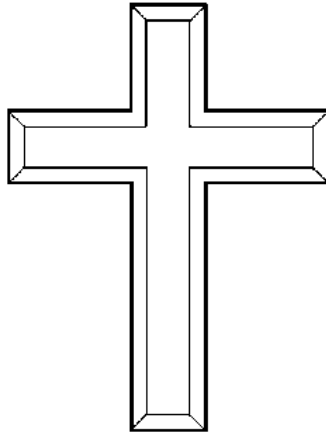


Church of the Holy Cross

Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost



November 19, 2023

10 a.m.

Holy Communion

40700 W. Ten Mile Road • Novi, MI 48375

248-427-1175

holycrossnovi@gmail.com


www.holycrossnovi.org

Gathering of the People

Prelude

Opening Hymn H 433


We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing




1 We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;
2 Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,
3 We all do ex - tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um - phant,



he chas - tens and has - tens his will to make known;
or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing his king - dom di - vine;
and pray that thou still our de - fend - er wilt be.



the wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing:
so from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning:
Let thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion:



sing prais - es to his Name; he for - gets not his own.
thou, Lord, wast at our side: all glo - ry be thine!
thy Name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

Words: Anon. 1625; tr. Theodore Baker (1851-1934). Music: *Kremser*, from *Nederlandsch Gedenckclank*, 1626; arr. Eduard Kremser (1838-1914).


Call to Worship

(A Celtic Primer, pg. 241)


Celebrant Blessed be God the Holy Trinity.
People **And blessed be God's realm, now and for ever. Amen.**

Celebrant Let us pray.
People **O God, you have called your people to your service from age to age.
Do not give us over to death, but raise us up
To serve you, to praise you, and to glorify your holy Name;
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**


Hymn of Praise H380 (vs.3) Praise to God



*3 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise



him, all crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye



heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Prayer of the Day

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Hebrew Scriptures

Zephaniah 1:7,12-18

Reader A Reading from Zephaniah.

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.

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."

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.

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.

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,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

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.

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.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 90:1-12

The congregation recites the verses in bold.

- 1 Lord, you have been our refuge *
from one generation to another.
- 2 **Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born, *
from age to age you are God.**
- 3 You turn us back to the dust and say, *
"Go back, O child of earth."
- 4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *
and like a watch in the night.**
- 5 You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
- 6 **In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**
- 7 For we consume away in your displeasure; *
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.
- 8 **Our iniquities you have set before you, *
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**
- 9 When you are angry, all our days are gone; *
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
- 10 **The span of our life is seventy years,
perhaps in strength even eighty; *
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**
- 11 Who regards the power of your wrath? *
who rightly fears your indignation?
- 12 **So teach us to number our days *
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

A Reading from the Letters

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Reader A Reading from first Thessalonians.


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

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.
People **Thanks be to God.**


Sequence Hymn H 440

Blessed Jesus, at thy word


(v. 1-2 before gospel, v. 3 after)




1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at thy word we are gath - ered all to
2 All our know - ledge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est dark - ness
3 Gra - cious Lord, thy - self im - part! Light of Light, from God pro -



hear thee; let our hearts and souls be stirred
shroud - ed, till thy Spi - rit breaks our night
ceed - ing, o - pen thou our ears and heart,



now to seek and love and fear thee; by thy teach - ings
with the beams of truth un - cloud - ed; thou a - lone to
help us by thy Spi - rit's plead - ing. Hear the cry thy



pure and ho - ly, drawn from earth to love thee sole - ly.
God canst win us; thou must work all good with - in us.
Church up - rais - es; hear, and bless our prayers and prais - es.

Words: Tobias Clausnitzer (1619-1684); tr. Catherine Winkworth (1829-1878); alt. Music: *Liebster Jesu*, melody Johann Rudolph Ahle (1625-1673); alt. *Das grosse Cantional: oder Kirchen-Gesangbuch*, 1687; harm. George Herbert Palmer (1846-1926).

Holy Gospel

Please stand as you are able.

Matthew 25:14-30

Deacon

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 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.' 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.' 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.' 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.' 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; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 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? 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. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the

ten talents. 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. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

The Rev. Ian Reed Twiss

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated
at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy universal and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of the People (BCP Form III)

I ask your prayers for God’s people throughout the world; for our Bishops Bonnie and Michael; for this gathering; and for all ministers and people. Pray for the Church.
(*Silence*)

I ask your prayers for peace; for goodwill among nations; and for the wellbeing of all people. Pray for justice and peace. (*Silence*)

I ask your prayers for the poor, the sick, the hungry, the oppressed, and those in prison. Pray for those in any need or trouble. (Silence)

I ask your prayers for all who seek God, or a deeper knowledge of God. Pray that they may find and be found by God. (Silence)

Praise God for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored. Pray that we may have grace to glorify Christ in our own day. (Silence)

Please offer your own prayers silently or aloud.

The Celebrant concludes:

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Peace

Celebrant May the peace of God be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

God's Peace is exchanged with one another.

The Liturgy of the Table

Offertory Sentence

Offertory Anthem Choir Anthem *With Grateful Heart* Arr. Mark Schweitzer

The hymn is sung while the Deacon sets the table.

Communion Prayer

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

Glory to you for ever and ever.

At your command all things came to be the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

By your will they were created and have their being.

From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.

Again, and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages, you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.

And therefore, we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

Sanctus WLP 785 *Santo, santo, santo*

San - to, san - to, san - to, mi cor - a - zon te a - do - ra! Mi
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you! My

cor - a - zon te sa - be de - cir: san - to e - res Se - ñor.
heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.

And so, God, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.

Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers; God of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar; Isaac and Rebekah; Jacob, Leah and Rachael; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

Risen Lord be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.

Accept these prayers and praises, O God, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

Celebrant takes and breaks the bread.

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Holy Gifts for Holy People.

Fraction Anthem Mass of Joy *Lamb of God*

O Lamb of God, you
take a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy on us.
O Lamb of God, you take a-way the
sin of the world, grant us your peace. Grant us your peace.

The Communion of the People

No one who comes to the bread and wine seeking Christ is turned away. The words of distribution are:

The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven. Amen.

The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation. Amen.

Communion Music H 325 *Let us break bread together*

1 Let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; _____
2 Let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; _____
let us break bread to - geth-er on our knees; _____
let us drink wine to - geth-er on our knees; _____
Refrain
when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris-ing sun,
O Lord, have mer-cy on me. _____
3 Let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; _____
let us praise God to - geth-er on our knees; _____

Refrain

when I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris-ing sun,
 O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Words: African-American spiritual. Music: *Let Us Break Bread*, Afro-American spiritual; arr. and harm. David Hurd (b. 1950).

Announcements & Celebration of Life Events

Post Communion Prayer (BCP)

Celebrant Let us pray.
All **God of peace,
 you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation;
 you have united us with Christ and one another;
 and you have made us one with all your people
 in heaven and on earth.
 Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit,
 that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world
 and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Blessing

Celebrant Life is short, and we do not have much time
 To gladden the hearts of those who travel the way with us.
 So be swift to love, make haste to be kind,
 And as you go, may the blessing of God,
 Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer be upon you
 And remain with you, now and always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn WLP 721 *Signs of endings all around us*

1. Signs of end-ings all a - round us—dark - ness, death, and win - ter days
 2. Can it be that from our end - ings, new be - gin - nings you cre - ate?
 3. Speak, O God, your Word a - mong us. Bar - ren lives your pres - ence fill.

shroud our lives in fear and sad - ness, numb - ing mouths that long to praise.
 Life from death, and from our rend - ings, realms of whole - ness gen - er - ate?
 Swell our hearts with songs of glad - ness, ter - rors calm fore - bod - ings still.

Come, O³ Christ, and dwell a - mong us! Hear our cries, come set us free.
 Take our fears, then, Lord, and turn them in - to hopes for life a - new:
 Let your prom - ised realm of jus - tice blos - som now through - out the earth;



Give us hope and faith and glad - ness. Show us what there yet can be.
 Fad - ing light and dy - ing sea - son sing their Glo - ri - as to you.
 your do - min - ion bring now near us; we a - wait the sav - ing birth.

Words: Dean W. Nelson (b. 1944). Music: *Ton-y-Botel*, Thomas John Williams (1869-1944).

Going into the World

Deacon Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

*This brings the worship to a close. Please join for coffee hour in the Parish Hall.
 Zoom guests may stick around for a virtual coffee hour.*

Ministers of Today's Service

Reader 1: Pam Janson
 Reader 2: Larry Jansen
 Prayer Leader: Minerva Melville
 Greeter/Usher: John Janson
 Zoom Host:
 Counters: Pam Hinkle & Kip Voss

Altar Guild

Joanne Quinlin, Carole Abshier, Marge Bixby,
 Gael Grossman, Anne Hamilton, Katherine Housman,
 Cathi Peterson, Edith Saywayne

Clergy

Bishop of Michigan: The Rt. Rev. Bonnie Perry
 Rector: The Rev. Ian Reed Twiss
 Deacon: The Rev. Dcn. Cleda Smartt

Staff

Administrator: Teri Landreth
 Music Director: Kate Autry

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Words: Variation on a traditional liturgical text. Music: Composer of melody unknown; arr. based on a two-part version as taught by Pablo D. Sosa (b. 1933).