

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

5322 PALMS ROAD, CASCO TWP., MI 48064

25<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST - CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 19, 2023 –9:30 A.M.

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## PRELUDE

## RINGING OF THE BELL

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**GREETING** P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:13)

**C: And also with you.**

P: You are the treasured people of the Lord, **C: a people holy to the Lord our God.**

P: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children. **C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.** P: One does not live by bread alone, **C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.**

(Deuteronomy 26, 11, 8)

P: Let us sing our praises to the Lord!

## **GATHERING SONG: Open The Eyes of My Heart**

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord . . . Open the eyes of my heart,  
I want to see You, . . . . . I want to see You.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord . . . .Open the eyes of my heart,  
I want to see You, . . . . . I want to see You.

To see You high and lifted up . . . . Shining in the light of Your glory,  
Pour out Your power and love . . . .As we sing holy, holy, holy . . . .

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord . . . Open the eyes of my heart,  
I want to see You, . . . . . I want to see You.

Open the eyes of my heart, Lord . . . .Open the eyes of my heart,  
I want to see You, . . . . . I want to see You.

To see You high and lifted up . . . . Shining in the light of Your glory,  
Pour out Your power and love . . . .As we sing holy, holy, holy . . . .

**CHORUS:** Holy, holy, holy . . . holy, holy, holy . . . Holy, holy, holy,  
I want to see You . . . .

Holy, holy, holy . . . holy, holy, holy . . . Holy, holy, holy,  
I want to see You . . . .

I want to see . . . . You.

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## **PRAYER OF THE DAY** P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with You.**

*Let Us Pray* Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

## **FIRST READING:** Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

<sup>7</sup>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. <sup>12</sup>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." <sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>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. <sup>15</sup>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, <sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>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! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 25th chapter.

**All: Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>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.' <sup>21</sup>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.' <sup>22</sup>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.' <sup>23</sup>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.' <sup>24</sup>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; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup>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? <sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## CHILDREN'S SONG: Oh How I Love Jesus

**Refrain:** Oh, how I love Je - sus . . Oh, how I love Je - sus . .  
Oh, how I love Je - sus . . be-cause he first loved me!

There is a na-me I love to hear . . I love to si-ng its worth . .  
It sounds like mu - sic in my ear . . the sweet-est name on earth.

**Refrain:** Oh, how I love Je - sus . . Oh, how I love Je - sus . .  
Oh, how I love Je - sus . . be-cause he first loved me!

Words: Frederick Whitfield, 1829-1904 Music: Traditional Public Domain

## **THE SERMON**

### HYMN OF THE DAY: HYMN of the Day: Take My Life That I May Be ELW #685

1--Take my life, that I may be, con-se-crat-ed Lord, to thee,  
Take my mo-ments and my days . . let them flow in cease-less praise.

2--Take my hands, and let them move . . at the im-pulse of thy love;  
Take my feet and let them be . . swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.

3--Take my voice and let me sing . . al-ways, on-ly, for my King;  
Take my lips and let them be . . filled with mes - sag - es from thee.

4--Take my sil-ver and my gold, not a mite would I with-hold;  
Take my in-tel-lect, and use . . ev-'ry pow-er as thou shalt choose.

5--Take my will and make it thine . . it shall be no long-er mine.  
Take my heart, it is thine own . . it shall be thy roy-al throne.

6--Take my love; my Lord, I pour . . at thy feet its trea-sure store;  
Take my-self, and I will be . . ev-er, on-ly, all for thee.

Words: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-1879; Music: William H. Havergal, 1793-1870

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## **AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM**

Council Representative: I present Savannah Eva Letson, who desires to make public affirmation of her baptism.

Pastor: Let us pray together. **Congregation: Merciful God, we thank you for this confirmand whom you have made your own by water and the Word in baptism. You have called her to yourself, enlightened her with the gifts of your Spirit, and nourished her in the community of faith. Uphold your servant in the gifts and promises of baptism, and unite the hearts of all whom you have brought to new birth. We ask this in the name of Christ. Amen**

## PROFESSION OF FAITH

Pastor: Savannah and all present today, I now ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

P: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God? **ALL: I renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God? **ALL: I renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God? **ALL: I renounce them.**

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**All: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**All: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen**

P: Savannah, you have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?  
Savannah: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

To the assembly----

P: People of God, do you promise to support Savannah and pray for her in her life in Christ?

**C: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

### RECEIVING OF THE CONFIRMATION VERSE AND BLESSINGS

*Savannah Eva Letson*

P: By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. Galatians 5:22-23

P: Stir up in Savannah Eva Letson the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Confirmand: AMEN

P: Let us pray, We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give us new birth, cleanse us from sin, and raise us to eternal life. **C: Amen.**

### BLESSING FROM THE CONGREGATION

P: Let us rejoice with our sister in Christ. **C: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth's resources. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders. Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. We remember before you *especially* .....

And those we name now - out loud, in our hearts,  
or add in the comment section at this time. ..  
(pause for names to be added).

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of life and rest and for the witness of those who have died in faith we praise your goodness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**THE PEACE** P: The peace of Christ be with you. **C: And also with you.**

**P:** I invite you, at this time, to make a gesture of peace to your siblings in Christ.



**THE THANK OFFERING** *For those who desire to make a financial offering you may drop them off at the offering station before or after service. For those who wish to make an online financial offering scan the QR code with your mobile device or go to: [secure.myvanco.com/YM5K/home](https://secure.myvanco.com/YM5K/home) You may also choose to mail your offerings to the church: 5322 Palms Road, Casco, MI, 48064*

### **THE OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Let us pray – God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. **C: Amen**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

P: Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

P: Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

P: Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

**C: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.**

P: Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

**C: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.**

P: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: **C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER - - sing**

**C: 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**THE MEAL** P: All those who believe in the promise are invited to partake in God's amazing grace at this time.

### **COMMUNION HYMN: : I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light ELW#815**

1) I want to walk as a child of the light . . . I want to fol - low Je - sus.

God set the stars to give light to the world. The star of my life, is Je - sus.

**REFRAIN:** In him there is, no dark-ness at all. The night and the day, are both, a-like.

The lamb is the light of the cit - y of God . . . Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

2) I want to see, the bright-ness of God . . . I want to look, at Je - sus.  
Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.

**REFRAIN**

3) I'm look-ing for, the com-ing of Christ . . . I want to be, with Je - sus.  
When we have run, with pa-tience the race, we shall know the joy, of Je - sus. **REFRAIN**

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**COMMUNION, POST COMMUNION LITURGY**

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and give you peace.

**C: Amen**

**DOXOLOGY** - Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Public Domain

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey,  
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts  
as we meet you on the way. **C: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **C: Amen**

**SENDING HYMN: Christ Be Our Light ELW#715**

1) Long-ing for light . . we wait in dark-ness . . long-ing for truth . . we turn to you . .  
Make us your own . . your ho-ly peo-ple . . light for the world, to see . . . .  
**REFRAIN: Christ . .be . .our light! . . . Shine in our hearts . . . shine through the dark - ness.**  
**Christ . . . be . . our light! . . . Shine in your church . . . gath-ered to - day.**

2) Long-ing for peace . . our world is trou - bled . . long-ing for hope . . man-y de - spair . .  
Your word a - lone . . has pow'r to save us . . make us your liv - ing voice . . . **REFRAIN**

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**DISMISSAL** P: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

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*Additional Reading for this week - - Psalm 90:1-12*

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*Wednesday , November 22, 2023 join us for Thanksgiving Eve Worship at  
7:00 p.m. in person or streamed on line.*

*Wednesday, November 29, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.  
Will be the next Midweek Devotional on Facebook with Pastor Kirk*