



first community

November 23, 2025

10 am SOUTH

GREETING – Seth

PRELUDE – Robert, organ

*Chorale-Improvisation on "I Thank Thee,
Dearest Lord" Sigfrid Karg-Elert (1877-1933)*

CALL TO WORSHIP⁽¹⁾ – Seth

One: In this present time, no matter what
passes before us,

**Many: God is our refuge and strength, a
very present help in trouble.**

One: As earth shakes and nations are in an
uproar,

**Many: God is present with us and is our
refuge in times of trouble.**

One: As the world trembles in fear and worry,

**ALL: May we find stillness and peace,
knowing God is God of all.**

OPENING HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory

**God of grace and God of glory,
on thy people pour thy power;
crown thine ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flower.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.**

**Cure thy children's warring madness,
bend our pride to thy control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss thy righteous goal,
lest we miss thy righteous goal.**

**Set our feet on lofty places;
fill our lives that we may be
strengthened with all Christ-like graces
pledges to set all captives free.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we fail our call from thee,
lest we fail our call from thee.**

**Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the search for thy salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving thee whom we adore,
serving thee whom we adore.**

WELCOME – Glen

CHILDREN'S MOMENT – Seth

ANTHEM- Cambridge Choir
Hallelujah, Amen from Judas Maccabeus
George Frederic Handel (1685-1759)

**PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE
LORD'S PRAYER – Glen**

OFFERTORY

Invitation to Vision – Seth

Receiving the People's Gifts

Anthem – Robert Griffith, organ
Thanks Be to God
George Frederic Handel (1685-1759)

Presentation of Gifts and Prayer of Dedication⁽²⁾- Seth

ONE: As the gifts are presented, will all rise in body or spirit?

**ALL: God of All Time and Space,
You call us to transform the world through
the extension of your grace to all of
creation. May we find new and creative
ways to share our treasures, talents, and
time in order to create your realm here on
earth. May we work to create paradise
beginning here today. Amen.**

Doxology LASST UNS ERFREUEN - verse 1
**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, the source of all our gifts!
Praise Jesus Christ whose power uplifts!
Praise the Spirit, Holy Spirit!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

GOSPEL LESSON-Deacon

Luke 23.33-43

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[³⁴ Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are

doing.”]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. ³⁵ And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” ³⁶ The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine ³⁷ and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” ³⁸ There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.”

³⁹ One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” ⁴⁰ But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? ⁴¹ And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” ⁴² Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.” ⁴³ He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

SERMON – John

“A Little Whiplash, A Lot of Welcome, and A Criminal in My Pew?”

HYMN OF PREPARATION

Have Thine Own Way, Lord!

**Have thine own way, Lord!
Have thine own way!
Thou art the potter,
I am the clay.
Mold me and make me
after thy will,
while I am waiting,
yielded and still.**

COMMUNION

Invitation to Communion – Seth
Receiving Communion
Prayer of Thanksgiving – Seth

CLOSING HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

**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.**

**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 with tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished,
Joyful and free.**

BENEDICTION – Seth

POSTLUDE – Robert, organ

*Chorale-Improvisation on "Now Thank We All
Our God" Sigfrid Karg-Elert*

1 Inspired by Psalm 46

2 Worship Ways, Reign of Christ - C, November 23, 2025