

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

November 16, 2025

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by the Faith Singers – “Living Hope,” by Phil Wickham

GATHERING

Call to Worship

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Confession

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence

P: Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

- 1 **Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!**
- 2 **Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning
and, as on wings of an eagle, uplifting, sustaining.
Have you not seen all that is needful has been
sent by his gracious ordaining?**
- 3 **Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you;
surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you.
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
if with his love he befriend you.**
- 4 **Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!**

**Greeting*

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

**Prayer of the Day*

P: God of breath, you promised new life to your people in exile by breathing into a valley full of dry bones. Breathe new life into us, so that we might live passionately for you.

C: Amen.

**Sharing Christ's Peace*

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

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children's Sermon

Hymn of Praise: "Bless the Lord"

(piano)

***Refrain: Bless the Lord, O my soul, bless God's holy name.
Bless the Lord, O my soul, bless God's holy name.***

1. Remember the kindness of our God, who showers us with blessing all our days.

Refrain

2. Remember the justice of our God, who stands with those forgotten and confused.

Refrain

3. Remember the healing love of God, who calls us to be whole and to be free.

Refrain

WORD

Reading: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Reader: Carol Kilver

¹The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the Lord."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves and bring you

up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.”

R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading:* John 11:25-26

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 11th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

P: The gospel of the Lord. C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Scripture Song – “Dry Bones”

(piano)

**Ezekiel connected dem dry bones, Ezekiel connected dem dry bones,
Ezekiel connected dem dry bones, oh hear the word of the Lord.**

**Your toe bone connected to your foot bone,
your foot bone connected to your ankle bone,
Your ankle bone connected to your leg bone,
your leg bone connected to your knee bone,
Your knee bone connected to your thigh bone,
your thigh bone connected to your hip bone,
Your hip bone connected to your back bone,
your back bone connected to your shoulder bone,
Your shoulder bone connected to your neck bone,
your neck bone connected to your head bone,
Oh hear the word of the Lord.**

**Dem bones, dem bones are gonna walk around,
dem bones, dem bones are gonna walk around,
dem bones, dem bones are gonna walk around, oh hear the word of the Lord.
Disconnect dem bones, dem dry bones, disconnect dem bones, dem dry bones,
Disconnect dem bones, dem dry bones, oh hear the word of the Lord.**

**Your head bone connected to your neck bone,
your neck bone connected to your shoulder bone,
Your shoulder bone connected to your back bone,
your back bone connected to your hip bone,
Your hip bone connected to your thigh bone,
your thigh bone connected to your knee bone,
Your knee bone connected to your leg bone,
your leg bone connected to your ankle bone,
Your ankle bone connected to your foot bone,
your foot bone connected to your toe bone,
Oh hear the word of the Lord. Oh hear the word of the Lord.**

Sermon: “Ezekiel: Valley of Dry Bones”

Song of the Day – “To Be Your Presence” ELW 546

(organ)

- 1. To be your presence is our mission here,
to show compassion’s face and list’ning ear,
To be your heart of mercy ever near, alleluia!**
- 2. To be your presence is our mission bold,
to feed the poor and shelter homeless cold,
To be your hands of justice, right uphold, alleluia!**
- 3. To be your presence is our mission blest,
to speak for all the broken and oppressed,
To be your voice of hope, your love expressed, alleluia!**
- 4. We are your heart, O Christ, your hands and voice,
to serve your people is our call and choice,
And in his mission we, the church, rejoice, alleluia!**

**The Apostles’ Creed*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose

again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

**Prayers of Intercession*

Stewardship Time

“I’ll Fly Away,” by Albert E. Brumley
Faith Singers and Congregation

**Some glad morning when this life is o’er, I’ll fly away
To a home on God’s celestial shore, I’ll fly away.**

*Refrain: I’ll fly away, oh glory, I’ll fly away.
When I die, hallelujah, by and by, I’ll fly away.*

**Just a few more weary days and then, I’ll fly away,
To a land where joy shall never end, I’ll fly away. *Refrain***

*—We now have Worship Cards in the pews. Please let us know if you are communing,
share a prayer request, and place your card in the offering plate
as a gesture of stewardship as we grow in relationship with God
through the use of our time, talents, and finances—*

**Offertory*

“Give Thanks” *(piano)*

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son.
Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son.**

**And now let the weak say, “I am strong,”
let the poor say, “I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us.”
And now let the weak say, “I am strong,”
let the poor say, “I am rich because of what the Lord has done for us.”
Give thanks, give thanks, give thanks.**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**Great Thanksgiving*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**Words of Institution*

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**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 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, forever and ever. Amen.

Communion Songs

“Canticle of the Turning” ELW 723 (piano)

1. **My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,
And my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.
You fixed your sight on your servant's plight, and my weakness you did not spurn,
So from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn?**

2. **Though I am small, my God, my all, you work great things in me,
And your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,
You will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn.**

*Refrain: My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.*

3. **From the halls of pow'r to the fortress tow'r, not a stone will be left on stone.
Let the king beware for your justice tears ev'ry tyrant from his throne.
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;
There are tables spread, ev'ry mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn.**
4. **Though the nations rage from age to age, we remember who holds us fast:
God's mercy must deliver us from the conqueror's crushing grasp.
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,
Till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around.**
- Refrain*

"We Come to the Hungry Feast" ELW 479 (organ)

- 1 **We come to the hungry feast hungry for a word of peace.
To hungry hearts unsatisfied the love of God is not denied.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.**
- 2 **We come to the hungry feast hungry for a world released
from hungry folk of ev'ry kind, the poor in body, poor in mind.
We come, we come to the hungry feast.**
- 3 **We come to the hungry feast hungry that the hunger cease,
and knowing, though we eat our fill, the hunger will stay with us; still
we come, we come to the hungry feast.**

**Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor, and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

**Sending Song – “These Are the Days of Elijah”*

(piano)

**1. These are the days of Elijah, declaring the word of the Lord;
and these are the days of your servant, Moses, righteousness being restored.
And though these are days of great trial, of famine and darkness and sword,
still we are the voice in the desert crying, ‘Prepare ye the way of the Lord.’”**

*Refrain: Behold, he comes riding on the clouds,
shining like the sun at the trumpet call;
lift your voice, it’s the year of jubilee, out of Zion’s hill salvation comes.*

**2. These are the days of Ezekiel, the dry bones becoming as flesh;
and these are the days of your servant, David, rebuilding a temple of praise.
These are the days of the harvest, the fields are as white in the world,
and we are the lab’rers in your vineyard, declaring the work of the Lord. *Refrain***

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song Credits

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“Bless the Lord,” from **Songs for Praise & Worship**, Word Music, © 1992. CCLI#973583

“Dry Bones,” traditional.

“Give Thanks,” arr. Ken Barker from **Songs for Praise & Worship**, Word Music, © 1992. CCLI#973583

“These Are the Days of Elijah,” from **The Source**, Kevin Mayhew Limited, © 1998. CCLI#973583

The altar plants are donated today by Amy Stevens-Kaufmann

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Karen Sibert
Reader: Carol Kilver
Usher: Larry Kuster
Pastor: Adam Dichsen
Music Director: Jean Welch
Organist: Sandi Watts
Pianist: Jean Welch
Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen
Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen
Financial Assistants: Ken Devlin & Greg Kimler
Chancel Committee: Kris Roth
Coffee Hosts: Mindy Carlson & Terri Kimler



Singers:

Maddie Crossin	Kelly Hartz	Adam Krohe	Cole Street
Benen Dichsen	Terri Kimler	Kris Roth	Melissa Street

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson	Marilyn Dichsen	Greg Kimler	Monica Proefrock
Ken Devlin	Kelly Hartz	Patty Nelson	Kay Schnitker
			Kelly Street

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, November 16, 9:30am: Worship
4:30pm: Bible Boot Camp
5:30pm: Confirmation

Wednesday, November 19, 10:00am: Discipleship Group in the Faith Library

Thursday, November 20, 6:00pm: Council Meeting

Sunday, November 23, 9:00am: Christmas Program Rehearsal
9:30am: Worship

News Updates

Lay Ministry Sign-Up Sheets

Sign-Up Sheets are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

Faith's Little Flock -- (Ages 2–7)

gathers during worship right after the Children's Sermon and returns to the sanctuary in time for Communion.

In November, Faith's Little Flock will explore stories about Elijah, and messages of justice, light, and hope from the prophets Amos, Isaiah, and Jeremiah. Through engaging activities, the children will experience the themes by learning, living, and singing them. We will also be practicing songs for Christmas!

Faith's Little Flock warmly welcomes—and deeply appreciates—our adult and older youth volunteers. If you're interested in spending time with the children during part of the Sunday worship service or joining the teacher rotation for Faith's Little Flock, please reach out to Melissa Street, Liddy Stark, or Pam Devlin. Blessings, *Melissa*

Bible Boot Camp

It will be a big month for Bible Boot Camp with three events in November. We are looking for helpers at each one to lead an activity/craft or provide a meal for approximately 20. We will meet on **Sundays, November 16 and 30 from 4:30-6:00pm.** Contact Pastor Adam for more information and signup to help.

Upcoming Youth Events

Our youth have a lot going on this month with Confirmation/Youth nights on **November 16 and 30.** We'll join the Boot Camp crew for a meal at 5:30 and have our event from 6:00-7:30pm. Remember our Carlinville Retreat on November 21-23 with the youth from across the synod.

Discipleship Group

Join us for the Discipleship Group meeting at **10:00am on Wednesday, November 19,** in the Faith Library as we meet for Bible study, discussion, and fellowship. We have a lot of fun with lively discussions. Let's grow together in compassion, connection, and purpose.

Children's Christmas Program

This year we are going to celebrate the Christmas season with a simple and short Nativity play using kids ages 3-12 as the actors. If you have not signed your child up to participate, please do. This will be a fun and positive experience for them. The sign-up sheet is at the Coffee Sales counter in the Gathering Area. **There will be 2 practices — Nov. 23 and 30 at 9:00am before church begins.** We will present the Nativity on December 7 during the 9:30am service. If you have any questions, please contact Melissa Street, Liddy Stark, or Pam Devlin.

Advent Allegro Lunchtime Concert

We have a great lineup for this year's Advent Allegro concert series.

December 3: JHS Madrigal Singers

December 10: Matthew Nall on piano

December 17: IC Percussion Ensemble

The brief concerts will last approximately 30 minutes and begin at 12:15pm. Lunch of soup, chips, fruit, and dessert will be served beginning at 11:30am and after the concert for \$5. **We could use some help with serving the meal and providing cookies and soup.** If you would like to pitch in, contact the church office (245-8919 or faithlutheran62650@frontier.com) or **sign up on the sheet on the counter by the coffee sales.** Thank You!

Jacksonville Area Community Food Center

There is always a need for food donations at the Food Center. Some ideas: canned pasta and meat (Chef Boyardee), canned chicken or tuna, cereal, canned soups, peanut butter and jelly, mac and cheese, Ramen noodles, instant oatmeal, juice, canned fruit, Gatorade, and Jello or pudding cups. Please consider donating to the Food Center – you can put your donations in the cloth bins in the Mission and Ministry Center (coat closet). Donations of money are also greatly appreciated – those can be placed in the offering plates, if they are clearly marked for the Food Center.