

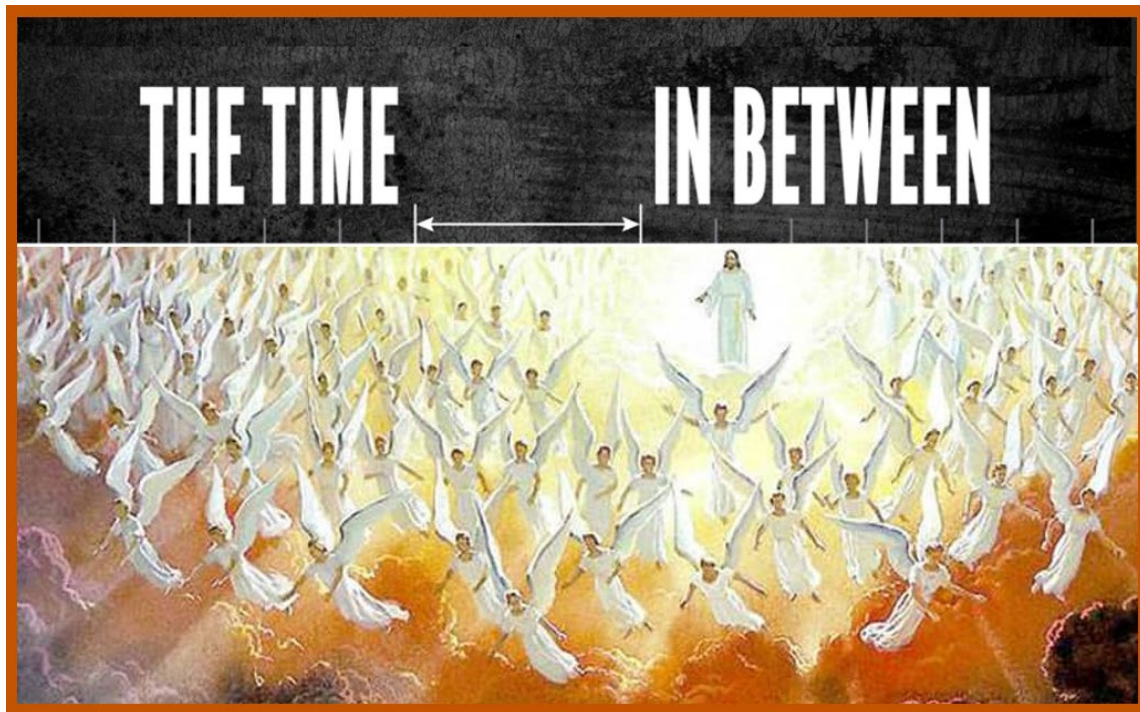


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TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR — NOVEMBER 19, 2023



SERIES THEME: *THE TIME IN BETWEEN*

In the great timeline of human history, there are only two ultimately significant points: the first time Christ came to our world to win salvation by his life, death, and resurrection; and the second time Christ will come to consummate his everlasting kingdom. We live in the time in between those two points. As the church year draws to a close, Scripture points us toward the end of time when Christ will come again. Until then Christ teaches us how to live in the time in between.

THEME OF THE DAY: *A TIME FOR FAITHFUL SERVICE*

As we wait for Christ to return, we are not to be sedentary. The reason Christ has not yet returned is that there is still work to be done. And Christ carries out his good work through us, his Church. So, until Christ comes again and says, “Stop!” believers will be busy with faithful service. Christ has given every believer gifts and talents. And when Christ entrusts us with those gifts and talents, he calls us to use them all for his glory. In the time between Christ’s first and second coming, we use everything the master has given us to live according to his will and to carry out his mission.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

LITURGY: The Order of Service is printed in the worship folder today up until the Order of Service for the Sacrament (*Follow “The Service of Word & Sacrament,” page 33-37 in the Red Hymnal*).

OPENING HYMN: #749:1-2 “*God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending*” (*from the New Hymnal*)

[TUNE: Hymn #353 “*Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*”]

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 God, whose giving knows no ending,
from your rich and endless store:
nature’s wonder, Jesus’ wisdom,
costly cross, grave’s shattered door—
gifted by you, we turn to you,
off’ring up ourselves in praise;
thankful songs shall rise forever,
gracious donor of our days. | 2 Skills and time are ours for pressing
toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
all at peace in health and freedom,
races joined, the church made one.
Now direct our daily labor,
lest we strive for self alone;
born with talents, make us servants
fit to answer at your throne. |
|--|--|

GREETING

M: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: *(Spoken)* **And also with you.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

M: Our God’s giving knows no ending. Not only does He continually provide for our physical needs, but to those who believe in His Son He promises free forgiveness day after day. Let us confess our sins to Him that He may forgive us once more.

C: **Generous God, You have blessed in more ways that we can count, but we so often take those gifts for granted, or misuse them. Forgive us for being selfish, greedy, or uncaring. Forgive us for not acknowledging You as the source of everything we have, physical and spiritual. Teach us to love You above all things, and to use our possessions, our time, our bodies, and our abilities in ways that please You. Plant Your love deep within our hearts, so that everything we do grows from its roots.**

M: The Lord God, has forgiven your sins and heard your prayers. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. May He now work in Your hearts and lives to answer Your prayers and draw you further in His service.

C: *(Spoken)* **Amen.**

SING: “God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending” (#749:3)

3. Treasure, too, you have entrusted,
gain through pow’rs your grace conferred:
ours to use for home and kindred,
and to spread the gospel word.
Open wide our hands in sharing,
as we heed Christ’s ageless call,
healing, teaching, and reclaiming,
serving you by loving all.

PRAYER OF THE DAY—

(Spoken by Pastor) Let us pray... Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith, and present us at last holy and blameless before you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen *(Spoken)*

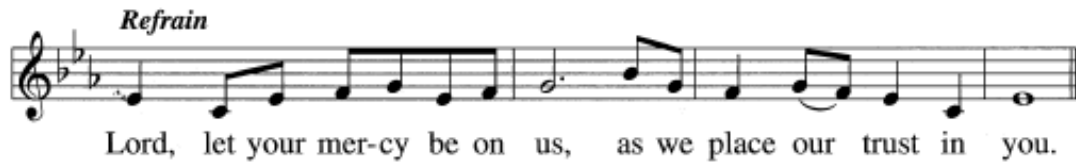
+ THE WORD +

FIRST LESSON

Isaiah 1:10-18 – *How did Israel respond to all of God’s gifts? With grudging service, which is not faithful service. How does God respond to Israel? By promising to make them as pure as newly fallen snow.*

¹⁰ Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom; listen to the instruction of our God, you people of Gomorrah! ¹¹ “The multitude of your sacrifices— what are they to me?” says the LORD. “I have more than enough of burnt offerings, of rams and the fat of fattened animals; I have no pleasure in the blood of bulls and lambs and goats. ¹² When you come to appear before me, who has asked this of you, this trampling of my courts? ¹³ Stop bringing meaningless offerings! Your incense is detestable to me. New Moons, Sabbaths and convocations— I cannot bear your worthless assemblies. ¹⁴ Your New Moon feasts and your appointed festivals I hate with all my being. They have become a burden to me; I am weary of bearing them. ¹⁵ When you spread out your hands in prayer, I hide my eyes from you; even when you offer many prayers, I am not listening. Your hands are full of blood! ¹⁶ Wash and make yourselves clean. Take your evil deeds out of my sight; stop doing wrong. ¹⁷ Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow. ¹⁸ “Come now, let us settle the matter,” says the LORD. “Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red as crimson, they shall be like wool.

Psalm 92



How great are your **w**orks, O LORD,*
how profound your thoughts!

The senseless man **d**oes not know,*
fools do not understand,

that though the wicked spring **u**p like grass*
and all evildoers flourish,

they will be forever **d**estroyed.*
But you, O LORD, are exalted **f**orever.

Refrain

The righteous will flourish like a **p**alm tree,*
they will flourish in the courts **o**f our God.

They will still bear fruit **i**n old age,*
they will stay fresh and green,

proclaiming, "The LORD is **u**pright;*"
he is my rock, and there is no wickedness in him."

Glory be to the Father and **to the Son*
and to the Holy **S**pirit,
as it was in the **b**eginning,*
is now, and will be forever. **A**men.**

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

Romans 12:1-8 – *When we keep God’s mercy in view, we understand and appreciate the gifts he gives us in Christ, and we use those gifts faithfully.*

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will. ³ For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ⁴ For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ⁶ We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; ⁷ if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; ⁸ if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

VERSE OF THE DAY: Alleluia. “Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor’s crown. Alleluia. (*Revelation 2:10*)

♪ *After the Verse of the Day, the congregation sings:*

*Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe
That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

THE GOSPEL LESSON

Matthew 25:14-30 – *Through a parable Jesus calls his followers to faithful service in grateful response to the gifts that the master has given and in joyful anticipation of the master’s impending return.*

¹⁴ “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹ “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’ ²¹ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’ ²² “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of

gold; see, I have gained two more.’²³ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’²⁴ “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed.’²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’²⁶ “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed?’²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.’²⁸ “ ‘So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags.’²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them.³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

♪ *After the Gospel, the congregation sings: Praise be to you, O Christ!*

HYMN OF THE DAY: #481 "O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made"

[1] O God, your hand the heavens made
and all that they contain;
the world appeared at your command,
and in it now you reign.
The restless sea, the land, the sky
your handiwork declare;
the touch of your creative pow’r
is present ev’rywhere.

[2] To us are given gifts divine,
all talents you have sent;
inspire us now to use them well
your kingdom to extend.
We hold each gift a trust from you
nor claim it as our own;
we gratefully acknowledge, Lord,
all things are yours alone.

[3] Deliver us from selfish aims,
true stewards we would be;
endow us with a deep desire
to live unselfishly.
A full accounting we must give
and see you face to face;
let us approach your throne with joy,
supported by your grace.

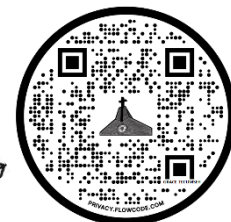
THE SERMON: "A Time For Faithful Service" (Based on Matthew 25:14-30)

THE NICENE CREED— 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. 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, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian 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.



GATHERING OF THE OFFERING:

*Please note: Offerings may be given electronically through our website...
GRACETECUMSEH.COM or simply by taking a picture of this QR code
Thank you for supporting our ministry here at Grace!*



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH—*Followed by 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 SACRAMENT +

M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lift up your hearts.



C: We lift them up to the Lord.

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.



C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He protects and preserves His Church in every age and gives us confidence to lift up our heads and watch for His coming with joy. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*Sanctus*)



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

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



C: A - men.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD (*Agnus Dei*)



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



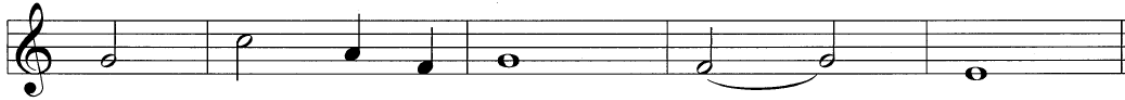
world; have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; grant us your peace. A - men.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN: #486 "*Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us*"

1 Lord of Glory, you have bought us
with your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
that tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given
blessings countless as the sand,
To th'unthankful and the evil
with your own unsparing hand.

2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you
Gladly, freely, of your own.
With the sunshine of your goodness
melt our thankless hearts of stone.
Till our cold and selfish natures,
warmed by you, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed
'tis to give than to receive.

3 Wondrous honor you have given
to our humblest charity.
In your own mysterious sentence,
"You have done it unto me."
Can it be, O gracious Master,
That you need what we can do,
Saying by your poor and needy
"Give as I have giv'n to you"?

4 Yes, the sorrow and the suff'rings,
which on every hand we view,
Channels are for gifts and off'rings
due by solemn right to you;
Right of which we may not rob you,
debt we may not choose but pay,
Lest that face of love and pity
turn from us another day.

(verse 5 on next page)

5 Lord of Glory, Who hast bought us
with your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones
that tremendous sacrifice;
Give us faith, to trust you boldly;
hope, to stay our souls on you;
But, oh, best of all your graces,
with your love our love renew.

THANKSGIVING

THANK THE LORD



C: Thank the Lord and sing his praise. Tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let all who seek the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-news his prom-is - es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy with



shouts of thanks - giv - ing. Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

M: Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - - - men.

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN: #332 *“Go, My Children, with My Blessing”*

1 Go, my children, with my blessing,
never alone.

Waking, sleeping, I am with you;
you are my own.

In my love’s baptismal river
I have made you mine forever.

Go, my children, with my blessing,
you are my own.

2 Go, my children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure.

Here you learned how much I love you,
what I can cure.

Here you heard my dear Son’s story;
here you touched him, saw his glory.

Go, my children, sins forgiven,
at peace and pure.

3 Go, my children, fed and nourished,
closer to me;

grow in love and love by serving,
joyful and free.

Here my Spirit’s power filled you;
here his tender comfort stilled you.

Go, my children, fed and nourished,
joyful and free.

4 I the Lord will bless and keep you
and give you peace;

I the Lord will smile upon you
and give you peace;

I the Lord will be your Father,
Savior, Comforter, and Brother.

Go, my children; I will keep you
and give you peace.

THIS WEEK AT GRACE

THIS SUNDAY (Nov 19) – (8:45 AM - Worship at St. John’s, Riga); 10:30 AM - WORSHIP (HC)
EUCHRE GAME DAY & POTLUCK *after the service*

MONDAY (Nov 13) – 6:30 PM - Yoga class at Grace; 6:30-7:45 PM – Youth Confirmation
Class at Grace

WEDNESDAY (Nov 22) – 8:30 AM - Pastor Finn conducts chapel at St. Stephen’s in Adrian;
7:00 PM - JOINT THANKSGIVING WORSHIP SERVICE for Grace & St. John’s (*here at Grace*)

THURSDAY (Nov 23) – **HAPPY THANKSGIVING!** – NO Bible Study in the evening.

NEXT SUNDAY (Nov 26) – *ADVENT BEGINS!* – (8:45 AM - Worship at St. John's, Riga);

10:30 AM - WORSHIP (*Guest Speaker, Rev Mike Bater & Guest Accompanist, Charlotte Bater*)



OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

OFFERINGS & INCOME: Sunday, Nov 12 – \$ 1,476.00

Tithe.ly online offerings: \$ 65.00 (11/14)

TOTAL RECEIVED – \$ 1,541.00;

TOTAL OFFERINGS & INCOME YTD – \$ 115,765.81

Needed Weekly (to meet budget needs in 2023) – \$ 2,670.00;

Needed YTD (46 wks) – \$ 122,820.00;

CURRENT BUDGET DEFICIT FOR 2023 – (\$ 7,054.19)

Donations received for **Lutheran Military Support Group** (not in General Fund) - **\$269.00** *Thank you!!*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CURRENT WORSHIP SERIES (SUN, OCT 29-NOV 19) "THE TIME IN BETWEEN." Christ teaches us how to live in the time in between his first coming to win salvation by his life, death, and resurrection; and his second coming at the end of time when He will come again to consummate His everlasting kingdom. The series will follow this progression: **Oct 29** - Reformation (observed) – A Time for Steadfast Faith; **Nov 5** - All Saints' Day (observed) - A Time to Focus on Future Glory; **Nov 12** - A Time for Watchfulness; **Nov 19** - Last Sunday of the Church Year – A Time for Faithful Service.

THURSDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY (6:30 PM):

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday we will not have Bible study on Thursday, Nov.23. The new Bible study on the Gospel of Matthew (Chaps. 1-13) resumes Thursday (Nov 30). Finishing up chapter 1 and moving into chapter 2. **"Follow Me"** is the theme. What does it mean to be a disciple of Christ? Matthew's Gospel describes how Jesus called his disciples and then molded their minds, hearts and wills. By offering Himself as a sacrifice for sin, by displaying His power over sin and its effects, and by giving an example of how to live for God, He prepared His disciples for their work. He prepares us also.



WORSHIP NOTE: Rev. Mike Bater will be preaching and leading in worship next Sunday, Nov.26 (First Sunday in Advent) while Pastor & Bonnie Finn are visiting family in Wisconsin.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS...

- JOINT THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP SERVICE for Grace & St John's here at Grace, Tecumseh – next Wednesday, Nov 22 at 7:00 PM
- NO ADULT BIBLE STUDY on Thursday, Nov 23 (*resumes on Nov.30th*)
- ADVENT BEGINS on Sunday, Nov 26
- NO CONFIRMATION CLASS on Monday, Nov 27
- GRACE CHRISTMAS DECORATING will be after the service on Sunday, Dec 3
- SECRET PAL CHRISTMAS PARTY on Wednesday, Dec 6 at 6:00 PM
- NO COUNCIL MEETING set for December
- LADIES AID CHRISTMAS PARTY on Tuesday, Dec 12 at 6:00 PM at BIG BOY (*Spouses invited!*)
- ADVENT by CANDLELIGHT at St John's in Riga on Wednesday, Dec 13 at 6:00 PM (*Bonnie Finn will be hosting a table; sign-up sheet available Sunday, Nov 26*)