

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

November 2, 2025

Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost

We Gather in God's Name . . .

PRELUDE

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT Gary Klette

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

(Take a moment to center yourself with this prayer)

O God, our true home, we come together to unite our stories with those of our spiritual ancestors. Some of us have come from desert places, desperate for nourishment. Some of us come from places of abundant harvests and yet are not satisfied. You are among us all, a living God, present in ways we have not yet realized. We come to learn, to let what we learn mold and change us, to find courage and energy to live by your direction. We bring our joyous worship confident of your welcome to us. Amen.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: Come, all you who would hear God’s Word.

All: We gather to worship in God’s name.

One: Let us praise the God of grace.

All: God is faithful and just in all things. The promises of God are trustworthy and true.

*OPENING HYMN “God Is Here!” #461

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Let there be no pretense among us as we address our thoughts to God. We may fool one another, but God knows us as we really are. Let us be honest and open with our Creator and Redeemer. Let us silently confess all that separates us from God.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS “Grace Greater Than Our Sin”
Lt. Blue Songbook #76

Singing: Grace, grace, God’s grace,
grace that will pardon and cleanse within;
Grace, grace, God’s grace,
grace that is greater than all our sin.

*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus the Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

. . . to Proclaim God’s Word

FIRST READING Habakkuk 1: 1-4, 2: 1-4 p. 871

SECOND READING 2 Thessalonians 1: 1-4, 11-12 p. 205

SOLOIST “On Eagles’ Wings” Susan Emrick

GOSPEL READING Luke 19: 1-10 p. 82

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON “Living By Faithfulness” Pastor Judy Sibley

*HYMN OF RESPONSE “O Day of God, Draw Nigh” #452

. . . to Give Thanks to God . . .

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD

THE OFFERTORY

*OFFERING RESPONSE

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” #592

Singing: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

We give thanks, generous God, because we owe you more than we can ever repay. We give because we love you and want to show our devotion. We give because there are needs to be met among us and in other places where we cannot go. We give because we need to be generous in order to be whole. Loving God, bless all givers who provide for others out of their means, and multiply these resources in your service. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

One: Lord in your mercy,

All: hear our 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.

*COMMUNION HYMN “I Come with Joy” #507

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: ... Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, 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 He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. (Lt. Blue Book #124)

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.
One: ... Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

All: Let us keep the feast.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

***CLOSING HYMN** “Though I May Speak” **#335**

BENEDICTION

RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION “Freely, Freely”
Lt. Blue Songbook #136

Singing: Freely, freely, you have received, freely, freely give.
Go in my name, and because you believe,
others will know that I live.

POSTLUDE

The Upper Room

“Blessings Unrealized”

Sunday, November 2, 2025

Read Romans 8: 26-28

“We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

---Romans 8:28 (NIV)

I first noticed something was wrong with my oldest sister when she was 65 years old. I received a thank-you card for her retirement gift and didn't recognize her handwriting. That was the first sign of her dementia, followed by many inexplicable decisions she would make in the coming years.

Our family worried about her living alone. She could no longer drive, shop for groceries, or do her own laundry. She refused to go to the doctor. When she had a stroke and got weaker, she was no longer able to care for herself so we moved her into a care facility. This was the same home our mother had moved to when she was of sound mind at age 93. And now my sister was living there. She was just 73.

In my heartbreak, I asked God to help me see some good in this situation. Soon God helped me accept my sister's dementia and showed me the blessings we had all been given. I realized that my sister was now in a clean, warm place, receiving nourishing meals, and cared for by a kind staff. She got medical attention when she needed it, and we no longer had to worry about her living alone. My sadness for my sister had made me overlook God's blessings, but I received comfort when I recognized how faithfully God had blessed her and us.

Prayer: “Dear heavenly Father, when life is hard and sadness overwhelms us, remind us of your promise that with you all things work for our good because of your love for us.” Amen.

--Denise Robson (Michigan, USA)

Thought for the Day:

“On my hardest days, God’s presence can bring me comfort and peace.”

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