the forgiven child of God and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you into all righteousness. **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN: ELW#825 – You Servants of God**

**Prayer of the Day** - 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.**

**GOD'S HOLY WORD**

**FIRST READING: Malachi 4:1-2a**

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2a</sup> 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

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

<sup>2</sup> **O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup> You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup> **Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

<sup>5</sup> Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

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

<sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,

**the world and those who dwell therein.**

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

<sup>9</sup> **The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.**



### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### SCRIPTURE READING

A Reading from 2 Corinthians 8: 1- 9, 12 - 14; **Glory to You, O Lord!**

<sup>1</sup> We want you to know, brothers and sisters, about the grace of God that has been granted to the churches of Macedonia, <sup>2</sup>for during a severe ordeal of affliction their abundant joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. <sup>3</sup>For, as I can testify, they voluntarily gave according to their means and even beyond their means, <sup>4</sup>begging us earnestly for the favor of partnering in this ministry to the saints, <sup>5</sup>and not as we expected. Instead, they gave themselves first to the Lord and, by the will of God, to us, <sup>6</sup>so that we might urge Titus that, as he had already made a beginning, so he should also complete this generous undertaking among you. <sup>7</sup>Now as you excel in everything—in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in utmost eagerness, and in our love for you—so we want you to excel also in this generous undertaking.

<sup>8</sup> I do not say this as a command, but I am, by mentioning the eagerness of others, testing the genuineness of your love. <sup>9</sup>For you know the generous act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

<sup>12</sup>For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have. <sup>13</sup>For I do not mean that there should be relief for others and hardship for you, but it is a question of equality between <sup>14</sup>your present abundance and their need, so that their abundance may also supply your need, in order that there may be equality. The Word of the Lord...**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

## **SERMON – The Grace of Giving**

**The Reverend Wes Smith**

### **HYMN: ELW#807 – Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing**

#### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

✠ We recognize those joining us via Facebook Live and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests submitted for our worship.

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. Grace those from our families and community that we now name silently in our hearts, or out loud, with our prayers and your blessings. *(Please name silently or out loud).*

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.**

#### **OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER**

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to offer, the fruit of our labor and of the skills you have given us. We ask that you use them and us in the service of your kingdom here in this world to the glory of your name. **Amen.**

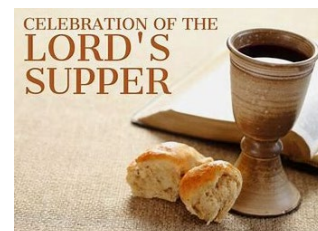
## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus the Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages, to save and to redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight.

He fulfilled all your will. He stretched out his hands in suffering, in order to free from suffering those who trust in you. As he was born to die, you raised him from death to life, so that we too would know that we shall be raised from death to life.

We therefore remember; On the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread, and after breaking it and giving thanks to you, said, "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this often for the remembrance of me."



And in the same way, 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 often, for the remembrance of me."

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. And unto that time, we come before you praying;

**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.**

**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.

## OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD

### **COMMUNION HYMN 1: Lord, You are more precious than Silver**

Lord, you are more precious than silver,  
Lord, you are more costly than gold,  
Lord, you are more beautiful than diamonds,  
And nothing I desire compares with you,  
And nothing I desire compares with you.

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### **COMMUNION HYMN 2: O Lord, You're Beautiful**

O Lord, You're beautiful, Your face is all I seek;  
And when Your eyes are on this child, your grace abounds to me.

O Lord, You're wonderful, Your touch is all I need;  
And when Your hand is on this child, Your healing I receive.

O Lord, please light the fire, That once burned bright and clear,  
Replace the lamp of my first love that burns with holy fear.

O Lord, You're beautiful, Your face is all I seek;  
And when Your eyes are on this child, Your grace abounds to me.

*By Keith Green; c.1980 Ears to Hear Music, Adm. Capitol CMG Publishing; CCLI# 14514*

**Closing Prayer** - 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 love of God the Sovereign strengthen you, God the Son save you, and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead. The holy Trinity bless you ☩ and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and forever. **Amen.**

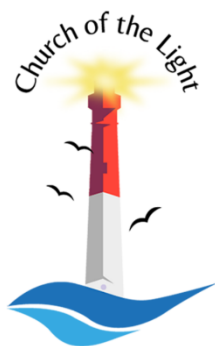
**CLOSING HYMN: ELW#681 – We Plow the Fields and Scatter**

***Song of Blessing***

May God's blessing surround you each day,  
As you trust God and walk in God's way.  
May God's presence within guard and keep you from sin,  
Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.

*C. 1982 by Cliff Barrows. C. 1986 by Pierre Lacher, CCLI License # 22085334*

**Dismissal:** Go in peace. Do not lose heart. **Thanks be to God.**



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