MY FUTURE HIS CARE
TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
11-15-26

WORSHIP THEME: Over the past several weeks we have been thinking about the future. What the future holds, but more than that, who holds the future. In the end, our future is in God's care. Our future is not grounded in progress and optimization or the lack thereof. Our future is grounded in God's promises and faithfulness.

† GOD CALLS †

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
ALL: Amen!

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING SONG
"Praise The One Who Breaks the Darkness"

Praise the One who breaks the darkness
With a liberating light;
Praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
Turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the Gospel,
Healing ev'ry dread disease,
Calming storms, and feeding thousands
With the very Bread of peace.

Praise the One who blessed the children
With a strong, yet gentle, word;
Praise the One who drove out demons
With the piercing, two-edged sword.
Praise the One who brings cool water
To the desert's burning sand;
From this Well comes living water,
Quenching thirst in ev'ry land.

Let us praise the Word Incarnate,
Christ, who suffered in our place.
Jesus died and rose victorious
That we may know God by grace.

Let us sing for joy and gladness,
Seeing what our God has done;
Let us praise the true Redeemer,
Praise the One who makes us one.

† GOD CLEANSES †

TIME OF CONFESSION PSALM 51 AND FORGIVENESS PSALM 62

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God Almighty,

ALL: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions. Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned…Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Pastor: The soul finds rest in God alone, our salvation comes from Him. He is our rock, and our salvation. May your soul find rest that in Christ your sins are forgiven, by the grace given to you in the mercy of God. Trust in Him at all times, O people, pour out your hearts to Him, for God is our refuge.
ALL: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE
"The Doxology" (Lans Erns Effrans)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below:
Alleluia, alleluia
Praise him above ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost:
O praise him, O praise him,
Alleluia! Allelulia! Allelluia!

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you all!
ALL: And also with you!

† GOD SPEAKS †

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT
Zephaniah 1:7-16

Be silent before the Sovereign Lord, for the day of the Lord is near.

The Lord has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated those he has invited. 8 "On the day of the Lord's sacrifice I will punish the officials and the king's sons
and all those clad in foreign clothes.

9 On that day I will punish all who avoid stepping on the threshold,[a] who fill the temple of their gods with violence and deceit.

10 "On that day," declares the Lord, "a cry will go up from the Fish Gate, wailing from the New Quarter, and a loud crash from the hills. 11 Wail, you who live in the market district[b]; all your merchants will be wiped out, all who trade with[c] silver will be destroyed. 12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, 'The Lord will do nothing, either good or bad.'

13 Their wealth will be plundered, their houses demolished. Though they build houses, they will not live in them; though they plant vineyards, they will not drink the wine."

14 The great day of the Lord is near—near and coming quickly. The cry on the day of the Lord is bitter; the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry. 15 That day will be a day of wrath—a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness— 16a day of trumpet and battle cry
against the fortified cities and against the corner towers.

THE EPISTLE
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

3 While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise
you like a thief. 5 You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not
belong to the night or to the darkness.

6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober.
7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night.
8 But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a
breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet.

9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord
Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live
together with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just
as in fact you are doing.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God!

THE HOLY GOSPEL
Matthew 25:14-30

"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,[a] 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.’

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ!

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH:
The Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

BRINGING OUR BLESSINGS
with Thanksgiving in our Offering

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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.

PSALM 90

Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. 2 Before the
mountains were born or you brought forth the whole world, from everlasting to
everlasting you are God.

3 You turn people back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, you mortals." 4 A thousand
years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.
5 Yet you sweep people away in the sleep of death—they are like the new grass of the
morning: 6 In the morning it springs up new, but by evening it is dry and withered.

7 We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation. 8 You have set our
iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. 9 All our days pass
away under your wrath; we finish our years with a moan. 10 Our days may come to
seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but
trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.

11 If only we knew the power of your anger! Your wrath is as great as the fear that is
your due. 12 Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
13 Relent, Lord! How long will it be? Have compassion on your servants.

14 Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be
glad all our days. 15 Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us, for as
many years as we have seen trouble.

16 May your deeds be shown to your servants, your splendor to their children.
17 May the favor[a] of the Lord our God rest on us; establish the work of our hands for
us—yes, establish the work of our hands.

MESSAGE

SONG OF THE DAY

“Reformation Song” (v 1-4)

Your Word alone is solid ground,
the mighty rock on which we build
In ev’ry line the truth is found,
and ev’ry page with with glory filled.

Thro’ faith alone we come to you;
we have no merit we can claim.
Sure that your promises are true,
we place our hope in Jesus’ name.

Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.
Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.

In Christ alone we’re justified;
his righteousness is all our plea.
Your law’s demands are satisfied;
his perfect work has set us free.

Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.
Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.

By grace alone we have been saved;
all that we are has come from you.
Hearts that were once by sin enslaved
now by your pow’r have been made new.

Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.
Gloria, gloria, glory to God alone.

† GOD GIVES †

Here our Lord gives to us His own Body and Blood for the forgiveness of all our sins.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

DISTRIBUTION
“Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me”

What a gift of grace is Jesus, my Redeemer;
there is no more for heaven now to give.
He is my joy, my righteousness and freedom,

my steadfast love, my deep and boundless peace.

To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus,
for my life is wholly bound to his.
Oh, how strange and divine, I can sing: all is mine!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

The night is dark, but I am not forsaken,
for by my side, the Savior, he will stay.
I labor on in weakness and rejoicing,
for in my need his power is displayed.

To this I hold: my Shepherd will defend me;
through the deepest valley he will lead.
Oh, the night has been won, and I shall overcome!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

No fate I dread; I know I am forgiven;
the future sure, the price, it has been paid.
For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon,
and he was raised to over throw the grave.

To this I hold: my sin has been defeated;
Jesus now and ever is my plea.
Oh, the chains are released, I can sing: I am free!
Yet not I, but through Christ in me.

With ev'ry breath I long to follow Jesus,
for he has said that he will bring me home.
And day by day I know he will renew me
until I stand with joy before the throne.

To this I hold: my hope is only Jesus;
all the glory evermore to him.
When the race is complete, still my lips shall repeat:
yet not I, but through Christ in me.

DISMISSAL

CLOSING SONG
"Take My Life" (HT)

Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in cease-less praise.
Take my hands and let them move
At the impulse of Thy love;
Take my feet and let them be
Swift and beautiful for Thee.

Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only, for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.
Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I with-hold;
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as you choose.

Here am I, all of me
Take my life, it's all for Thee

Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.
Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Your feet its treasure-store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all, for Thee.

Here am I, all of me
Take my life, it's all for Thee

† GOD BLESSES & SENDS †

BLESSING

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
ALL: Amen!

Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord!
ALL: Thanks be to God