**25th sunday after pentecost- november 19, 2023**

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**announcments**

**GATHERING SONG*Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand* (ELW 441)**

1 Oh, happy day when we shall stand  
amid the heav'nly throng;  
and sing with hosts from ev'ry land  
the new celestial song,  
the new celestial song.  
  
2 Oh, blessed day when Christ shall come  
and show himself as Lord,  
and thousands meet in their new home  
which Jesus has prepared,  
which Jesus has prepared.  
  
3 Oh, what a mighty rushing flood  
of joy and love and peace  
will roll down over us with good  
and blessedness and grace,  
and blessedness and grace.  
  
4 O Lord, your grace is ev'rything;  
your love has made us free  
to stand among the saints and sing  
the glory that we see,  
the glory that we see.

**GREETING (ELW p. 203)**

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.**

**KYRIE (ELW p. 203)**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 204)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 205)**

Let us pray.

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**WORD**

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

**FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

A reading from Zephaniah.

*Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week’s first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.*

7Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand;  
 the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.  
  
 12At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people  
 who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts,  
 “The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.” 13Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.  
  
 14The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.  
 15That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness,  
  16a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.  
 17I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind;  
  because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung.  
 18Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord’s wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed;  
for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 90:1-12**

1Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.  
 2**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,** **from age to age you are God.**  
 3You turn us back to the dust and say, “Turn back, O children of earth.”  
 4**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past**  
  **and like a watch in the night;**  
 5you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:  
 6**in the morning it is green and flourishes;** **in the evening it is dried up and withered.**  
 7For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.  
 8**Our iniquities you have set before you,** **and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**  
 9When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.  
 10**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;**  
  **yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**  
 11Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your indignation?  
  12**So teach us to number our days** **that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

*Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ’s return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. 2For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! 4But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; 5for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. 6So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; 7for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 8But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 205)**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. 16The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. 17In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. 19After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ 21His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 22And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ 23His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ 24Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; 25so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ 26But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? 27Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. 28So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON (ELW p. 206)**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* (ELW 678)**

1 God, whose giving knows no ending,  
from your rich and endless store:  
nature's wonder, Jesus' wisdom,  
costly cross, grave's shattered door,  
gifted by you, we turn to you,  
off'ring up ourselves in praise;  
thankful song shall rise forever,  
gracious donor of our days.  
  
2 Skills and time are ours for pressing  
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
all at peace in health and freedom,  
races joined, the church made one.  
Now direct our daily labor,  
lest we strive for self alone;  
born with talents, make us servants  
fit to answer at your throne.  
  
3 Treasure, too, you have entrusted,  
gain through pow'rs your grace conferred;  
ours to use for home and kindred,  
and to spread the gospel word.  
Open wide our hands in sharing,  
as we heed Christ's ageless call,  
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,  
serving you by loving all.

**SERVICE OF BAPTISM (starts on page 227)**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth’s resources. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders. Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice. We remember the countries at war in our world, Israel, Palestine, Ukraine, Russia, Syria, Libya, Afghanistan, Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness or grief, reveal your love in community. We especially remember Sarah, Chris, John, Vivian, Felix, Erin, Elizabeth, Zoli, Donna, Beatty, Nick, Alea, our members in long term care Robert, Rob and Evelyn, and those we name out loud or in the silence of our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You give the gift of Holy Baptism, in which we experience the grace and love of a living God. Be with Oakland and his family as we celebrate this day, keep them steadfast in your care and love. Hear us O God, **your mercy is great.**

We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of life and rest and for the witness of those who have died in faith we praise your goodness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 206)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

**OFFERING*Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*  (ELW 885)**

**OFFERING PRAYER**

God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table,

and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings,

we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. **Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**DIALOGUE (ELW p. 206)**

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 (ELW p. 207)**

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 (ELW p. 207)**

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,** **God of power 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,**

**hosanna in the highest.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: surrounded by evil and bordered by death we appeal to you, our Sovereign, our Wisdom, and our Judge.

We praise you for Christ, who proclaimed your reign of peace and promised an end to injustice and harm.

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.

Remembering, therefore, the sacrifice of his life and death and the victory of his resurrection, we await with all the saints his loving redemption of our suffering world.

Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son: teach us your mercy and justice, and make all things new in Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,

in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen**

**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 208)**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,** **hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,** **thy will be done,** o**n 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 banquet. All are welcome to come and feast at Jesus’ table.

**COMMUNION (ELW p. 208)**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

**COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 208) LAMB OF GOD**

**COMMUNION HYMNS- #452, #715**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet.

Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,

and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

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

**BLESSING**

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, ☩ Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* (ELW 815)**

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.  
I want to follow Jesus.  
God set the stars to give light to the world.  
The star of my life is Jesus.  
  
Refrain  
In him there is no darkness at all.  
The night and the day are both alike.  
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.  
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.  
  
2 I want to see the brightness of God.  
I want to look at Jesus.  
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,  
and show me the way to the Father. Refrain  
  
3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.  
I want to be with Jesus.  
When we have run with patience the race,  
we shall know the joy of Jesus. Refrain

**DISMISSAL**

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**