

FOLLOWING JESUS:

Forward Together

The 23rd Sunday After Pentecost
November 16, 2025 – 11:00 AM

AS WE GATHER

"Let us make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit – just as you were called to one hope when you were called – One Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all." (Ephesians 4:3-6) One God; Father, son, and Holy Spirit over all things. That's pretty big! Because "one family" is not just you, it's not just us, one family is all...a people belonging to God. So how does this change the way you look at those around you? Do you consider them family?

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

WE SING

"Rise Up (Lazarus)"
"Firm Foundation (He Won't)"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

GOD SPEAKS TO US IN HIS WORD

SCRIPTURE READING

Hebrews 10:19-25

¹⁹Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, ²⁰by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body, ²¹and since we have a great priest over the house of God, ²²let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. ²³Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. ²⁴And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. ²⁵Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

SCRIPTURE READING

Colossians 3:12-17

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience.

¹³Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. ¹⁴And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity.

¹⁵Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

GOSPEL READING

John 11:38-44

³⁸Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹"Take away the stone," he said. "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is an odor, for he has been there four days." ⁴⁰Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

KIDS' TIME

DCE Liz Peters

MESSAGE

"COMMUNITY"
(Today's Readings)

Pastor Doug Slavens

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

WE CONFESS OUR SINS TO OUR HEAVENLY FATHER

P: Almighty God, merciful Father, our living can be so self-centered. We want to make sure we get what we think should be coming to us. We don't want to miss out on what we feel we deserve. We look out for ourselves

C: Dear Father, we've loved ourselves more than we've loved You. We've loved ourselves more than we love our neighbor – and yet You call for our love to be the very opposite. Forgive us for our sinful selfishness. Show us Your selfless love, given clearly in the gift of Your Son, Jesus, who gave His life for us. We pray in His name. Amen.

(Silence for reflection on these words of God and for self-examination.)

THROUGH JESUS CHRIST WE ARE FORGIVEN!

WE DECLARE OUR FAITH AND TRUST IN GOD – 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 Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

WE SHARE OUR LORD'S SUPPER

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

DISTRIBUTION OF OUR LORD'S BODY AND BLOOD

"We Are the Body of Christ"

"Hymn of Heaven"

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER

WE PRAY TO OUR LORD

LORD'S PRAYER

THE CLOSING BLESSING

WE SING

"Unashamed"

OUR OFFERINGS

All that we have and all that we are, belong to the Lord. He fills us with what is good! We pray: "Fill us, Lord, to overflowing, that others may receive blessed through the blessings we ourselves have received from You."

You can give online memoriallutheran.net or drop in the offering boxes located throughout the worship center.