

November 16, 2025
23rd Sunday after Pentecost



Worship Leaders:

Pastor Brian Entz & Theresa Bevilacqua

Music Leader:

Ralph Johansen

*Please read along with all **Bold** text*
*All are invited to stand when there is an **

Larger Print: Please see an usher if you would like larger print hymns and/ or bulletin.

Children's Bulletins: Please see an usher if you are interested in a children's bulletin.

PRELUDE

Elegy

George Thalben-Ball

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*I know that I have life
only insofar as I have love.*

*I have no love
except it come from Thee.*

*Help me, please, to carry
this candle against the wind.*

-Wendell Berry

GATHERING

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

The world belongs to God,

the earth and all its people.

How good it is, how wonderful

to live together in unity.

Love and faith come together;

justice and peace join hands.

If Christ's disciples keep silent,

these stones would shout aloud.

Open our lips, O God.

and our mouths shall proclaim your praise.

***OPENING HYMN**

#384 Soon and Very Soon

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

We have been buried with Christ in baptism, in order that we might be raised to new life with him through faith in the power of God. In reliance on God's grace, let us make our confession.

O Holy Source, merciful God, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and cravings of our own hearts. We have not lived into your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done; and we have done those things which we ought not to have done.

O Lord, have mercy upon us. Forgive us and all who confess our faults.

Restore all who turn to you, according to your promises declared to the world in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O merciful God, for Christ's sake, that we may live a holy, just, and humble life to the glory of your name. Amen.

As water is poured into the font remember your baptism and that in these waters you are named as one of God's beloved and joined to Christ forever.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

from Psalm 103

God has not dealt with us according to our sins, nor rewarded us according to our wickedness. For as far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed our sins from us. Friends, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free!

Alleluia, Amen!

***RESPONSE**

#581 The 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.

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

Since we have been made righteous through Christ's faithfulness, we have peace with God. Let us also share peace with one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*The people may exchange with their neighbors, by words or gesture,
signs of peace and reconciliation.*

WORD

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Open us, O God, to receive your Word today, that by it we might be transformed more and more into the likeness of Christ. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 65:17-25 (NRSV)

17For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind. 18But be glad and rejoice forever in what I am creating; for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy, and its people as a delight. 19I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people; no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress. 20No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days, or an old person who does not live out a lifetime; for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed. 21They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit. 22They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. 23They shall not labor in vain, or bear children for calamity; for they shall be offspring blessed by the LORD-and their descendants as well. 24Before they call I will answer, while they are yet speaking I will hear. 25The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox; but the serpent-its food shall be dust! They shall not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, says the LORD.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 (NRSV)

6Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. 7For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, 8and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labor we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. 9This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. 10For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat.

11For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. 12Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. 13Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

#353 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

GOSPEL READING

Luke 21:5-19 (NRSV)

5When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, 6"As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

7They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" 8And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

9"When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." 10Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; 11there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

12"But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. 13This will give you an opportunity to testify. 14So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; 15for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. 16You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. 17You will be hated by all because of my name. 18But not a hair of your head will perish. 19By your endurance you will gain your souls.

The Word of God for the people of God.
Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Rev. Brian Entz

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERTORY

Andante Tranquillo

Felix Mendelssohn

*"Let us present ourselves to God as those who have been delivered from death to life."
To contribute to our mission and ministry online, please scan the QR code.*



*DOXOLOGY

#606 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

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

*OFFERING PRAYER

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from The Confession of 1967

The reconciling work of Jesus was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for women and men when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to all, moves people to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ.

The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We praise you O God for your grace poured out upon us by your Holy Spirit, for your everlasting love, and your steadfast presence. **We praise you O God.**

We praise you O God for the beauty of your creation, from the smallest of insects to the tallest of mountains. **We praise you O God.** We thank you for the ways your creation provides for our needs and pray we might be good stewards of all you have made.

We praise you O God for the communities you have made for our home and for the nation we live in. **We praise you O God.** We pray for those in positions of leadership, that they may be wise, humble, and just in all they do. Empower us to live in love towards our neighbors and to serve them in the way of Jesus.

We praise you O God for your compassion for those in need and your solidarity with those who suffer. **We praise you O God.** Bless all who are oppressed, hurting, and made to feel less than your beloved children. Bring to them whatever relief, comfort, and justice they need and use us wherever possible to be the means of your compassion. We pray especially for peace in places experiencing war and violence, thinking particularly of Ukraine and Russia, Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Israel and Palestine.

We praise you O God for healing mercies and tender presence. **We praise you O God.** Be with all who are sick, injured, or in recovery and bring healing and comfort to them and their loved ones. Especially we pray for...

We praise you O God for your comfort in grief and the promise that death does not have the final word. **We praise you O God.** Bring comfort and peace to all who grieve and renew our hope in your promise of resurrection life. Especially we pray for...

We praise you O God for the gift of your Church. **We praise you O God.** We give you thanks that you have called each of us to be a part of this family, your body, here and in eternity. Help us, by your grace, to be faithful disciples of Jesus; living in love, extending the mercy we have been given, and glorifying you in all we do.

We praise you O God for Jesus Christ, your incarnate Word, our source and salvation who taught us to pray saying...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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.

SENDING

*CLOSING HYMN

#840 When Peace like a River (It Is Well with My Soul)

*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

Carillon

Douglas Wagner

***Our Mission is:
Loving all People, Living our Faith, and Following Jesus***

WORSHIP NOTES

The Call to Worship is taken from the Iona Abbey Worship Book, Wild Goose Publications (2017).

All other liturgy comes/is adapted from the Book of Common Worship (2018) or is written in house.

#384 Soon and Very Soon | TEXT: Andraé Crouch, 1976 | MUSIC: Andraé Crouch, 1976 | Text © 1976 Crouch Music and Bud John Songs (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com) Music © 1976 Crouch Music and Bud John Songs (admin. EMICMGPublishing.com)

#353 My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less | TEXT: Edward Mote, c. 1834, alt. | MUSIC: William Batchelder Bradbury, 1863, alt. | Public domain

#840 When Peace like a River (It Is Well with My Soul) | TEXT: Horatio G. Spafford, 1876, alt. | MUSIC: Philip P. Bliss, 1876 | Public domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lost & Found and Other Items: There is a table with items outside the Fellowship Hall. These items are free for the taking before **November 26th**.

Immigration Aid Collection: There is a bin outside the Fellowship Hall gathering donations of bath & body soap, dish soap, and laundry detergent.

Thanksgiving Service: Join us at Zion Lutheran for the Community Thanksgiving service on **November 26th at 7:30pm**.

Office Closed: The office will be closed in observance of **Thanksgiving on November 27, 2025**.

Poinsettia Orders: Please submit your poinsettia order and payment to Christy in the office by **November 30th**.

Deck the Halls: We will be Decking the Halls with our friends from Spirit of Joy on **November 30th at 10:30am!** After we decorate, we will enjoy a time of fellowship and a chili feed. There is a sign-up sheet outside the office if you are interested in providing chili and/or cornbread.

150th Celebration Worship Service: Join us in celebrating serving the community for 150 years! This special service will be on **December 7th at 9:30am**.

UPCOMING THIS WEEK

Today November 16th	9:30am: Worship 10:30am: CCC~Klaassen/Quady 50th Anniversary
Monday November 17th	5:00pm: Deacons Meeting
Tuesday November 18th	9:00am: Crafty Ladies 9:00am: Men's Breakfast at Forget Me Not Cafe 6:30pm: Session Meeting
Wednesday November 19th	7:00pm: Adult Choir
Thursday November 20th	7:30am: People of Faith via Zoom 10:00am: Women of Faith 5:30pm: Racial Justice Reading Group via Zoom
Sunday November 23rd	9:30am: Worship 10:30am: CCC~PASTors



How Can We Pray for You?

Scan the QR code to submit prayer requests.

BPC Prayer List:

- Family of Larry Pattee
- Milla Spike, Kevin's granddaughter
- Rich Dahl
- Mary Gillis, fighting cancer
- George, Elaine, and the Thole family following George's brother's death
- Dennis Stanley, fighting cancer
- Arthur James, Tanya's niece's baby
- Diane Ellis
- Family of Don Olsen
- Anne Marie Wille, Bonnie Morek's daughter
- Daniel & Gloria Elliot, Bonnie Morek's brother & sister-in-law
- Family of Lisa Johnson
- Dennis Sletten, friend of Diane
- Sherry Sletten, friend of Diane
- Lois Lindstrom
- Theresa
- Madree
- Jim, Elaine Thole's brother, following a diagnosis
- Donna, a friend of Lana Kopplin, who has cancer
- Jill, the niece of Al DeBellis, who has a terminal illness
- Jonathon, a friend of Barb & Larry Janski
- Shannon, Virginia's former daughter-in-law
- Erva Hance
- Barb and Tom Stone
- Jan Brown, early morning Women of Faith
- Rochelle Tandrian, Angela's daughter
- Jim and Jodi Underwood, Lanny & Shirley's son-in-law and daughter
- Brittany Daniels
- John and Charlotte Collins

For peace in Ukraine and Russia, Israel/Palestine, Congo, and around the world.

For our neighbor congregations in Buffalo and for the congregations of our presbytery.

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Soon and Very Soon

1 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
2 No more cry - ing there: we are going to see the King.
3 No more dy - ing there: we are going to see the King.
4 Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.

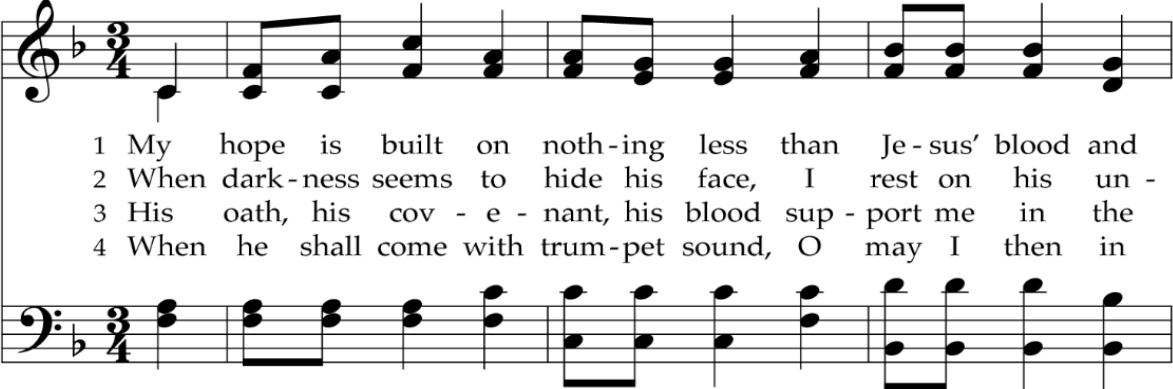
Soon and ver - y soon we are going to see the King.
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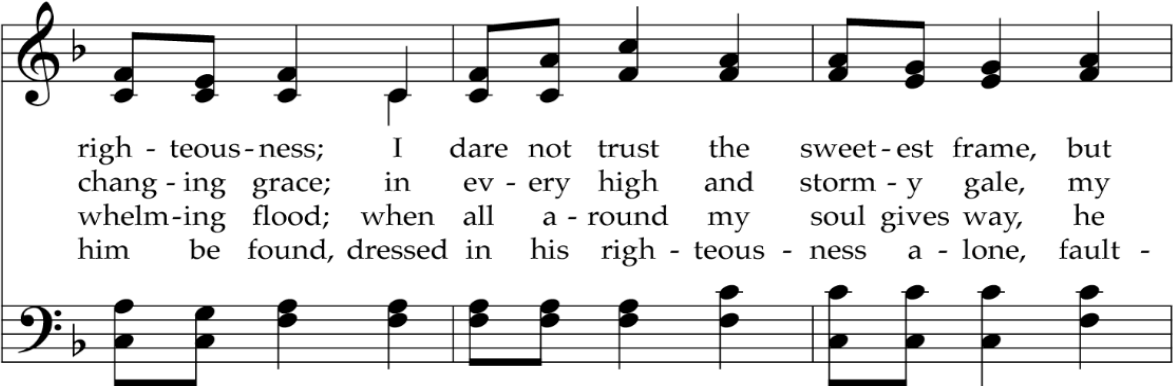
Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, we're going to see the King!

This spirited African American gospel hymn draws on John's vision of the new heaven and the new earth in Revelation 21:3-4, with its wonderful promise that God will wipe away the tears from all eyes, that death will be no longer, and that there will be no more mourning or pain.

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less 353

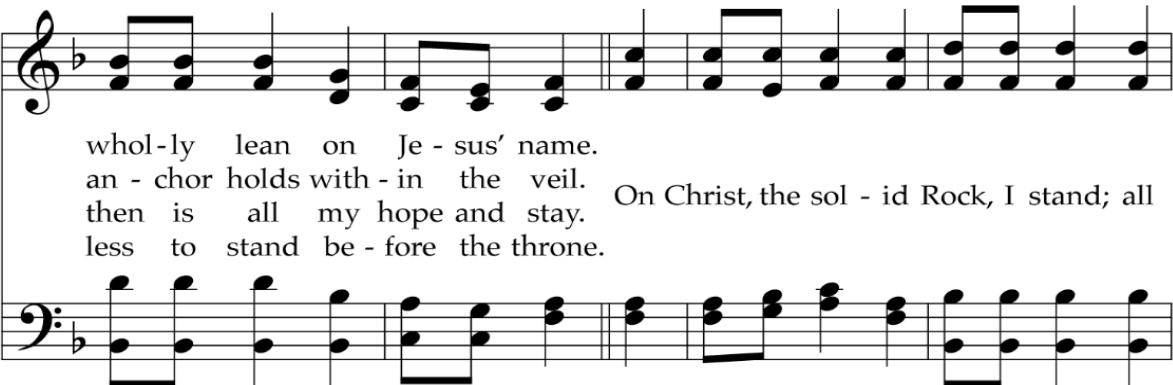


1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and
 2 When dark-ness seems to hide his face, I rest on his un -
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sup - port me in the
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, O may I then in



righteous-ness; I dare not trust the sweet-est frame, but
 chang-ing grace; in ev-ery high and storm-y gale, my
 whelm-ing flood; when all a-round my soul gives way, he
 him be found, dressed in his right-eous-ness a-lone, fault -

Refrain



whol-ly lean on Je-sus' name.
 an-chor holds with-in the veil. On Christ, the sol-id Rock, I stand; all
 then is all my hope and stay.
 less to stand be-fore the throne.



oth-er ground is sink-ing sand; all oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

This hymn develops the imagery of Jesus' remark (Matthew 7:24-27 / Luke 6:47-49) that those who believe in him and act on that belief are like someone who builds a house on a rock. The text is set to a tune created for it by a prolific 19th-century American composer and editor.

840 When Peace like a River

It Is Well with My Soul

1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
 2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
 3 He lives: O the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought. My
 4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the

sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
 this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
 sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to the cross and I
 clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the

taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
 help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
 bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain

It is well with my soul;
 It is well with my soul;

This text is a remarkable expression of faith born of grief. The author, an active Presbyterian layman who had just lost four daughters in a tragic shipwreck, wrote it while sailing to Paris to meet his wife, who had survived. The tune was named for the ship that sank.

TRUSTING IN THE PROMISES OF GOD

it is well; it is well with my soul.

The image shows a musical score for a hymn. It consists of two staves, a treble staff on top and a bass staff on the bottom, both in a key of three flats (B-flat major or D-flat minor). The melody is written in the treble staff, and the accompaniment is in the bass staff. The lyrics are written below the treble staff. The music is in 4/4 time. The melody starts on a whole note, followed by a half note, and then a quarter note. The accompaniment consists of chords. The lyrics are 'it is well; it is well with my soul.' The score ends with a double bar line.