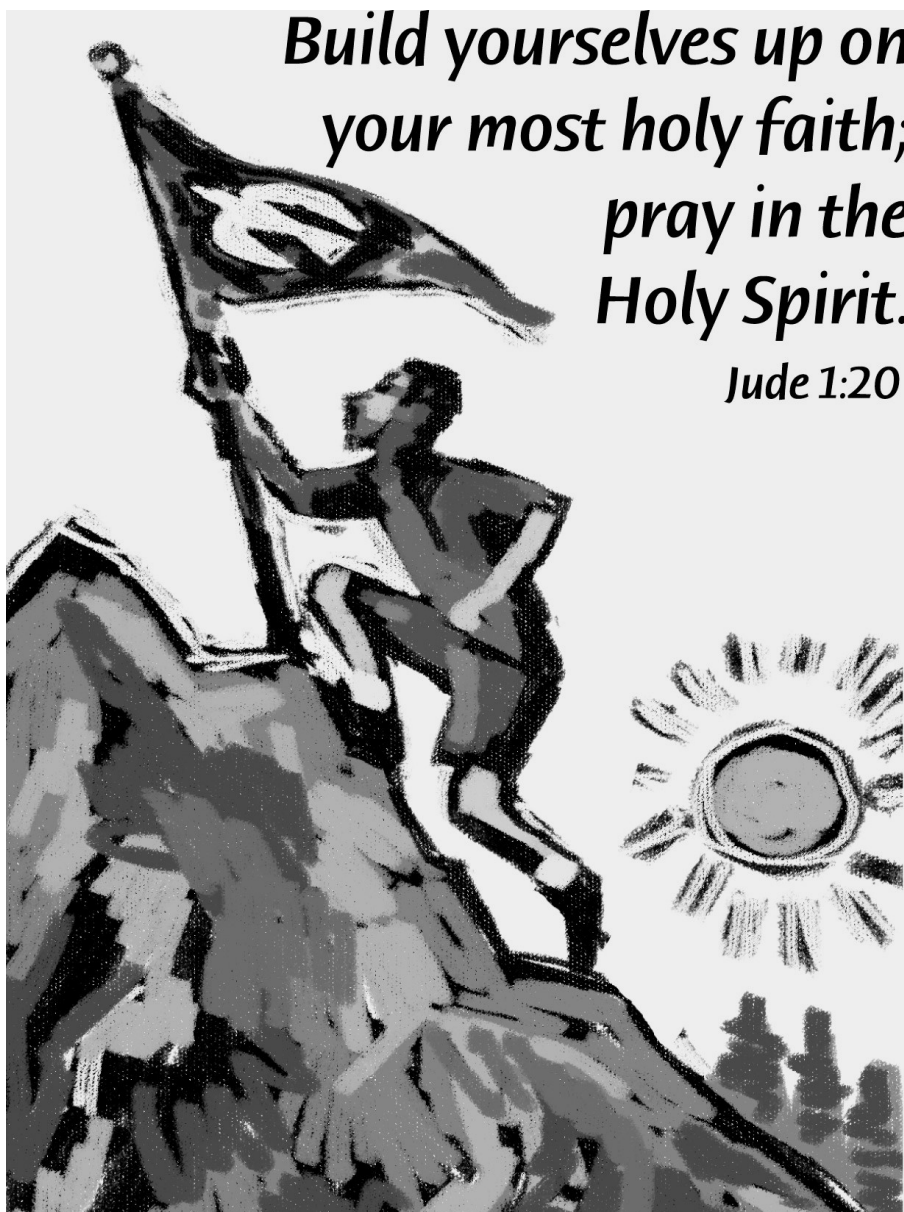


November 24, 2024

Last Sunday of the Church Year

*Build yourselves up on
your most holy faith;
pray in the
Holy Spirit.*

Jude 1:20



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As We Gather

As we come to the close of the Church Year, our worship reminds us of the sure hope we have in Christ's return. Jude encourages us to build ourselves up in the most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit and keeping ourselves in the love of God. Even as we await the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life, we are called to care for others, showing mercy and leading them to safety in Christ. Today, we gather to be strengthened by God's Word and to lift our voices in praise to the One who is able to keep us from stumbling and present us faultless before His glorious throne.

✠ Preparation for Worship ✠

Hymn

743 – Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Confession and Absolution

P Beloved in Christ, as we approach the Last Sunday of the Church Year, we are reminded of the Lord's promise to come again in glory to judge the living and the dead. Let us examine our hearts and confess our sins, seeking His mercy and forgiveness, that we may be found ready on the Day of His appearing.

P Almighty God, You are holy and just, and You will come to judge the world in righteousness.

C **We confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. We have failed to love You with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have been careless in watchfulness and negligent in prayer. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, who died and rose again for us, forgive us, renew us, and lead us, that we may be ready to greet You with joy at Your coming. Amen.**

P Upon this your confession, I, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, announce the grace of God to you. Our Lord Jesus Christ has borne your sins in His body and paid for them in full by His death on the cross. Therefore, as He has commanded, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

✠ The Service of the Word ✠

Introit

Psalm 50:1-3, 6

- P** The Mighty One, God the LORD, Has spoken and called the earth
C **From the rising of the sun to its going down.**
P Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty,
C **God will shine forth.**
P Our God shall come, and shall not keep silent;
C **A fire shall devour before Him, And it shall be very tempestuous all around Him.**
P Let the heavens declare His righteousness,
C **For God Himself is Judge.**
P Glory be to the Father and to the Son
C **And to the Holy Spirit.**
P As it was in the beginning,
C **Is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

Lord, have mer-cy on us. Christ, have mer-cy
on us. Lord, have mer-cy on us.


Kyrie Eleison
LORD, HAVE MERCY

Glory to God in the Highest

Gloria in Excelsis



Glo - ry to God, we give you thanks and praise; Of
Lord Je - sus Christ, the Fa - ther's on - ly Son, You
A - lone, O Christ, You on - ly are the Lord, At



heav'n - ly joy and peace on earth we sing. We wor - ship
bore for us the load of this world's sin. O Lamb of
God's right hand in maj - es - ty most high: Who, with the



You, to You our hearts we raise, Lord God, al -
God, Your glo - rious vic - t'ry won, Re - ceive our
Spir - it wor - shipped and a - dored, With all the



might - y Fa - ther, heav'n - ly King.
prayer, grant us Your peace with - in.
heav'n - ly host we glo - ri - fy.

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray...

... who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.



Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 51:4-6

⁴ “Listen to Me, My people; And give ear to Me, O My nation: For law will proceed from Me, And I will make My justice rest As a light of the peoples.
⁵ My righteousness is near, My salvation has gone forth, And My arms will judge the peoples; The coastlands will wait upon Me, And on My arm they will trust. ⁶ Lift up your eyes to the heavens, And look on the earth beneath. For the heavens will vanish away like smoke, The earth will grow old like a garment, And those who dwell in it will die in like manner; But My salvation will be forever, And My righteousness will not be abolished.

Psalm of the Day

Psalms 95:1-7a

- P** Oh come, let us sing to the LORD!
- C** **Let us shout joyfully to the Rock of our salvation.**
- P** Let us come before His presence with thanksgiving;
- C** **Let us shout joyfully to Him with psalms.**
- P** For the LORD is the great God,
- C** **And the great King above all gods.**
- P** In His hand are the deep places of the earth;
- C** **The heights of the hills are His also.**
- P** The sea is His, for He made it;
- C** **And His hands formed the dry land.**
- P** Oh come, let us worship and bow down;
- C** **Let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.**
- P** For He is our God, And we are the people of His pasture,
- C** **And the sheep of His hand.**

Gospel Reading

Mark 13:24-37

²⁴ “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; ²⁵ the stars of heaven will fall, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. ²⁶ Then they will see the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great power and glory. ²⁷ And then He will send His angels, and gather together His elect from the four winds, from the farthest part of earth to the farthest part of heaven. ²⁸ “Now learn this parable from the fig tree: When its branch has already become tender, and puts forth leaves, you know that summer is near. ²⁹ So you also, when you see these things happening, know that it is near—at the doors! ³⁰ Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place. ³¹ Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away. ³² “But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³³ Take heed, watch and pray; for

you do not know when the time is.³⁴ It is like a man going to a far country, who left his house and gave authority to his servants, and to each his work, and commanded the doorkeeper to watch.³⁵ Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning—³⁶ lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping.³⁷ And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!”

Alleluia

P Blessed are they who hear the Word of God and keep it.

Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu - ia! These words are
 writ - ten that we may believe that Je-sus is the Christ, the
 Son of God. Al-le-lu-ia! Al-le - lu-ia! Al-le-lu - ia!

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

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

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there 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.

Hymn

444 – Rise! To Arms! With Prayer Employ You

²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. ²² And on some have compassion, making a distinction; ²³ but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. ²⁴ Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, And to present you faultless Before the presence of His glory with exceeding joy, ²⁵ To God our Savior, Who alone is wise, Be glory and majesty, Dominion and power, Both now and forever. Amen.



Sermon

Prepared for the Presence of God

Offertory

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from Your pres - ence. Take not Your Ho - ly
 Spir-it from me. Restore to me the joy of Your sal -
 va - tion. Up - hold with Your Spir - it free.

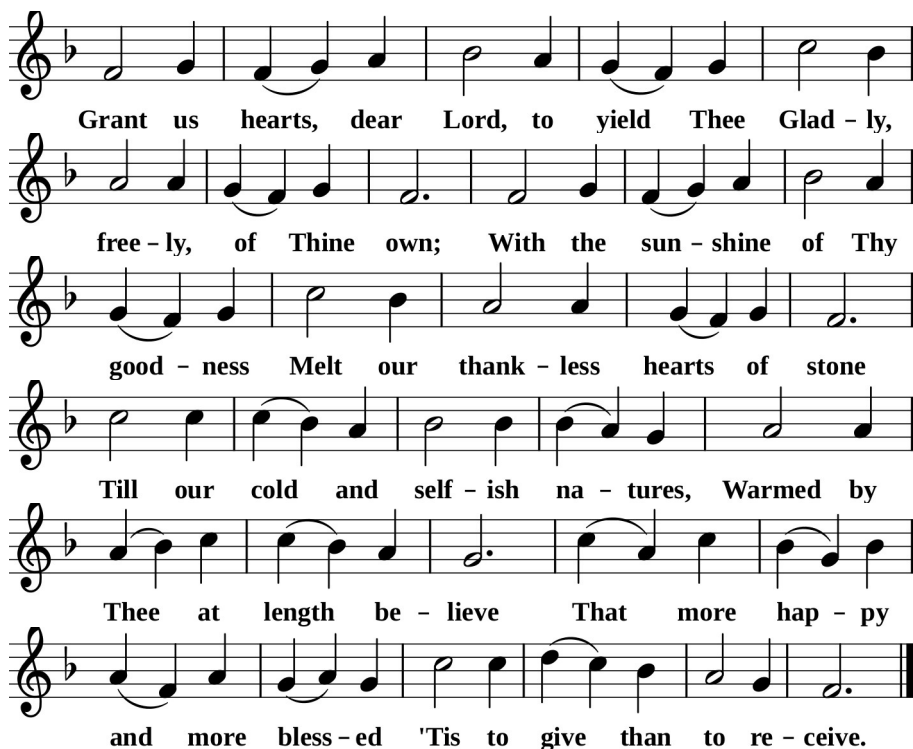
Hymn

15 – From All that Dwell below the Skies

Offering

Offering Hymn

442 (2)



Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to yield Thee Glad - ly,
free - ly, of Thine own; With the sun - shine of Thy
good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone
Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by
Thee at length be - lieve That more hap - py
and more bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.

General Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

C 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.

Benediction

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.
- C** Amen.

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✠ Announcements ✠

Upcoming Schedule		
November 24	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)
November 28	10:15 am	Thanksgiving Worship Service
December 1	9:15 am	Sunday School/Bible Class
	10:15 am	Worship Service w/ Holy Communion
	11:30 am	Holiday Potluck
	12:30 pm	Education/Trustees/Church Council
December 4	2:00 pm	Midweek Advent Worship
December 8	8:00 am	Worship Service (Orlando)
	9:15 am	Sunday School
	10:15 am	Worship Service (Winter Haven)

Upcoming Meetings: Here is a schedule of our upcoming meetings:

- **December 1** – Education/Trustees/Church Council
- **January 5** – Annual Voters’ Meeting
- **February 2** – Elders

In Our Prayers: We give thanks to God for His many blessings and continue to lift up the following individuals in our prayers:

- **Dave and Elsie Kleinschmidt** – We rejoice that Dave and Elsie are home after their time in a rehab facility. They are doing well and receiving in-home care. May God continue to bless them with strength and recovery.
- **Patti Meno** – Patti is home after four weeks in Jacksonville recovering from her kidney transplant surgery. She shares that she is feeling about 85-90%! We praise God for His healing hand and pray for her continued improvement.

- **Melissa Proctor** – Melissa's surgery has been rescheduled for tomorrow. We ask the Lord to guide the hands of the medical team and to grant her His peace and protection as she awaits the procedure.
- **Mike Sheffield** – Mike continues to face significant challenges as he remains paralyzed due to Guillain-Barré Syndrome. Doctors are exploring different methods in hopes of helping him walk again. We pray for strength, healing, and perseverance for Mike, and for wisdom and skill for his medical team.

"The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much." (James 5:16)
 May we keep these brothers and sisters in Christ close in our hearts and prayers this week.

Looking Forward to Thanksgiving Day Worship: Our Thanksgiving worship service is this Thursday at 10:15 am. As we gather for this service, we'll reflect on God's gracious provision and steadfast faithfulness, as Moses reminded the Israelites in Deuteronomy 8:1-10. Just as God led His people through the wilderness, humbling and testing them to show His power and provide for their every need, He continues to sustain us today. Come join us in giving thanks to the Lord, who satisfies us with blessings far beyond what we deserve, and who calls us to remember His mercy, respond with gratitude, and trust in Him for all that lies ahead.

Sunday Advent Worship Series – A Real Christmas: A parent says, "I want to give my kids a real Christmas." What do you think that parent means? Perhaps they are thinking of trimming a freshly cut tree, finding the perfect presents, or spending the holidays with extended family. Perhaps they are thinking about all those things. "Then it will be a real Christmas!"

Certainly, all those are wonderful things. However, none of them are what makes Christmas real. The sad truth is Christmas is the most beloved holiday of so many, yet so few know what Christmas is really about.

If you want a real Christmas, then you need to observe Advent. Advent is Latin for "coming." In the season of Advent, Christians observe the connection between the first time the Son of God came into our world as the Savior and the second time He will come as the Judge. Advent prepares our minds and hearts, so that we might soon celebrate a real Christmas.

Our worship in the season of Advent follows this path:

- **First Sunday in Advent (December 1)**
A Real Christmas Requires Remembering Why Christ Came
 Sermon Text: 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13

- **Second Sunday in Advent (December 8)**
A Real Christmas Is Rooted in Repentance
Sermon Text: Luke 3:1-6
- **Third Sunday in Advent (December 15)**
A Real Christmas Results in Great Joy
Sermon Text: Luke 3:7-18
- **Fourth Sunday in Advent (December 22)**
A Real Christmas Will Lift Up the Lowly
Sermon Text: Luke 1:39-55

Join us in worship this Advent season to prepare for a truly meaningful celebration of our Savior's birth!

Advent Midweek Services: "The Christmas Trees of Scripture": The most widely recognized symbol of the season—the Christmas tree—has deep connections to our faith. While other religions used evergreen branches to symbolize eternal life, it was the Lutherans of 16th-century Germany who began the tradition of bringing evergreen trees indoors during the holidays. They adorned the trees with red ornaments, representing the blood of Christ, and with candles, symbolizing the light of Christ. The tree was often topped with a star or angel, pointing to the story of Jesus' birth. The Christmas tree is a cherished part of our celebration of Christ's coming.

In our Midweek Advent Services, we will focus on some "Christmas trees" found in Scripture. These are not evergreens, nor are they decorated with lights or ornaments, but they point us to the Christ and the salvation He brings. These trees remind us why the birth of Jesus Christ is so worthy of celebration.

Service Schedule and Themes:

- **Midweek One** – December 4 at 2:00 pm
Sermon Text: Genesis 3:15
Theme: The Tree of Rebellion
- **Midweek Two** – December 11 at 2:00 pm
Sermon Text: Isaiah 11:1-10
Theme: The Tree of Promise
- **Midweek Three** – December 18 at 2:00 pm
Sermon Text: Revelation 22:1-5
Theme: The Tree of Life

Join us as we reflect on these trees and the life and hope we have in Christ this Advent season!

Learning with Littles: We had another great playgroup session on Friday with 12 "littles" and 6 mamas in attendance. Our Bible lesson this week was Jonah, and the families were also invited to attend our Advent church services and Children's Christmas program. Our final session of the semester will be December 13th. Thank you for your continued prayers for this outreach program. Please pray that the participants would be encouraged by hearing God's Word and that they would be interested in our church and school as a result!

Christmas Candy Bags: We are preparing, once again, to share the joy of Christmas with the children of our congregation through Christmas Candy Bags. Please consider donating candy for this effort. Donations can be placed on the conference table in Pastor's office.

✠ Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions ✠

November 25 - November 30

Monday: John 5:19-29 – As we ponder the end times and the day of Judgment, we rejoice that the Father has entrusted all judgment to the Son. He is none other than the source of eternal life (verse 24)!

Tuesday: Hebrews 12:18-24 – How thankful we can be that our hope of eternal life is not based on Mt. Sinai's fearful message (verse 21), but on Mt. Zion's message of Jesus' cleansing blood (verse 24)!

Wednesday: Revelation 7:9-17 – John reports a vision of joyful deliverance from great tribulation and robes made white through washing in the blood of the Lamb. With such cleansing comes also relief from all trouble and tears.

Thursday: Matthew 15:29-39 – For healing care and nourishment thousands thanked God that day (verse 31) on the mountain. For just seven loaves of bread and a few small fish Jesus gave thanks to His God and Father (verse 36).

Friday: Psalm 145:15-21 – Truly God feeds and sustains every living thing. And to those who call on Him, His presence, His hearing ear, and His watchful eye are given. His name be praised forever!

Saturday: Deuteronomy 26:1-11 – Moses teaches the people of God to acknowledge the Giver of both their new land and the harvest from it, and to rejoice in all the good things that the Lord has given to them.

