

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE

November 19th, 2023

10:00 A.M.

PRELUDE:

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: *O God, Our Help In Ages Past #680*

1. O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:

2. Under the shadow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt secure; sufficient is thine arm alone, and our defense is sure.

3. Before the hills in order stood, or earth received her frame, from everlasting thou art God, to endless years the same.

WELCOME: Pastor Beverly Collinsworth

Priest: Blessed be God, Father, Son and the Holy Spirit.

Everyone: And Blessed be his Kingdom, now and forever. Amen

Priest: Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Everyone: Come let us sing to the Lord: Let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation. Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, and a great king above all gods. In his hands are the caverns of the earth, and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands have molded the dry land. Come let us bow down, and bend the knee, and kneel before the Lord our maker.

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. Oh, that today you would harken to his voice!

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Priest: Let us Pray:

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

People: Amen

LESSONS: *Please be seated for the readings of the lessons.*

1st LESSON: Judges 4:1-7

The Israelites again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died. So the LORD sold them into the hand of King Jabin of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-ha-goiim.

Then the Israelites cried out to the LORD for help; for he had nine hundred chariots of iron, and had oppressed the Israelites cruelly twenty years.

At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment. She sent and summoned Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, “The LORD, the God of Israel, commands you, ‘Go, take position at Mount Tabor, bringing ten thousand from the tribe of Naphtali and the tribe of Zebulun. I will draw out Sisera, the general of Jabin’s army, to meet you by the Wadi Kishon with his chariots and his troops; and I will give him into your hand.’”

Reader: Here ends the reading from the book of Judges.

Response: Thanks be to God.

The Psalms: **Psalm 123** *Let us read it responsively by full verse.*

Reader: To you I lift up my eyes, to you enthroned in the heavens.

Response: As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress

Reader: So our eyes look to the LORD our God, until he show us his mercy.

Response: Have mercy upon us, O LORD, have mercy, for we have had more than enough of contempt

Reader: Too much of the scorn of the indolent rich and of the derision of the proud.

Reader: Here ends the reading of Psalm 123

Response: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When 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!

But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But 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.

For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Reader: Here ends our reading from Paul’s letter to the Thessalonians.

Response: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL HYMN: *Before Thy Throne, O God, We Kneel #574*

1. Before thy throne, O God, we kneel: give us a conscience quick to feel, a ready mind to understand the meaning of thy chastening hand; whate'er the pain and shame may be, bring us, O Father, nearer thee.

2. Search out our hearts and make us true; help us to give to all their due. From love of pleasure, lust of gold, from sins which make the heart grow cold, wean us and train us with thy rod; teach us to know our faults, O God.

3. For sins of heedless word and deed, for pride ambitious to succeed, for crafty trade and subtle snare to catch the simple unaware, for lives bereft of purpose high, forgive, forgive, O Lord, we cry.

Priest: *Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.*

Priest/Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew.

Response: Glory to you Lord Christ.

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability.

Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then 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.' His 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.' And 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.'

His 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.' Then 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; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

But 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?

Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For 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. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Priest: The Gospel of our Lord.

Everyone: Praise to You Lord Christ.

MESSAGE:

MESSAGE RESPONSE: CARSON

NICENE CREED

Priest: Let us confess our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed:

Everyone: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit, he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son, he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

LEM/Deacon: Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Reader: Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. Lord, in your mercy

Response: *Hear our prayer.*

Reader: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. Lord, in your mercy

Response: *Hear our prayer.*

Reader: Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. Lord, in your mercy

Response: *Hear our prayer.*

Reader: Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. Lord, in your mercy

Response: *Hear our prayer.*

Reader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Lord, in your mercy

Response: *Hear our prayer.*

Reader: We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. Lord, in your mercy

Response: *Hear our prayer.*

Reader: Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble; especially: **Diane, Maria, Nana Jo, Patricia K., Scott, Fr. John, Alec, Roseann, David, Michael, Steve, Sue, Eliza, Tim, Linda and Donna:**

Response: *That they may be delivered from their distress.*

Reader: We pray for the men and women serving in our armed forces, especially: **Fr. Tony, Mitchell, Michael, Ethan, Emily, Chris and Chelsey, the 200th Red Horse Squadron and the 983rd, Army Combat Engineer Battalion.**

Response: *Protect, guide and comfort them and bring them home safely when their work is done.*

Reader: In the communion of St. Thomas and of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, and one another, and all our life, to Christ our God.

Response: *To thee, O Lord our God.*

LEM/Deacon: Let us confess our sins against God and one another:

Everyone: *Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.*

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Priest: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

OFFERTORY: CARSON

Music: *While the Table is Set*

COMMUNION:

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also, with you.**

Priest: Lift up your hearts

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

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

People: **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

Priest: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and every- where to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Priest: Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

People: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might. Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest.**

Priest: We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son.

For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world.

In him, you have delivered us from evil, and made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, according to his command, O Father,

Everyone: *We remember his death, We proclaim his resurrection, We await his coming in glory;*

Priest: And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with St. Thomas and all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *AMEN.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Priest: And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Priest: Alleluia, Christ our Passover Lamb is sacrificed for us.

People: **Therefore, let us keep the feast. Alleluia**

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia, Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us; therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

Priest: The Gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Priest: Let us pray with those who are unable to receive the Eucharist with us this morning:

EVERYONE: Dear Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Holy Sacrament, but since I cannot at this moment receive you sacramentally, I ask that you come spiritually into my heart.

Unite me with you and never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Priest: Let us all pray for peace in our world.

EVERYONE: Lord, Healer of the Nations, from the noise of war and the drumbeat of vengeance, give us undiminished determination to wage peace. Out of brokenness, violence, and destruction let us plant seeds of hope.

Out of chaos, confusion, and hatred, let us build bridges of love. Out of distrust, disunity, and distance, let us walk together in harmony. Heal our divisions, make us whole, and bring us peace. Amen.

Priest: St. Thomas practices open communion which means that all baptized Christians are welcome at the Lord's Table.

Communion can be received either by drinking from the Chalice or by intinction. Either way is acceptable.

Priest: The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

LEM/Deacon: The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

MUSIC: *(sing during communion)*

1. As we gather at your Table, as we listen to your Word, help us know, O God, your presence; let our hearts and minds be stirred. Nourish us with sacred story till we claim it as our own; teach us through this holy banquet how to make Love's vict'ry known.

2. Turn our worship into witness in the sacrament of life; send us forth to love and serve you, bringing peace where there is strife. Give us, Christ, your great compassion to forgive as you forgave; may we still behold your image in the world you died to save.

3. Gracious Spirit, help us summon other guests to share that Feast where triumphant Love will welcome those who had been last and least.

There no more will envy blind us nor will pride our peace destroy, as we join with saints and angels to repeat the sounding joy.

Priest: Let us Pray:

Everyone: Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us spiritually with the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.

Send us now into the world in peace and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart, through Christ our Lord. Amen.

People: Amen

Priest: May the Lord bless you and keep you, May the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you, May the Lord look upon you with favor and bring you peace.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: *Rise Up, Ye Saints Of God #551*

1. Rise up, ye saints of God! Have done with lesser things, give heart and soul and mind and strength to serve the King of kings.

2. Rise up, ye saints of God! His kingdom tarries long: Lord, bring the day of truth and love and end the night of wrong.

3. Lift high the cross of Christ! Tread where his feet have trod; and quickened by the Spirit's power, rise up, ye saints of God!

Please be seated for the Postlude.

POSTLUDE: CARSON

LEM/Deacon: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

THANKS: Pastor Beverly Collinsworth

ANNOUNCEMENTS: