



November 1, 2026 | 9:00 AM | TWENTY-THIRD Sunday after Pentecost

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey,
You're welcome here!

Technical Directors: Jody Meyer, Corey Dornbrack
Organist: Darlene Johnson
Music Director: Tiffany Bucheger
Faith Formation Director: Kari Weiland

On most Sundays, the children will follow their teachers to Sunday School after the "Time for All Ages." On Communion Sunday, they will start in Sunday School and join their families for Communion during the service

To encourage children to participate in worship, please use the bookmarks available to mark the pages for today's hymns. Go through the bulletin with your children and circle the things in which they might be interested (Children's time, hymns, helping with the offering). Mark the bulletin with symbols for when it is time to be quiet and listen, join in the hymn, read a prayer aloud, etc.

Busy Bags are available in the church entryway. Quite often, children can absorb what is going on in church if their hands are occupied and their minds do not have to focus so much on "behaving." It takes a great deal of energy and concentration for a child to stay quiet and still. Please use the busy bags to occupy their hands so they are free to listen. Nudge them when it is time for a hymn and ask them to sing along with you. Encourage them to come forward for the Time for All Ages and to participate in other ways during the service.

POINTS TO PONDER PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

Ambrose Bierce, 20th century

"Hypocrisy: prejudice with a halo."

Quick and Easy Electronic Giving!!

To give an offering to the church, text **"SAINTSTEPHENS"** to **73256** to give using your mobile device. This number will never send unsolicited texts to you. To cancel further messages, text STOP. If you need assistance with text giving, text HELP. Standard text message and data rates may apply. **OR Scan the QR Code** to be connected to our website.



SOMETHING TO INSPIRE

WELCOME

PRELUDE

GREETING AND INVOCATION

In the name of the Creator, the Christ and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The grace of our Savior Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray:

O God, generous and supreme, your loving Son lived among us, instructing us in the ways of humility and justice. Continue to ease our burdens, and lead us to serve alongside of him, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

* CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on Micah 3:5-12)

Let all those who cry “Peace” when they have something to eat,
But declare war and demand humiliation for those who have nothing to eat,
The sun shall set upon such people and God will bring about a new day.

The proud shall be disgraced, they shall find themselves far away from God.
We come to get closer to God.

The God of justice fills us with God’s Spirit.

Here in worship we find courage to speak truth to power.

Here in worship, we open our eyes.

And the Lord delivers us to a new way of living.

Let us worship God!

* CELEBRATION HYMN

“How Lovely Lord”

#285

* PRAYER FOR TRANSFORMATION AND NEW LIFE

Most merciful God,

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.

WORDS OF GRACE

... and keep you in eternal life. Amen.

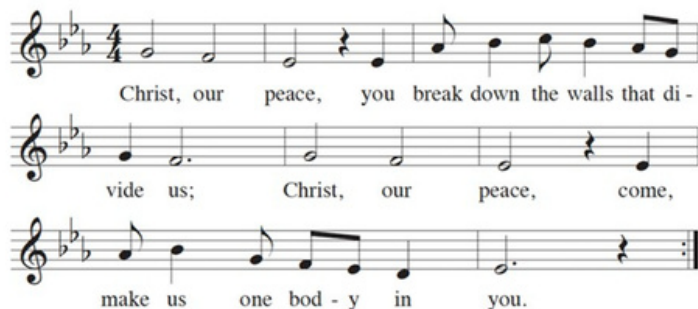
* RESPONSE

“Christ Our Peace” 2x

Text and Music: Marty Haugen

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* PASSING THE PEACE

The Peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

A TIME FOR ALL AGES

A LESSON FROM TORAH

Joshua 3:7-17

⁷The Lord said to Joshua, “This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so that they may know that I will be with you as I was with Moses. ⁸You are the one who shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, ‘When you come to the edge of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.’ ” ⁹Joshua then said to the Israelites, “Draw near and hear the words of the Lord your God.” ¹⁰Joshua said, “By this you shall know that among you is the living God who without fail will drive out from before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites: ¹¹the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is going to pass before you into the Jordan. ¹²So now select twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. ¹³When the soles of the feet of the priests who bear the ark of the Lord, the Lord of all the earth, come to rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan flowing from above shall be cut off; they shall stand in a single heap.”

¹⁴ When the people set out from their tents to cross over the Jordan, the priests bearing the ark of the covenant were in front of the people. ¹⁵ Now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest. So when those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the edge of the water, ¹⁶ the waters flowing from above stood still, rising up in a single heap far off at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, while those flowing toward the sea of the Arabah, the Dead Sea, were wholly cut off. Then the people crossed over opposite Jericho. ¹⁷ While all Israel were crossing over on dry ground, the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firmly on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, until the entire nation finished crossing over the Jordan.

THE GOOD NEWS

Matthew 23:1-12

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples, "The scribes and the Pharisees sit on Moses' seat; therefore, do whatever they teach you and follow it; but do not do as they do, for they do not practice what they teach. They tie up heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on the shoulders of others; but they themselves are unwilling to lift a finger to move them. They do all their deeds to be seen by others; for they make their phylacteries broad and their fringes long. They love to have the place of honor at banquets and the best seats in the synagogues, and to be greeted with respect in the market-places, and to have people call them rabbi. But you are not to be called rabbi, for you have one teacher, and you are all students. And call no one your father on earth, for you have one Father — the one in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. All who exalt themselves will be humbled, and all who humble themselves will be exalted."

This is the Good News. In this truth we find eternal life.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

PRAYERS of the FAITHFUL

...God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO GENEROSITY

OFFERTORY

* PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

"God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending" vs. 3

#606

* PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Gracious God, may generosity be our refrain as we offer these gifts:
the generosity of gifts presented;
the generosity of faith shared;
the generosity of hope declared.
Bless our giving through the generous Spirit of Jesus. Amen.**

Order for the Sacrament Of Holy Communion

* INVITATION

* COMMUNION HYMN *"One Bread, One Body" vss. 1 & 3*

#393

* COMMUNION PRAYER

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to God Most High.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

...we praise your holy name:

* SANCTUS

Music: Alice Jordan

***Holy, holy, holy God of love and majesty,
the whole universe speaks of your glory, O God Most High.
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of our God!
Hosanna in the highest!***

PRAYER OF INSTITUTION

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Al-le-lu-ia, a-men, a-men.

PREPARING THE SERVERS

CALL TO THE TABLE

SHARING THE ELEMENTS

Lamb of God (video)

THANKSGIVING AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray:

O God, the host at every meal, at this table you spread out a feast for all peoples, the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Send us from this banquet to invite others into these good things, to let justice roll down like waters and to care for the least of our sisters and brothers; through Jesus Christ our Sovereign and Savior. Amen.

* CLOSING HYMN

"Holy God, We Praise Your Name"

Next Pg

Words: Anon. German traditional, circa 1774

Translation Clarence Alphonsus Walworth, 1853, alt.

Music: Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, c. 1774

Public Domain

* BENEDICTION

Our worship has ended and now our service begins.

Go from this place for you are the Body of Christ

And the whole world awaits you.

So live passionately and love faithfully,

And celebrate every moment of your life

And every opportunity to be Christ to someone in your life

From now until the Finale. Amen.

Amen.

Our God of relentless grace go with you.

Thanks be to God.

♩ = 120

1. Wher - ev - er you go, God is with you; wher -
 2. Wher - ev - er we go, God is with us; wher -

-ev - er you go, God is there. Wher - ev - er you go, what -
 -ev - er we go, God is there. Wher - ev - er we go, what -

-ev - er you do, you are in God's care.
 -ev - er we do, we are in God's care.

Holy God, We Praise Your Name

Anon., German, c. 1774

Transl. Clarence Alphonsus Walworth, 1853; alt.

1 Ho - ly God, we praise your name; Sov - ereign God, we
2 Hark, the glad ce - les - tial hymn an - gel choirs a -
3 All a - pos - tles join the strain as your sa - cred
4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, Ho - ly Son, Ho - ly Spir - it,

bow be - fore you; All on earth your scep - ter claim,
round are rais - ing; Cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim,
name they hal - low; Proph - ets swell the glad re - frain,
Three we name you, While in es - sence tru - ly one,

all the heaven - ly hosts a - dore you. In - fi - nite your
in un - ceas - ing cho - rus prais - ing, Fill the heavens with
and the bless - ed mar - tyrs fol - low; And from morn to
un - di - vid - ed God we claim you; So we gath - er

vast do - main, ev - er - last - ing is your reign.
joys a - flame: ho - ly, ho - ly is your name.
set of sun, through the church the song goes on.
rev - erent - ly to a - dore the mys - ter - y.

Tune: GROSSER GOTT, WIR LOBEN DICH

7.8.7.8.7.7.

Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, c. 1774

Alt. Johann Gottfried Schicht, 1819

Thank you!

Musicians today are Tiffany Bucheger and Darlene Johnson.

Radio Ministry is sponsored in appreciation of the Dinner @ 5 volunteers, from Todd & Renea Frederick.

Livestream is sponsored by Sue Kunkel in honor of Luke & Tricia Lazare's 19th wedding anniversary.

Technical Directors: Jody Meyer, Corey Dornbrack

Remember : We have Christmas Spirit tags on the blue giving tree!
Please, with generous hearts, take and fill as much as you are able
and return to the church unwrapped! We appreciate the ability we
have to contribute to the children needing love and extra blessings
during the Christmas season!

Messy Church Starting Back Up Next Sunday,
November 8 from 4 - 6 PM!!



TAKING THE LESSONS HOME

Jesus reminds us that good leaders are humble leaders. We learn to be humble leaders by trying to be faithful followers of Jesus' way of love, healing and forgiveness. Worship gives us a chance to practice our following skills. We follow an order for worship, a song leader, the pastor and the liturgist. We follow the pastor in the sharing of Communion.

During dinner this week, ask your children to talk about the people they followed during the day. Were the people they followed leading them in a humble way, a way of serving them?

Talk about the people who followed them. Were they being humble and faithful in their leading others?

When they were following others, were they following what the leader said or what they were doing? Do they think the person leading them was "walking the walk" or just "talking the talk?"

When they were in the role of leader, how did they lead—by talking or doing?

Conversations like these can help your children learn to think critically about their relationships, how they are being treated and how they treat others. This ability will become critical in personal relationships as they mature.

GET INTO THE HOLIDAY SPIRIT BAKING FESTIVE
TREATS AND ENJOYING WARM COMMUNITY
CHEER!

Christmas Cookie

BAKE

ON NOVEMBER 29 AFTER
CHURCH AROUND 10:30, JOIN
THE WISE TEAM FOR A COUPLE
HOURS OF FUN BAKING AND
DECORATING HOLIDAY COOKIES.
YOU MUST SIGN UP BELOW TO
ATTEND.

YOU ARE INVITED TO

"THE VIBE"

OPEN MIC NIGHT

NOVEMBER 6

6 - 8 PM

AT ST STEPHENS UCC, MERRILL, WI

KUCK LOUNGE

SING PLAY POETRY COMEDY STORIES

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Timothy Ruprecht	Facilities Manager	
Darlene Johnson	Organist	