



**MOUNT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
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↑: Please stand  
↓: Please be seated

**25<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**  
**November 19, 2023**  
**10:30 AM**  
**Holy Communion**

Greeting/Announcements  
Prelude

↑Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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 Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

↓ *The assembly kneels or sits. Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

↑Opening Hymn

**On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand**

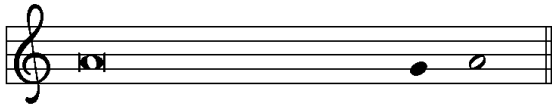
**ELW 437**

Apostolic Greeting

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.**

# Kyrie



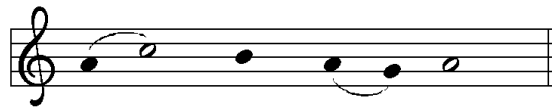
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



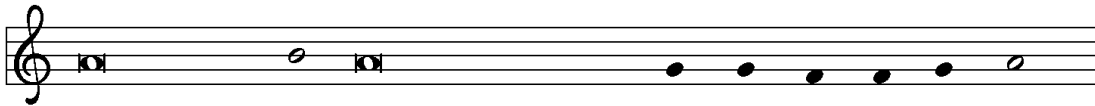
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

# Hymn of Praise

*Refrain*

Assisting minister



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

*Final refrain*



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen**

## ↓The Lessons

First Lesson: *Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18*

L: A reading from Zephaniah:

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Lord GOD!  
For the day of the LORD is at hand;  
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,  
he has consecrated his guests.

<sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,  
and I will punish the people  
who rest complacently on their dregs,  
those who say in their hearts,  
“The LORD will not do good,  
nor will he do harm.”

<sup>13</sup>Their wealth shall be plundered,  
and their houses laid waste.  
Though they build houses,  
they shall not inhabit them;  
though they plant vineyards,  
they shall not drink wine from them.

<sup>14</sup>The great day of the LORD is near,  
near and hastening fast;  
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,  
the warrior cries aloud there.

<sup>15</sup>That day will be a day of wrath,  
a day of distress and anguish,  
a day of ruin and devastation,  
a day of darkness and gloom,  
a day of clouds and thick darkness,  
<sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.

<sup>17</sup>I will bring such distress upon people  
that they shall walk like the blind;  
because they have sinned against the LORD,  
their blood shall be poured out like dust,  
and their flesh like dung.

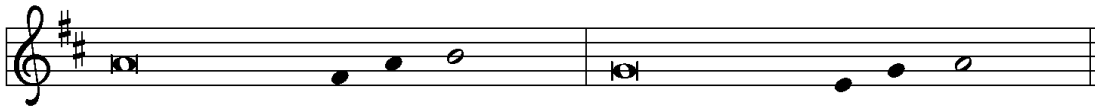
<sup>18</sup>Neither their silver nor their gold  
will be able to save them  
on the day of the LORD's wrath;  
in the fire of his passion  
the whole earth shall be consumed;  
for a full, a terrible end  
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: *Psalm 90:1-12*

L: We will now sing the psalm responsively:



<sup>1</sup>Lord, you have | been our refuge  
from one generation | to another.

<sup>2</sup>**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,  
from age to age | you are God.**

<sup>3</sup>You turn us back to the | dust and say,  
“Turn back, O child- | ren of earth.”

<sup>4</sup>**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past  
and like a watch | in the night;**

<sup>5</sup>you sweep them away | like a dream,  
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:

<sup>6</sup>**in the morning it is | green and flourishes;  
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.**

<sup>7</sup>For we are consumed | by your anger;  
we are afraid because | of your wrath.

<sup>8</sup>**Our iniquities you have | set before you,  
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.**

<sup>9</sup>When you are angry, all our | days are gone;  
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.

<sup>10</sup>**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength | even eighty;  
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and |  
we are gone.**

<sup>11</sup>Who regards the power | of your wrath?

Who rightly fears your | indignation?

<sup>12</sup>**So teach us to num- | ber our days  
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.**

Second Lesson: *1 Thessalonians 5:1-11*

L: A reading from First Thessalonians:

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>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! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

↑GOSPEL: *Matthew 25:14-30*



P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his

master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>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.' <sup>21</sup>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.' <sup>22</sup>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.' <sup>23</sup>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.' <sup>24</sup>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; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup>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? <sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

P: The Gospel of the Lord

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

↓Sermon

↑Hymn of the Day

**Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us**

**ELW 707**

Apostles' Creed

P: Let us confess our faith together with the Apostles' Creed.

**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, 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 to judge the living and 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.**

Prayers of the Church

A: Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

Lord of the church, ignite your people with the passion of your love. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, unify us across ministries, congregations, and denominations, and refine us to participate in your activity throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Lord of creation, we stand in awe at the works of your hands and praise you for the beauty of nature. Bless the earth for your glory and restore its integrity where exploitation has caused ruin. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Lord of the nations, sound forth your justice in the ears of all leaders. Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable, especially as international leaders forge trade agreements and cooperate to end human rights abuses. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Lord of the stranger, stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control and open us to learn from the perspectives of others. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Lord of the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors. Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: God of mercy, we pray for all who are sick or suffering, especially..., the shut-in members of our congregation, all who are on our prayer list, and the ones we name in our hearts.

*A brief silence.*

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

**C: Amen.**

## Peace

A: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

A: Let us share God's peace.

*The assembly is invited to spread God's peace in whatever way is most comfortable to them: peace sign, fist bump, elbow bump, air kiss, prayer hands with a bow, heart hands, etc.*

## ↓Offering

## ↑Offertory Hymn



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

## Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray...God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: 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.**

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

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### Eucharistic Prayer

P: Brothers and sisters, the time has come for us to remember:

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.

### The Lord's Prayer

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

**C: 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,  
forever and ever. Amen

Invitation to Communion

P: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

C: Thanks be to God.

↓ Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Meal

*We ask that anyone unable to approach the altar for communion please stay seated and notify the usher.*

*The pastor and assistants will gladly come down to give communion to those who remain seated.*

Hymns during distribution:

**O Christ the Same**

**WOV 778**

**I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light**

**ELW 815**

## ↑Post Communion Blessing and Canticle

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**



Thank-ful hearts and voic-es raise; tell ev-'ry-one what God has done. Let



ev - 'ry-one who seeks the Lord re - joice and bear the name of Christ.



Send us with your prom - is - es and lead your peo - ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia.

## Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray...God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: **Amen.**

## Benediction

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: **Amen**

## Dismissal

A: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

## Postlude

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**ABOUT TODAY'S THEME:** 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.

**ABOUT TODAY'S LESSONS:**

**First Lesson:** *Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.*

**Second Lesson:** *Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

**Gospel Lesson:** *Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.*

# On Jordan's Stormy Bank I Stand

1 On Jor-dan's storm-y bank I stand, and cast a wish-ful eye  
2 All o'er those wide ex-tend-ed plains shines one e-ter-nal day;  
3 No chill-ing winds or poi-s'nous breath can reach that health-ful shore;  
4 When shall I reach that hap-py place and be for-ev-er blest?

to Ca-naan's fair and hap-py land, where my pos-ses-sions lie.  
there God the Son for-ev-er reigns and scat-ters night a-way.  
sick-ness and sor-row, pain and death, are felt and feared no more.  
When shall I see my Sav-ior's face and in God's bos-om rest?

*Refrain*

I am bound for the prom-ised land, I am bound for the prom-ised land;

oh, who will come and go with me? I am bound for the prom-ised land.

Text: Samuel Stennett, 1727-1795

Music: PROMISED LAND, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; adapt. Rigdon M. McIntosh, 1836-1899

# Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood  
2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you glad - ly, free - ly,  
3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en to our hum - blest  
4 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us with your life - blood

as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -  
of your own. With the sun - shine of your good - ness melt our  
char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious sen - tence, "You have  
as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -

men - dous sac - ri - fice; and with that have free - ly giv - en  
thank - less hearts of stone till our cold and self - ish na - tures,  
done it all to me." Na - ked, sick, in pris - on, hun - gry—  
men - dous sac - ri - fice. Give us faith to trust you bold - ly,

bles - sings count - less as the sand to the un - thank - ful  
warmed by you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py  
in the least, your face we view, say - ing by your  
hope, to stay our souls on you: but, oh, best of



and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand.  
 and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive.  
 poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you."  
 all your grac - es, with your love our love re - new.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–1889, alt.  
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

# O Christ the Same

1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es—  
 2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing  
 3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing

our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;  
 our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide;  
 our lives and loves, our days and years re - main;

e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,  
 still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing  
 our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,

un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:  
 the marks of love in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:  
 our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:

O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,  
 O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—  
 O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;  
 O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;  
 for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,  
 O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en:  
 O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.  
 we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.  
 we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926  
 Music: LONDONDERRY AIR, Irish tune

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# I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,  
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

## *Refrain*

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the

day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the

cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934  
 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson  
 Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.



### **MOUNT ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF**

Interim Pastor:	The Rev. Robert Burkhart
Sexton:	Rod Robles
Administrative Assistant:	Kathy Gable
Administrative Assistant for Worship:	Kristi Conover
Treasurer:	Ellen Gibb
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