THE TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
November 15, 2026
"The Great Day of the Lord!"

THE WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN #513 *"The Clouds of Judgment Gather"* (tune: #672)

1 The clouds of judgment gather,
The time is growing late;
Be sober and be watchful,
Our judge is at the gate:
The judge who comes in mercy,
The judge who comes in might
To put an end to evil
And diadem the right.

2 Arise, O true disciples;
Let wrong give way to right,
And penitential shadow
To Jesus' blessèd light:
The light that has no evening,
That knows no moon or sun,
The light so new and golden,
The light that is but one.

3 The home of fadeless splendor,
Of blooms that bear no thorn,
Where they shall dwell as children
Who here as exiles mourn;
The peace of all the faithful,
The calm of all the blest,
Inviolate, unfading,
Divinest, sweetest, best.

4 Oh, happy, holy portion,
Relief for all distressed,
True vision of true beauty,
Refreshment for the blest!
Strive now to win that glory,
Toil now to gain that light;
Send hope ahead to grasp it
Till hope be lost in sight.

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(please stand)

THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.
P: Let us confess our sins and seek God's mercy.

(*Silence for reflection and self-examination*.)

P: O Almighty God, merciful Father,
C: we confess to You and to one another, that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You above all things nor our neighbor as ourselves. Forgive us our sins and grant us the aid of Your Holy Spirit to amend our sinful lives.
P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

THE INTROIT Psalm 143:1-2, 5–6, 10–11; *antiphon:* v. 1



Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!*
In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your | righteousness!
Enter not into judgment with Your | servant,*
for no one living is righteous be- | fore You.
I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that | You have done;*
I ponder the work | of Your hands.
I stretch out my | hands to You;*
my soul thirsts for You like a | parched land.
Teach me to do Your will, for You | are my God!*
Let Your good Spirit lead me on | level ground!
For Your name's sake, O Lord, pre- | serve my life!*
In Your righteousness bring my soul out of | trouble!
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for | mercy!*
In Your faithfulness answer me, in Your | righteousness!

(please be seated)

THE HYMN OF PRAISE *"This is the Feast"* (page 155 in the hymnal)
Refrain: **This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb Who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God. ***Refrain:***

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

Refrain: **This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. ***Refrain:***

For the Lamb Who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. ***Refrain:***

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, the great day is coming when You will call to account all people. Help us to use rightly and for Your glory all that You have given to us, that we may not fear the return of Jesus in His glory. Give us courage and confidence that He has equipped us with every grace and that we may serve You faithfully here and enter with Him into His eternal joy when He comes again; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Zephaniah 1:7-16 (ESV)

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated His guests. And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—"I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud. On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will He do ill.' Their goods 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." The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. A day of wrath is that day, 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, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (ESV)

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

THE VERSE (TLH #284, verse 6, adapted; tune: *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds*)

Al-le-lu-ia! O gracious Lord, Be thou forever near;
Teach me to love Your Holy Word and view my Savior here.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25:14-30 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the twenty-fifth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once

and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

(please be seated)

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #878 *"Abide with Me"*



5 I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!

6 Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

THE SERMON "*The Great Day of the Lord!*" Text: Zephaniah 1:7-16

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS #691 *"Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing"*



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(please stand)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition concludes with the response: "Let us pray to the Lord," ***"Lord, have mercy."****)*

THE LORD'S 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 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.**

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

#621 *"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"*

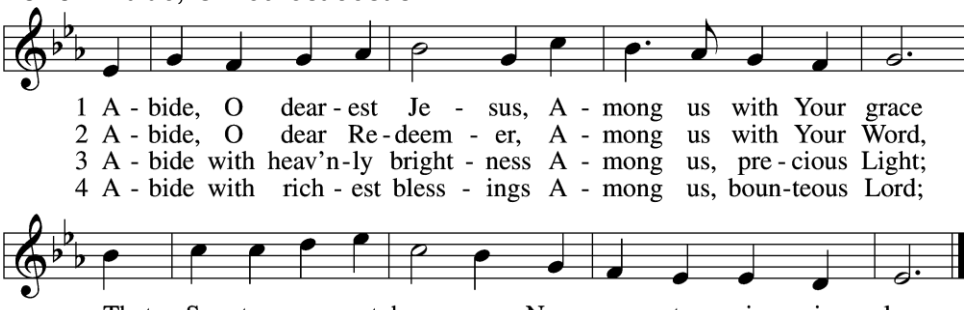


#636 *(verses 1, 5-8) "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"*



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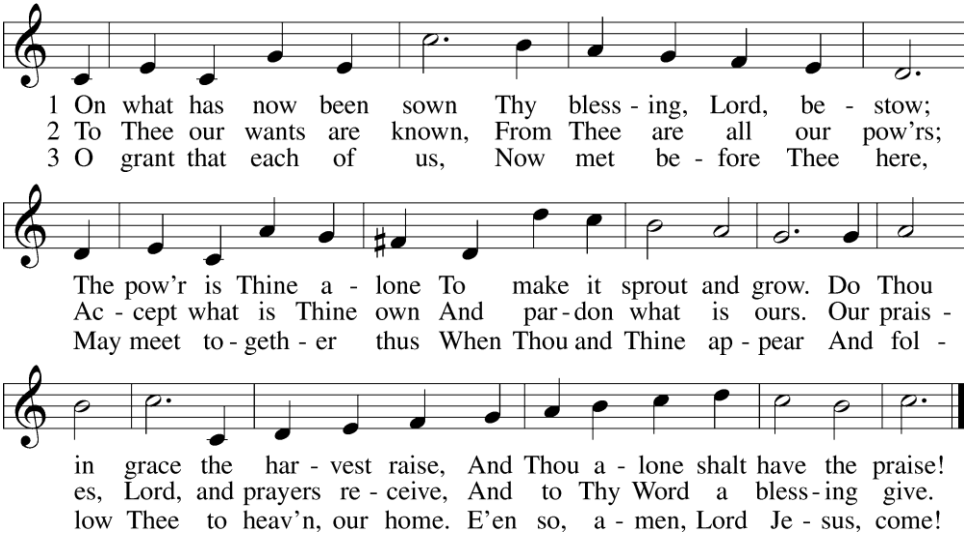
#919 *"Abide, O Dearest Jesus"*



5 Abide with Your protection
Among us, Lord, our strength,
Lest world and Satan fell us
And overcome at length.

6 Abide, O faithful Savior,
Among us with Your love;
Grant steadfastness and help us
To reach our home above.

#921 *"On What Has Now Been Sown"*



(please stand)

THE DISMISSAL

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ✠ in peace.

C: Amen.

THE POST COMMUNION COLLECT

P: Let us pray. O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS