

Christ United
25th Sunday after
Pentecost
November 19, 2023



Welcome!

(Stand)

- P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C:** **And also with you.**
- P:** Alleluia. Abide in me as I abide in you;
- C:** **those who abide in me bear much fruit. Alleluia. (John 15:4, 5)**
- A:** Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

Opening Song (Stand)

Prayer of the Day:

- P:** You, O God are our dwelling place from generation to generation, our shield from anguish and distress. You arm us as children of light with the hope of salvation, and you protect us by your love. Give us grace to build up and encourage one another, as we seek wisdom and abundant life in the strength of your Word and the assurance of your Spirit. **C: Amen**

A: The First Bible Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12–18 (Sit)

- A:** The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

A: Psalm 90:1–8 [9–11] 12

A: The Second Bible Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

- A:** The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

P: Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:14–30(Stand)

- P:** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 25th Chapter.
C: **Glory to you, Lord Christ**

The Gospel lesson is read.

- P:** The Gospel of the Lord.
C: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Kids Time and the Sermon (Sit)

Song of the Day (Stand)

Apostles' Creed (Stand)

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

The Prayers

- P:** God of salvation, who sent your Son to seek out and save what is lost, hear our prayers on behalf of those who are lost in our day, receiving these petitions and thanksgivings with your unending compassion.
- A:** 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. **C: Your mercy is great.**
- A:** 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. **C: Your mercy is great.**
- A:** 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. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**
- A:** 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, reveal your love in community. We remember before you. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**
- A:** 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. **C: Your mercy is great.**
- A:** 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. **C: Your mercy is great.**

Other intercessions may be offered by anyone at this time.

- P:** Redeeming Sustainer, visit your people and pour out your strength and courage upon us, that we may hurry to make you welcome not only in our concern for others, but by serving them generously and faithfully in your name. **C: Amen.**

The Peace is shared at this time

- P:** The peace of the Lord be always with you. **C: And also with you.**
People may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: Peace be with you.

Offering –

November Noisy Offerings to: Friends In Need (FIN) Fund (Stand)

P: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life,

C: **you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

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.**

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: surrounded by sin and bordered by death we appeal to you, our Lord, 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 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.

C: **Amen.**

P: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

C: **Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

(Sit) *The Bread is broken*

P: All who are hungry and thirsty, come. The table is ready.