

# St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – November 19, 2023

## The Holy Eucharist: Rite Two

### The Word of God

#### Opening Hymn 632 *O Christ, The Word Incarnate*

1 O Christ, the Word In - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,  
2 The Church from our dear Mas - ter re - ceived the word di - vine,  
3 O make thy Church, dear Sa - vior, a lamp of pur - est gold,

O Truth, un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky;  
and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.  
to bear be - fore the na - tions thy true light as of old;

we praise thee for the ra - diance that from the scrip - ture's page,  
It is the chart and com - pass that o'er life's surg - ing sea,  
O teach thy wan - dering pil - grims by this their path to trace,

a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.  
mid mists and rocks and quick - sands, still guides, O Christ, to thee.  
till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see thee face to face.

*The people standing (as able), the Celebrant says*

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit  
***And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.***  
***Amen.***

*People*

*The Celebrant says*

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.***

1. Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and  
 peace to his peo-ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven-ly King, al-  
 might-y God and Fa-ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we  
 praise you for your glo-ry. 3. Lord Je-sus Christ,  
 on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you  
 take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;  
 5. you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-  
 ceive our prayer. 6. For  
 you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,  
 7. you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the  
 Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of  
 God the Fa-ther. A - - - men.

## Collect of the Day

*Celebrant*           The Lord be with you.

*People*               *And also with you.*

*Celebrant*           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.*

## First Reading

## Zephaniah 1:7,12-18

A reading from the Zephaniah.

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.

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." 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. 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. 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, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. 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. 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.

*Reader*               The Word of the Lord.

*People*               *Thanks be to God.*

## Psalm 90:1-8,12

1 Lord, you have been our refuge \*  
from one generation to another.

2 Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or the land and the earth were born, \*  
from age to age you are God.

3 You turn us back to the dust and say, \*  
"Go back, O child of earth."

4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past \*  
and like a watch in the night.

5 You sweep us away like a dream; \*  
we fade away suddenly like the grass.

6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; \*  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.

7 For we consume away in your displeasure; \*  
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.

8 Our iniquities you have set before you, \*  
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

12 So teach us to number our days \*  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

## Epistle

## 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

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           The Word of the Lord.  
People           *Thanks be to God.*

## Sequence Hymn 635

### *If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee*

*Unison or harmony*



1 If thou but trust in God to guide thee, and hope in him through  
2 Sing, pray, and keep his ways un-swerv-ing; so do thine own part

all thy ways, he'll give thee strength what-e'er be-tide thee,  
faith-ful-ly, and trust his word, though un-de-serv-ing;

and bear thee through the e-vil days. Who trusts in God's un-  
thou yet shalt find it true for thee; God nev-er yet for-

chang-ing love builds on a rock that nought can move.  
sook in need the soul that trust-ed him in-deed.

# Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

*All stand.*

*Celebrant*        The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.  
*People*            **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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.'"

*Celebrant*        The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*            **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

# Sermon

The Rev. Jim McDonald

# Nicene Creed

*All stand, as the People and Celebrant say together.*

**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, Form III**      *(found on page 387 in the Book of Common Prayer)*

*People kneeling, as able, the Leader and People pray responsively*

*The Leader and People pray responsively*

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;  
***That we all may be one.***

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;  
***That your Name may be glorified by all people.***

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;  
***That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.***

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;  
***That there may be justice and peace on the earth.***

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;  
***That our works may find favor in your sight.***

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;  
***That they may be delivered from their distress.***

Give to the departed especially Debbie Perkins, eternal rest.  
***Let light perpetual shine upon them.***

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;  
***May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.***

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others.

*Silence*

We pray especially for Peyton Olson, Jamie Bridgers, Ann Rhodes, Jim & Deb Johnson, Patricia Smith, Joan Davidson, Jo Cargill-Krug, Matt Stephenson, John & Susan Dempsey, Nelda Mitchell, and Isabelle Tenace.

And we pray for those for whom our prayers have been requested: Jim Wilson, Lucy Harris, Jay, Lakyn Chambers, Cindy Sellers Roach, Autumn Celestine, Kitten Lawless, DeAnna McCool, Robin Goertz, Gerry Goertz & Jinny Goertz, Tom & Kathy Celestine, Mary Myers, Mason Evans, Mark & Jennifer, Sandra Hughes, Susan, Ken Ortman, Jody Gayle, Stacey Lindsey, Tara Nance, Laymon Tunstill, the Sweet Family, Carol Robinson, Jane & Bob Williams, Rebecca Ward, the Fancher family, and the Mian Family.

We give thanks for those celebrating birthdays this week, Fuller Bumpers (11/20), Sarah Drake (11/24), Regina Cooper (11/24), and Inge Grahn (11/25).

*Silence*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## **Confession of Sins**

*The Deacon or Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence may be kept.*

*Minister and People*

**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.**

*The Bishop when present, or the Priest, stands and says*

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.**

## **Peace**

*All stand. The Celebrant says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

*People*

**And also with you.**

*Then the Ministers and the People may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

## **Announcements**

# **The Holy Communion**

*The Celebrant may begin the Offertory with an Offertory sentence.*

**Offertory Anthem: Draw Near All Ye People**

Felix Mendelssohn

*From Elijah; sung by Russell Garrett, Baritone*

## The Great Thanksgiving, Prayer B

*The people remain standing*

The Lord be with you.

**People** *And also with you.*

*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.

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

*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

*Celebrant proceeds*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; for you are the source of light and life, you made us in your image, and call'd us to new life in Jesus Christ our Lord.

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:

### Sanctus (S128)

*Celebrant and People*

Ho - ly, ho - ly,  
ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven 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.

*The people stand or kneel.*

*The Celebrant continues*

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.

*At the following words concerning the bread, the Celebrant is to hold it, or lay a hand upon it; and at the words concerning the cup, to hold or place a hand upon the cup and any other vessel containing wine to be consecrated.*

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,

*Celebrant and People*

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

*The Celebrant continues*

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 blessed Paul 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 Celebrant then continues*

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

*People and Celebrant*

**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.**

## **Breaking of the Bread**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread.*

*A period of silence is kept.*

*Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;  
Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.*

*The Celebrant says*

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.

## Communion Hymn

*I Want to Walk as A Child of The Light*

*After Communion, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

*Celebrant and People*

**Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in 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.**

## Blessing

The Peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord and; the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

## Post Communion Hymn 371 *Thou, Whose Almighty Word*

- <sup>1</sup> Thou, whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard,
- <sup>2</sup> Thou who didst come to bring on thy redeeming wing
- <sup>3</sup> Spirit of truth and love, life giving holy Dove,
- <sup>4</sup> Holy and Blessed Three, glorious Trinity,

and took their flight; hear us, we humbly pray, and, where the healing and sight, health to the sick in mind, sight to the speed forth thy flight! Move on the waters' face bearing the wisdom, love, might; boundless as ocean's tide, rolling in

Gospel day sheds not its glorious ray, let there be light!  
inly blind, now to all humankind, let there be light!  
gifts of grace, and, in earth's darkest place, let there be light!  
fullest pride, through the world far and wide, let there be light!

## Dismissal

*This Sunday's altar flowers are given by Shelba Avants to the glory of God and in memory of her parents, Cleo & Tressie Fudge.*

### **Ministers Serving this Sunday**

Eucharistic Minister (8:00): Mike Schmidt

Eucharistic Minister (10:30): Brenda Bittle

Lector (10:30): Sally Fittsizer

Acolyte: Karis Ford

Ushers: Fred Krug & Fuller Bumpers

Technical Support: Jon Healey

Coffee Hour: Nelda Mitchell

Altar Guild: Pat Mason & Melissa Taverner

Community Meal (11/22/2023): Team Strawberry Mennonites