

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 19, 2023

PRELUDE, BELLS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, WELCOME

HYMN “O Holy Spirit, Enter In” LSB 913

- 1 O Holy Spirit, enter in,
And in our hearts Your work begin,
Your dwelling place now make us.
Sun of the soul, O Light divine,
Around and in us brightly shine,
To joy and gladness wake us
That we may be
Truly living,
To You giving
Prayer unceasing
And in love be still increasing.
- 2 Give to Your Word impressive pow’r,
That in our hearts from this good hour
As fire it may be glowing,
That in true Christian unity
We faithful witnesses may be,
Your glory ever showing.
Hear us, cheer us
By Your teaching;
Let our preaching
And our labor
Praise You, Lord, and serve our neighbor.
- 3 O mighty Rock, O Source of life,
Let Your dear Word, in doubt and strife,
In us be strongly burning
That we be faithful unto death
And live in love and holy faith,
From You true wisdom learning.
Your grace and peace
On us shower;
By Your power
Christ confessing,
Let us see our Savior’s blessing.

Text: Michael Schirmer, 1606–73, adapt.; (sts. 1, 3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; (st. 2): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; setting: Choralbuch zum Evalgelischen Kirchengesangbuch, Berlin, 1955
Text and tune: Public domain

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

P: The LORD has prepared a sacrifice

Zephaniah 1:7b; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Matthew 25:29a

C: and consecrated His guests.

P: Encourage one another

C: and build one another up.

P: To everyone who has will more be given,

C: and he will have an abundance.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

1 John 1:8–9; Psalm 90:17

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

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

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

The Lord has consecrated His guests,

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

P: Build one another up,

C: 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.

P: To everyone who has will more be given,

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

P: 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.

C: Amen.

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, Your Son died for the sins of the whole world.

C: Embolden us to share His love with everyone we meet until the day we hear His gracious blessing, “Well done, good and faithful servant”;

P: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Zephaniah 1:7–16

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. (NIV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

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. (NIV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14–30

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

C: Glory to 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.'
(NIV)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

Nicene Creed

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

HYMN “Lord of All Hopefulness” LSB 738

- 1 Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy:
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
- 2 Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe:
Be there at our labors, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
- 3 Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, Your arms to embrace:
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
- 4 Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901–53

Tune: Irish; setting: Carlton R. Young, b. 1926

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SERMON *Hoping for HOME - Wearing the Helmet of Hope*

1 Thessalonians 5:1-13

OFFERING

HYMN “O Bless the Lord, My Soul” LSB 814

- 1 O bless the Lord, my soul!
Let all within me join
And aid my tongue to bless His name
Whose favors are divine.
- 2 O bless the Lord, my soul,
Nor let His mercies lie
Forgotten in unthankfulness
And without praises die!
- 3 'Tis He forgives thy sins;
'Tis He relieves thy pain;
'Tis He that heals thy sicknesses
And makes thee young again.
- 4 He crowns thy life with love
When ransomed from the grave;
He that redeemed my soul from hell
Hath sov'reign pow'r to save.
- 5 He fills the poor with good;
He gives the suff'ers rest.

The Lord hath judgments for the proud
And justice for th'oppressed.

6 His wondrous works and ways
He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace
By His belovèd Son.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Tune: Aaron Williams, 1731-76; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

P: Lord our God, hear the prayers of Your people near and dear to us, [*including . . .*], 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.

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

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

**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.**

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 198

**O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.
O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.
Amen.**

HYMN “Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness” LSB 563

- 1 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.
- 2 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.
- 3 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.
- 4 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.
- 5 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.
- 6 Jesus, be endless praise to Thee,
Whose boundless mercy hath for me,
For me, and all Thy hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

Text: Nicolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf, 1700–60; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–91, alt.

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93; setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941

Text and music: Public domain

HYMN “My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” LSB 575

- 1 My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name. Refrain
- ref On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand.
- 2 When darkness veils His lovely face,
I rest on His unchanging grace;
In ev’ry high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil. Refrain
- 3 His oath, His covenant and blood
Support me in the raging flood;
When ev’ry earthly prop gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay. Refrain

4 When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found,
Clothed in His righteousness alone,
Redeemed to stand before His throne! Refrain

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.

Music: John Stainer, 1840-1901

Text and music: Public domain

HYMN “At the Name of Jesus” LSB 512

- 1 At the name of Jesus
Ev’ry knee shall bow,
Ev’ry tongue confess Him
King of glory now.
'Tis the Father’s pleasure
We should call Him Lord,
Who from the beginning
Was the mighty Word.

- 2 At His voice creation
Sprang at once to sight,
All the angel faces,
All the hosts of light,
Thrones and bright dominions,
Stars upon their way,
All the heav’nly orders
In their great array.

- 3 Humbled for a season,
To receive a name
From the lips of sinners
Unto whom He came,
Faithfully He bore it
Spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious
When from death He passed;

- 4 Bore it up triumphant
With its human light,
Through all ranks of creatures
To the central height,
To the throne of Godhead,
To the Father’s breast,
Filled it with the glory
Of that perfect rest.

- 5 In your hearts enthrone Him;
There let Him subdue
All that is not holy,
All that is not true:
Crown Him as your captain
In temptation’s hour;

Let His will enfold you
In its light and pow'r.

6 Christians, this Lord Jesus
Shall return again
In His Father's glory,
With His angel train;
For all wreaths of empire
Meet upon His brow,
And our hearts confess Him
King of glory now.

7 Glory then to Jesus,
Who, the Prince of light,
To a world in darkness
Brought the gift of sight;
Praise to God the Father;
In the Spirit's love
Praise we all together
Him who reigns above.

Text: Caroline M. Noel, 1817–77, alt.

Tune: Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958

Text and tune: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, heavenly Father, that You have assured us of sins forgiven,

C: so that with joy we may share Your love each day until Your Son returns to usher us into Your eternal presence;

P: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: 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.

C: Amen.

HYMN "Christ the Eternal Lord" LSB 829

1 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.

2 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.

- 3 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.
- 4 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.
- 5 Christ the ascended King
Exalted high above,
Whose praise unending ages sing,
Whom yet unseen we love;
When mortal life is past
Your voice from heaven's throne
Shall call Your children home at last
To know as we are known.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816-93; setting: Service Book and Hymnal, 1958

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DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

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