

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

33rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 19, 2023

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

Most High God, create in me the grace of hospitality and love for my neighbor. Open my heart and eyes to those I would not ordinarily think of extending your love towards. Remove judgment from my mind and use me as an extension of your acceptance and search for those that feel unwanted. Amen.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

"The Ash Grove" with "Thanks Be to God"

arr. Anna Laura Page

Welcome and Announcements

Introit "Take Thou My Hand"

Friedrich Silcher, 1842

Take thou my hand and lead me; stay by my side

Till in thy joy eternal I may abide.

Alone I will not wander one single day.

Be thou my true companion and with me stay.

***Call to Worship (Psalm 90)**

Leader: You turn men back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, O sons of men.

People: For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.

Leader: You sweep men away in the sleep of death;

People: they are like the new grass of the morning;

Leader: though in the morning it springs up new,

People: by evening it is dry and withered.

Leader: All our days pass away under your wrath;

People: we finish our years with a moan.

All: Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

***Hymn**

“The Days Are Surely Coming”

#357

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon

***Call to Confession**

***Prayer of Confession** (*in unison*)

O Lord, you are our shepherd, and yet we want. We lie down when we could act, we stir the pot when we could offer peace, we wander tempting paths instead of following you. We see courage and comfort in earthly things rather than in you. We hate our enemies and refuse to break bread with them, we see scarcity even when you offer us abundance. We pray for forgiveness, for your goodness and mercy, so that we might dwell in You, in your grace, forever. Amen.

(Silent prayer of confession.)

***Assurance of Pardon**

***Response Hymn**

“Gloria Patri”

#581

Ministry of the Word

Prayer for Illumination

Children’s Sermon

First Scripture Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Choir Anthem “We Are The Lord’s”

arr. Roland Martin

We are the Lord’s; his all sufficient merit,
Sealed on the cross, to us this grace accords.
We are the Lord’s and all things shall inherit;
Whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s.
We are the Lord’s; then let us gladly tender

Thomas Lloyd, English horn

Our souls to him in deeds, not empty words.
Let heart and tongue and life combine to render
No doubtful witness that we are the Lord's.
We are the Lord's; no darkness brooding over us
Can make us tremble while this star affords
A steady light along the path before us—
Faith's full assurance that we are the Lord's.
We are the Lord's; no evil can befall us
In the dread hour of life's fast loosening cords;
No pangs of death shall even then appall us.
Death we shall vanquish, for we are the Lord's.

Second Scripture Reading

Matthew 25:14-30

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

“Time in a Bottle!”

Pastor Steve Watters

The Response to the Word

***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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day
he arose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on
the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come
to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion
of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the
life everlasting. Amen.**

***Hymn**

“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”

#377

Prayers of the People and 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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and**

