

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 15, 2020

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in God's Name . . .

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

(for silent prayer during the prelude)

Ever-living God, before the earth was formed and even after it shall cease to be, you are God. Break into our short span of life and show us those things that are eternal, that we may serve your purpose in all we do; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you in unity with the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.¹
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

*CALL TO WORSHIP (FROM PSALM 123)

One: To you, O Lord, we lift up our eyes,

All: O you who are enthroned in the heavens!

One: As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their master, as the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress,

All: so our eyes look to the Lord our God, until he has mercy upon us. Let us worship God!

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" #210

Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:
Before the hills in order stood, Or earth received its frame, From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.
A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone; Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.
Time, like an ever rolling stream, Soon bears us all away; We fly forgotten, as a dream Dies at the opening day.
Our God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come, Be Thou our guard while life shall last, And our eternal home.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

In recent centuries, we as a people have developed technologies that allow us to subdue the world — God's creation and even, sometimes, other peoples. We have misled ourselves that we can control the world around us. God remains sovereign and beyond our control. Let us confess our sins and our deceptions.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Almighty God, our nation possesses immense power in economics, in attention from the rest of the world, and in military might. This can lull us into a deception that we can control our destiny. But you remain sovereign, O Lord. One day, you will come like a "thief in the night." We may say, "There is security and peace," but suddenly, there will be destruction. Help us to understand the limits of our power and, where we do possess power, to use it with love toward the rest of your creation. Grow your wisdom in us, and forgive our sins, we pray. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Those who commit themselves to Christ do not live in darkness. We are children of light and children of the day. Let us put on the breastplate of faith and love and a helmet of salvation. God has not destined us for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

. . . to Proclaim God's Word

FIRST READING Judges 4:1-7 **p. 220**

EPISTLE READING 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 **p. 205**

***GOSPEL READING** Matthew 25:14-30 **p. 28**

SERMON "Investing God's Talents" Rev. Andy Smothers

PASTORAL PRAYER AND 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 debts, as we

forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

*CONFESSION OF FAITH *Heidelberg Catechism* (Question 54-56)

One: What do you believe concerning "the holy catholic church"?

Many: I believe that the Son of God through his Spirit and Word, out of the entire human race, from the beginning of the world to its end, gathers, protects, and preserves for himself, a community chosen for eternal life and united in true faith. And of this community I am and always will be a living member.

One: What do you understand by "the communion of saints"?

Many: First, that believers one and all, as members of this community, share in Christ and in all his treasures and gifts. Second, that each member should consider it a duty to use these gifts readily and joyfully for the service and enrichment of the other members.

One: What do you believe concerning "the forgiveness of sins"?

Many: I believe that God, because of Christ's satisfaction, will no longer remember any of my sins or my sinful nature which I need to struggle against all my life. Rather, by grace God grants me the righteousness of Christ to free me forever from judgment.

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise

One: Holy God, Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, with joy we praise you and give thanks to your name. You formed the universe in your wisdom, and created all things by your power. You set us in families on the earth to live with you in faith. We praise you for good gifts of bread and wine, and for the table you spread in the world as a sign of your love for all people in Christ. Great and wonderful are your works, Lord God almighty. Your ways are just and true. Therefore we lift our hearts in joyful praise, joining our voices with choirs of

angels, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

One: We praise you, most holy God, for sending your only Son to live among us, sharing our joy and sorrow. He told your story, healed the sick, and was a friend of sinners. Obeying you, he took up his cross and died that we might live. We praise you that he overcame death and is risen to rule the world. He is still the friend of sinners. We trust him to overcome every power that can hurt or divide us, and believe that when he comes in glory, we will celebrate victory with him. Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we break bread and share one cup giving thanks for your saving love in Jesus Christ. As you raised our Lord from death and call us with him from death to life, we give ourselves to you to live for him in joy and grateful praise. Great is the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

One: Gracious God, pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these your gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood. Send us out in the power of the Spirit to live for others, as Christ lived for us, announcing his death for the sins of the world, and telling his resurrection to all people and nations. By your Spirit draw us together into one body and join us to Christ the Lord, that we may remain his glad and faithful people until we feast with him in glory. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, forever and ever.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

... to Give Thanks to God ...

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (IN UNISON)

Gracious God, everything that we possess has been give to us by

you. You have entrusted us with your creation, your resources, and your talents to grow for the Kingdom of God. Guide us to invest your talents and resources wisely that your Kingdom might be realized soon. Thank you for trusting us with these resources as we give back a portion for the work of your church, the bride of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

... and to Be Sent in God's Name.

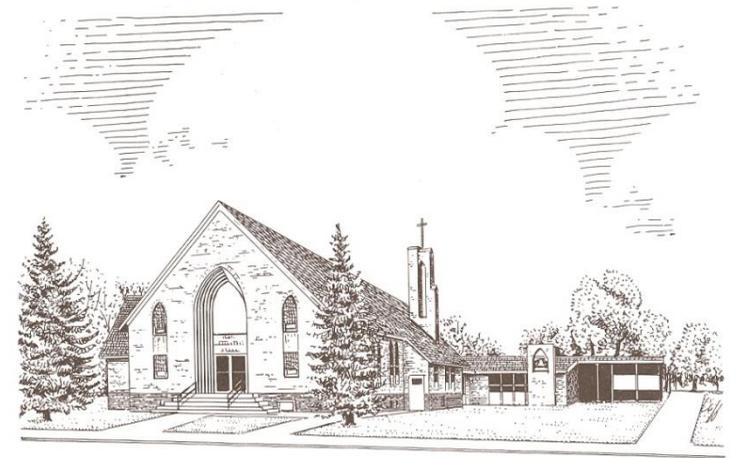
CLOSING HYMN: "Take Thou Our Minds, Dear Lord" #392
Take Thou our minds, dear Lord, we humbly pray; Give us the mind of Christ each passing day; Teach us to know the truth that sets us free; Grant us in all our thoughts to honor Thee.
Take Thou our hearts, O Christ, they are Thine own; Come Thou within our souls and claim Thy throne; Help us to shed abroad Thy deathless love; Use us to make the earth like heaven above.
Take Thou our wills, Most High! Hold Thou full sway; Have in our inmost souls Thy perfect way; Guard Thou each sacred hour from selfish ease; Guide Thou our ordered lives as Thou dost please.
Take Thou ourselves, O Lord, heart, mind, and will; Through our surrendered souls Thy plans fulfill. We yield ourselves to Thee time, talents, all; We hear, and henceforth heed, Thy sovereign call.

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

ⁱ *Book of Common Worship, 393.*

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