

23rd Sunday After Pentecost
November 16, 2025

GATHERING: *God invites us to enter His presence*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP *(Time for Silent Preparation)*



CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsively)*

Bonnie Mecaughey

The earth is the Lord's, for he made it:

Come, let us adore him.

Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness:

Come, let us adore him.

The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:

Come, let us adore him.

Lord, open our lips.

And our mouths shall proclaim your praise.



INVOCATION *(Responsively)*

Bonnie Mecaughey

Loving God,

we come to you in worship and thanksgiving.

You are greater than we can understand;

**open our eyes that we may see the wonderful truths
you have shown to us in Jesus.**

You are more loving than our hearts can respond to;

**help us to give ourselves to you in worship
so that we learn what you want us to be.**

You are wiser than we can know;

**still our minds as we worship you
so that we can understand the things you are saying to us.**

Loving God, in Jesus

you chose to come to the world in humility.

You chose the path the world saw as foolish.

You used what the world considered weak.

We worship and adore you. Amen.

✠ **OPENING HYMN 379** *Take My Life and Let It Be*

CONFESSING: *God invites us to be honest with Him*

CALL TO CONFESSION

Bonnie Mecaughey

God's Word assures us:
If we say that we have no sin,
we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
If we confess our sins,
he who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God.
—based on 1 John 1:8-9, NRSV

PRAYER OF CONFESSION *(Responsively)* *Bonnie Mecaughey*

Lord, you showed us true humility by becoming one of us,
yet too often we practice pride.
You cried alongside your friends and for the city of Jerusalem,
yet too often we rush past the pain of others and are careless about our cities.
You loved those who were weak, despised, or cast out,
yet too often we love those who are strong, respected, or popular.
You freely forgave and healed,
yet too often we hold grudges and cause pain.
You lived a perfectly holy life,
yet too often we do not yearn for righteousness.
You prayed that we who believe in you should be united with each other and you,
yet too often we focus on the differences that separate us from other believers.
You were mocked, whipped, and even killed for us,
yet too often we deny you.
You call us to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world,
yet too often we blend into or hide from our culture.
Forgive us, Lord, so that we will shine with your glory. Amen.

TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Bonnie Mecaughey

What then are we to say about these things?
If God is for us, who is against us?
He who did not withhold his own Son,
but gave him up for all of us,
will he not with him also give us everything else?
Who will bring any charge against God's elect?
It is God who justifies.
Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes,
who was raised, who is at the right hand of God,
who indeed intercedes for us.
Who will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine,
or nakedness, or peril, or sword?
No, in all these things we are more than conquerors
through him who loved us.
For we are convinced that neither death, nor life,
nor angels, nor rulers,
nor things present, nor things to come,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor anything else in all creation,
will be able to separate us
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.
—Romans 8:31-35, 37-39, NRSV

Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God

GLORIA PATRI

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
And to the Holy Ghost:
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.
A-men, A-men*

OFFERING: *Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him*

INVITATION God has shown us the meaning of generosity in the beautiful diversity of creation, in the overflowing love of Jesus Christ, in the never-ending gift of the Holy Spirit. God has abundantly blessed us and called us to be a community that honors each other,
to serve others with joy, to share our love and material possessions.
Let us rejoice in what we have been given and in what is ours to give.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Jesus Calms the Storm*
Lila Steinginga



DOXOLOGY

*Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*



PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Ever-present God, with this offering we present also ourselves, all that we have been, all that we are, all that we shall become, and our resolve to walk in your way. Accept us and our offering, we pray, for Jesus' sake. **Amen.**



PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with You
All: And also with you



PREPARATION SONG

My Soul Will Wait (See Screen)

PROCLAIMING: *God speaks to us through His Work*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Living God, help us to hear your holy Word with open hearts
so that we may truly understand; and, understanding,
that we may believe; and, believing,
that we may follow in all faithfulness and obedience,
seeking your honor and glory in all that we do.
Through Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 3:17- 4:6

¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

¹⁸ Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them. ²⁰ Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. ²² Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. ²³ Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. ²⁵ For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.

4 Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

² Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving. ³ At the same time, pray also for us, that God may open to us a door for the word, to declare the mystery of Christ, on account of which I am in prison— ⁴ that I may make it clear, which is how I ought to speak.

⁵ Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. ⁶ Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.

SERMON *“The Upward and Outward Life”*
Rev. Dan Stewart

 **HYMN OF RESPONSE 620** *We Give Thee But Thine Own*

RESPONDING: *We respond to God’s Word*

 **PROFESSION OF FAITH** (*In Unison*)

God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change,
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,
the holy habitation of the Most High.
God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be moved;
God will help it when the morning dawns.
The nations are in an uproar, the kingdoms totter;
he utters his voice, the earth melts.
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
Come, behold the works of the LORD;
see what desolations he has brought on the earth.
He makes wars cease to the end of the earth;
he breaks the bow, and shatters the spear;
he burns the shields with fire.
“Be still, and know that I am God!
I am exalted among the nations,
I am exalted in the earth.”
The LORD of hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob is our refuge.
—Psalm 46, NRSV

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving God,
we offer these prayers,
joining our voices to the great chorus of those
who sing your praise and depend on you alone.
We long for that day when all your children
will live in your peace and praise your name.
Until that day, give us sturdy patience and enduring hope,
rooted only in Jesus, in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

COMMISSIONING: *God sends us out into the world as His witnesses*



COMMISSION HYMN 371 *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*

BENEDICTION & BLESSING

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
—Romans 15:13, NRSV

POSTLUDE



Please stand if you are able.