

**23rd SUNDAY of PENTECOST
STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY
November 16th, 2025 – 8:30 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."

- ✝ Chaplain Liz Lahti-Rosenshaft
- ✝ Officiant – Pr. Brian Griswold
- ✝ Worship Leader – Earl Hem

CALL TO WORSHIP

CTW HYMN: Open the eyes of my Heart

Chorus

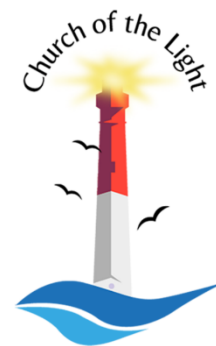
Open the eyes of my heart, Lord,
Open the eyes of my heart;
I want to see You, I want to see You. (repeat 3X)

To see You high and lifted up,
Shining in the light Of Your glory.
Pour out Your pow'r and love;
As we sing Holy, holy, holy.

(Chorus)

Holy, holy, holy. Holy, holy, holy.
I want to see You. I want to see You.

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WORSHIP

HYMN 1: You are my All in All

1. You are my strength when I am weak
You are the treasure that I seek
You are my all in all

Seeking You as a precious jewel
Lord to give up, I'd be a fool
You are my all in all

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name

2. Taking my sin, my cross, my shame,
Rising again, I bless Your name
You are my all in all

When I fall down, you pick me up
When I am dry, you fill my cup
You are my all in all

Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name
Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name
Worthy is Your name

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HYMN 2: Once Again

1. Jesus Christ, I think upon Your sacrifice
You became nothing, poured out to death.
Many times I've wondered at Your gift of life,
and I'm in that place once again,
I'm in that place once again.

Chorus

Chorus

Once again, I look upon the cross where You died
Humbled by Your mercy and I'm broken inside
Once again, I thank You,
Once again, I pour out my life.

2. Now You are exalted to the highest place,
King of the heavens, where one day I'll bow.
But for now, I marvel at this saving grace, and I'm
full of praise once again
I'm full of praise once again. **Chorus**

BRIDGE:

Thank You for the cross, thank You for the cross
Thank You for the cross my friend (*repeat*)

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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

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!**



Psalms 98

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

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

³ 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.

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

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

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

⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,

the world and those who dwell 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.

⁹ **The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.**



SCRIPTURE READING

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

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

⁸I do not say this as a command, but I am, by mentioning the eagerness of others, testing the genuineness of your love. ⁹For 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.

¹²For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has, not according to what one does not have. ¹³For I do not mean that there should be relief for others and hardship for you, but it is a question of equality between ¹⁴your 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

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.**

OFFERING HYMN: Because He Lives

1. God sent His son, they called Him Jesus.
He came to love, heal, and forgive.
He lived, and died to buy my pardon
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!

Chorus

2. How sweet to hold a newborn baby
And feel the pride and joy he gives
But greater still the calm assurance
This child can face uncertain days because He lives.

Chorus

3. And then one day I'll cross the river
I'll fight life's final war with pain
And then, as death gives way to victory
I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know He lives!

Chorus

Chorus:

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone
Because I know He holds the future
And life is worth the living just because He lives!

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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.**

THE LORDS PRAYER

CLOSING HYMN: Step By Step

O God you are my God, And I will ever praise you
O God you are my God, And I will ever praise you
I will seek you in the morning, And I will learn to walk in your ways
And step by step you'll lead me
And I will follow you all of my days. (repeat).

And I will follow you all of my days
And I will follow you all of my days
And step by step you'll lead me
And I will follow you all of my days

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Blessing: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.**

Dismissal: Go in peace. Serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God.**

Notes:
