25th Sunday after Pentecost — November 15, 2026

Prelude ***Once to Every Man and Nation*** **arr. by Mark Hayes**

Tune "Ton-y-Botel" aka "Ebenzer" in Public Domain by Thomas John Williams, 1890
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Welcome & Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness **ELW 94-95**

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **P: Amen**

L: 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. **P: Amen**

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

L: Most merciful God,
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.

L: 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. **P: Amen**

Children's Sermon

Opening Hymn ***O God, Our Help in Ages Past*** **ELW 632**

Text in Public Domain by Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.
Tune "St. Anne" in Public Domain by William Croft, 1678-1727

Apostolic Greeting **ELW Pg. 147**

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

Gloria **ELW 148-149**

L: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,

Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you

P: And also, with you

L: Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

P: Amen

First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

7 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.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." 13 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. 14 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. 15 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, 16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. 17 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. 18 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. Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

P: Thanks be to God!

Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 *chanted responsively*

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,
"Turn back, O child- | ren 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 them away | like a dream,
they 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 are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.
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 num- | ber our days
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to
have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord
will come like a thief in the night. 3 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! 4 But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness, for that
day to surprise you like a thief; 5 for you are all children of light and children of the day;
we are not of the night or of darkness. 6 So, then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but
let us keep awake and be sober, 7 for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are
drunk get drunk at night. 8 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. 9 For God has
destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who
died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. 11 Therefore
encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. Holy Wisdom,
Holy Word. **P: Thanks be to God!**

***Please stand for the Gospel Acclamation ELW Pg. 151**
Alleluia. Keep awake and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. Alleluia. P: Glory to you, O Lord

Holy Gospel according to Matthew in the 25th Chapter.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his
slaves and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two,
to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one
who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and made five more
talents. 17 In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.
18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and
hid his master’s money. 19 After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled
accounts with them. 20 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.’ 21 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.’ 22 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.’ 23 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.’ 24 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, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ 26 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? 27 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. 28 So take the talent from him and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 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. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ” This is the Gospel of the Lord.

P: Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon

Hymn of the Day ***As Saints of Old*** **ELW 695**

Text by Frank von Christierson, 1900-1996, alt.
English Folk Tune "Forest Green", arr. by Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1872-1958
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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 into hell.
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 the People:

L: United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation. You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations. Enliven the worship, outreach, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news. God, in your mercy,
P: Hear our prayer

AM: As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species. God, in your mercy, **P: Hear our prayer**

AM: Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine. Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite. God, in your mercy, **P: Hear our prayer**

AM: In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing. God, in your mercy,
P: Hear our prayer

AM: Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property teams. Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel. God, in your mercy, **P: Hear our prayer**

AM: The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you. God, in your mercy, **P: Hear our prayer**

AM: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. God, in your mercy. **P: Hear our prayer**

L: For all these, and the intercessions we have not put into words, that God's life-giving love may touch us all as we have need, Lord in your mercy,
P: Hear our prayer. Amen

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. **P: And also, with you**

Please share a sign of God's peace. ***The offering is received***



Anthem ***In This Fellowship of Faith***

Words: Don Besig & Nancy Price
Music: Don Besig
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In this fellowship of faith, we have come to know the Lord. We have felt the Spirit move within this place. In this fellowship of faith, in this fellowship of faith, we are blessed forevermore we are blessed forevermore by the warm and healing presence of God's grace. With open hearts and open minds, we will share the love of Christ. We will live as his disciples every day. And this fellowship of faith will become a shining light assigned to all who will follow in his way. Together we stand; together we sing as we praise the Lord, our Savior and our King. Together we serve; together we pray, for we are one in this fellowship of faith. With open doors, we welcome all who have come to seek the truth, and to find the peace that God alone can give. In this fellowship of faith, in this fellowship of faith, we have found our hope renewed. We trust the Lord to guide us as we live. Together we stand; we sing as we praise the Lord, our Savior and our King together we serve; together we pray, for we are one in this fellowship of faith.

Offertory Hymn ***Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful*** **ELW 184**

by Ronald A. Nelson, 1927-2014 from Lutheran Book of Worship, c. 1978, admin. by Augsburg Fortress
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Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Offertory Prayer

Great Thanksgiving –

L: The Lord be with you. **P: And also, with you.**
L: Lift up your hearts. **P: We lift them to the Lord.**
L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

The Proper Preface is spoken

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Sanctus** **ELW Pg. 153**

P: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. Hosanna in the highest. Amen, amen, amen.

The Words of Institution

LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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

***Agnus Dei** **ELW Pg. 154**

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion is distributed.

Communion Music ***Steal Away*** **arr. by Lani Smith**

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Post Communion Prayer

Benediction

L: Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

P: Amen

Closing Hymn ***Jesus, Still Lead On*** **ELW 624**

Text in Public Domain by Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700-1760; tr. by Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-1897, alt.
Tune "Seelenbräutigam" in Public Domain by Adam Drese, 1620-1701

Dismissal

AM: Assisting Minister: Go now in peace, to love and serve the Lord and your neighbors. **P: Thanks be to God**

Postlude ***Jesus, Still Lead On*** **arr. by Ellen Jane Lorenz**

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Thank you for coming. May God's peace be yours today.

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Happenings Around the Church

Tuesdays

New Tai Chi class 10-11:30am $12
CT Yankee Chorale Rehearsals – 7-8:30 pm

Bible Study

Tuesday via Zoom 6:00 pm
In person Bible Study Wednesdays
10:00 am
NOTE: No Bible Study on Nov. 24th or 25th.

Wednesdays

Members Tai Chi 11:00 am
Quilting Group 1:00 pm

Event	Date	Time
Men's and Women's Breakfast	Wed. 11/18	8:30 am
Worship & Music Committee (Zoom)	Thurs. 11/19	6:00 pm
IT Committee Meeting (Zoom)	Thurs. 11/19	7:00 pm
WELCA Meeting	Mon. 11/23	6:00 pm
Red Cross Blood Drive	Tues. 11/24	12noon-7pm
Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service		
Center Congregational Church-Torrington	Tues. 11/24	7:00 pm
Thanksgiving Day – Office Schedule	Thurs. 11/26	Office Closed
	Fri. 11/27	Office Closed
1st Sunday in Advent	Sun. 11/29	
Evangelism Committee Meeting	Sun. 11/29	11:00 am

Offerings Summary:

Needed Weekly	**$6,290**
Received	**$3,627**
Shortfall	**-$3,184**
YTD	**-$99,920**

- Those interested in becoming official members of St. Paul's, please fill out a form found on the table in the narthex.
- **2027 Pledge Commitment Sheets** are in the Narthex and on the table in the back of the Sanctuary – please submit if you haven't already.
- The **Community Soup Kitchen in Torrington** will be open on Thanksgiving Day for their clients only; however, they have asked St. Paul's to please donate holiday pies to be used for desserts. By order of the Torrington Health Dept., all pies are to be "store bought". Please bring in your donation by Tuesday, Nov. 24th (noon). See Christine Dickinson for any questions.



Raffle tickets for the "Comfort of Psalms" quilt created by Judy Ludwig are available in the narthex after worship every Sunday until November 29th, the winning ticket will be drawn on December 1st.

Thank you, Judy, for your beautiful creation, we hope it brings in lots of sales.

Available for sale in the Narthex after worship



Cards for restaurants, department stores, discount stores and outlet stores, electronics, entertainment, fast food, gas and auto, grocery, home improvement, sporting goods and even universal prepaid cards! Don't see one on the list that's available – just ask.

If you are thinking "ahead of the holidays", put your list together and see the people at the gift card table. You not only save yourself time going shopping but the church also gets a % of your sales.

IN OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS

The following is a list of those who need your prayers. Our hope is that you will take this listing home with you and in your daily prayers remember those listed below. If you would like to add or subtract for this list, please write name(s) on the Prayer of Concerns form in the Narthex located on the stand-up desk to the right of the exit doors or email the office. Thank you!

Joe Abbott
Casaundra Abeling
Roberta Alteri
Ben, Sheryl & Nic Ahrens
Michelle Ahrens

Coni Aparo
Charlie Blakeslee
Kathy Ann Campbell
Angelo & Nicole Capasso
Vinni Carey

Bridget Deemer
Emma Cortina
Emily Decker
Irene Douglas
Judy Elliott

Diane Engle
Jan Eucalitto
Weston Faith
Amy Falls
Bruce & Liz Falls

Rosemarie Foth
Steven Fosbrook
Bob Frantz
John Lewis
Danise Hall
Marge Kiernan

Renate Higgins
Rusty Judd
Kathleen Hilton
Helenna Hauser
Gloria Thibault

Ed & Anne Grening
Condolences to the
Winslow family
Jay Patterson

Audrey Marquard
Amber
Rebecca Little
Eric Marine
Richard Marine

Janis Martin
Gil & Marilyn Martin
Michael Meyers
Brigitte Mueller
Bob Murphy

Barbara Nalette
Karen Ness
Tom O'Brien
Karen Pagano
Maria Payne

Melissa Pilbin
Lisa & Dennis Polzun
Ed & Susan Regner
Baerbel Roehl
Charlotte

Vincent Scarrozzo
Jean Schlapfer
Sarah Seelye
Lucille Videtto
Paul Smith
Marilyn Killingbeck

Sigrid Smitley
Patricia Switzer
Lori Sola
George Gray
Roger Jensen

Rich Zarcone
Kent Madia
Lindsey L.
Will Erazmus

Justin Wade & Family
The Videtto Family
Eveyln Walters
Sue Watkins
James Weber

Diane Wright
Bruce Yauney
Clayton Young
Clarence Troemele
Ed

Jaiden
Steve
Lou W.
Todd
Robert K.

Hagbard
Peanut
Diane L.
Sandie Harper
Pam Ewing

Michelle
Marci
Diane Tanner
Baby Olive Pressler
Carol DeLeppo
Tom Sterling Sr.

Margaret Miller
Patrick Friday
Shay Cronin
Leigh Martin
Linda Martin

Shirley Moore
Lois Ridgway
Paul Prete
Tom Atterato

Kyle W.
Rowan
Stefan Nikola J
Janet E.
Wendy Fedor

Laurie Otis
John Fleming
Ethan Troy Danner
Fred Rakyta & family
Ryan English

Mae Johnson
Jackie Fleming
Kiley Lombardo
Christine & Fran Gaffney
Patricia & Richard Sawitzke

Shannon Hilton
Deb & Jon Sterling
David Little
Carol Vrlik
Terry

Ruth Ann Stone
Joyce Young & family
The family & friends of
Cecile Scheidel
The family of Howard
Kreidwise

Shaelynn Holmgren
Bob Hauser
The Marold family
Lori Sola
Sharon Okraska

Kenny Bentley
Paula Rosenbeck
John & Margaret Gibson
Jenn Atterato



OUR NURSING HOME MEMBERS

Francine Ahrens
Dee Gammon
Walter Joray
Mae Fay
Betty Hilton
Midge Rosenbeck



OUR MILITARY FRIENDS

Lord Jesus, Savior of the World and King of Peace and King of Peace, watch over our sons and daughters in the service of their Country. Protect them from the physical and moral dangers. Keep them close to you and help them live the commandments. Lord, Jesus give them courage to serve their country with honor and dignity. Be with them when they are in danger; strengthen them when they face hardship. Above All Lord, grant that when their service is finished that they may return to us, sound in mind, body and soul. Amen.

Tyler Quinn
Eric Beuis
Dominic Boscarino
Ethan & his Marine Unit

Major Zachary Fulton
Brandan Holbrook
Jonathan Connell
Tom Gregg, Fr.
Eric Bremer
Peter Hutchinson

Ben Speaker
Noah Braatz
Christian Braatz
Aiden Avenia
Sydney Craig & her Army unit
Jasmine Schiff & her Navy unit

