**SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICE**

**January 26th, 2025**

**10:00 AM**

**PROCESSIONAL HYMN***: O God, Our Help In Ages Past #680 (Verses 1,4 & 5)*

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. ***A thousand ages in thy sight are like an evening gone; short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.***
3. ***Time, like an ever-rolling stream, bears all our years away; they fly, forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.***

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, and 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 hand 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 hearken to his voice!***

Priest: The Lord be with you.

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

Priest: Let us Pray:

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; 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:** Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10

All the people of Israel gathered together into the square before the Water Gate. They told the scribe Ezra to bring the book of the law of Moses, which the Lord had given to Israel. Accordingly, the priest Ezra brought the law before the assembly, both men and women and all who could hear with understanding. This was on the first day of the seventh month. He read from it facing the square before the Water Gate from early morning until midday, in the presence of the men and the women and those who could understand; and the ears of all the people were attentive to the book of the law.

And Ezra opened the book in the sight of all the people, for he was standing above all the people; and when he opened it, all the people stood up. Then Ezra blessed the Lord, the great God, and all the people answered, "Amen, Amen," lifting up their hands. Then they bowed their heads and worshiped the Lord with their faces to the ground. So they read from the book, from the law of God, with interpretation. They gave the sense, so that the people understood the reading. And Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, "This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep." For all the people wept when they heard the words of the law. Then he said to them, "Go your way, eat the fat and drink sweet wine and send portions of them to those for whom nothing is prepared, for this day is holy to our Lord; and do not be grieved, for the joy of the Lord is your strength."

Reader: Here ends a reading from the Book of Nehemiah.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

**The Psalms:** Psalm 19

### *Let us read it responsively by full verse.*

Reader: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows his handiwork.

**Response: One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

Reader: Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

**Response: Their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world.**

Reader: In the deep has he set a pavilion for the sun; it comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

**Response: It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens
and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

Reader: The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent.

**Response: The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

Reader: The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**Response: More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

Reader: By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.

**Response: Who can tell how often he offends? cleanse me from my secret faults.**

Reader: Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

**Response: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my
heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

Reader: Here ends the reading of the Psalm.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

**EPISTLE:** 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a

Just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--Jews or Greeks, slaves or free--and we were all made to drink of one Spirit. Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body.

And if the ear would say, "Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body," that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many members, yet one body. The eye cannot say to the hand, "I have no need of you," nor again the head to the feet, "I have no need of you." On the contrary, the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable, and those members of the body that we think less honorable we clothe with greater honor, and our less respectable members are treated with greater respect; whereas our more respectable members do not need this. But God has so arranged the body, giving the greater honor to the inferior member, that there may be no dissension within the body, but the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it. Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church first apostles, second prophets, third teachers; then deeds of power, then gifts of healing, forms of assistance, forms of leadership, various kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all possess gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? But strive for the greater gifts.

Reader: Here ends a reading from the First Book of Corinthians.

**Response: Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL HYMN***: Love Divine, All Love Excelling #657*

1. ***Love divine, all loves excelling, joy of heaven, to earth come down, fix in us thy humble dwelling, all thy faithful mercies crown. Jesus, thou art all compassion, pure, unbounded love thou art; visit us with thy salvation, enter every trembling heart.***
2. ***Come, almighty to deliver, let us all thy life receive; suddenly return, and never, nevermore thy temples leave. Thee we would be alway blessing, serve thee as thy hosts above, pray, and praise thee without ceasing, glory in thy perfect love.***
3. ***Finish then thy new creation; pure and spotless let us be; let us see thy great salvation perfectly restored in thee: changed from glory into glory, till in heaven we take our place, till we cast our crowns before thee, lost in wonder, love, and praise.***

Priest: Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

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

**Response: Glory to you Lord Christ.**

**The Gospel:** Luke 4:14-21

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

**Everyone: Praise to You Lord Christ.**

**MESSAGE: Pastor Beverly Collinsworth**

**MESSAGE RESPONSE: Carson Weingart**

**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 give thanks to God our Father for all his gifts so freely bestowed upon us.

Reader: For the beauty and wonder of your creation, in earth and sky and sea.

**Response:** **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For all that is gracious in the lives of men and women, revealing the image of Christ,

**Response: We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For our daily food and drink, our homes and families, and our friends,

**Response:** **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For minds to think, and hearts to love, and hands to serve,

**Response:** **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For health and strength to work, and leisure to rest and play,

**Response**: **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For the brave and courageous, who are patient in suffering and faithful in adversity,

**Response**: **We thank you, Lord.**

​Reader: For all valiant seekers after truth, liberty, and justice,

**Response: We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: For the communion of saints, in all times and places,

**Response:** **We thank you, Lord.**

Reader: Let us pray for those who suffer and are in need of care, that they may be comforted, especially those we name together: **Gary,** **Larry, Annette, William, Nancy, Bill, Mike M., Nana Jo, Patricia K., Fr. John, Alec, David, Michael, Steve, Sue, Linda, Donna, and Catherine.**

**Response:** **Lord in your mercy hear our Prayer.**

Reader: Let us pray for the men and women serving our country in the armed forces, especially: **Mitchell, Michael, Ethan, Emily, Alan, Chris, Chelsey, the 200th Red Horse Squadron, and the 983rd Army Combat Engineer Battalion. Protect, guide, and comfort them and bring them home safely when their work is done.**

**Response:** **Lord in your mercy hear our prayer**.

Reader: Let us pray silently or aloud for those special in our lives.

SILENCE

**Response: Lord in your mercy hear our prayer.**

Reader: Above all, we give you thanks for the great mercies and promises given to us in Christ Jesus our Lord;

**Response: To him be praise and glory, with you, O Father, and the Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen.**

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.

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.**

**OFFERTORY: Carson Weingart**

**COMMUNION:**

Priest: The Lord be with you.

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

Priest: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them up 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, 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.**

Priest: Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all. He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

Priest: On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, 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."

Priest: 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."

Priest: Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Everyone: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Priest: We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Priest: Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

Priest: All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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 forever. AMEN.

**Everyone: AMEN, AMEN, 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.**

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: 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. The small Chalice is for intinction only.**

**COMMUNION: Carson Weingart**

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

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

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**: O Spirit Of The Living God #531 (Verses 1,2 & 4)

1. ***O Spirit of the living God, in all thy plenitude of grace, where'er the foot of man hath trod, descend on our apostate race.***
2. ***Give tongues of fire and hearts of love, to preach the reconciling word; give power and unction from above, whene'er the joyful sound is heard.***
3. ***Convert the nations! far and nigh the triumph of the cross record; the Name of Jesus glorify, till every people call him Lord.***

*Please be seated for the Postlude.*

**POSTLUDE: Carson Weingart**

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

**People: Thanks be to God**.

THANKS: Pastor Beverly Collinsworth

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**