WORSHIP SERVICE FOR SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2026

Entering into the Joy of Our Master

As We Gather

The prophet Zephaniah calls for silence as the day of the Lord draws near. The Lord has prepared the sacrifice and invited His guests to witness what happens next (Zephaniah 1:7). The people believe that the Lord is apathetic and indifferent (v. 12), which has given them license to do as they please. The day is coming when the people will realize how wrong they are. Paul has a similar warning for the Thessalonians and anyone who believes that everything is fine just the way it is, especially those who act in the darkness (1 Thessalonians 5:2–4). Finally, Jesus describes the day of the Lord with the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14–30). In the end, the Lord will reveal the ways we have misjudged His character. Until then, He points us to the place where His most crucial character trait is revealed. It is the sacrifice of the only One worthy of hearing those words, "Well done, good and faithful servant," so that you might be invited to enter into the joy of your Master.

PREPARATION

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution *Psalm 143:1*

P Hear my prayer, O LORD;
C **give ear to my pleas for mercy!**

Silent reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as children of the light. We have fallen into complacency, forgetting who You are and who we are. We have grown comfortable in habits that do not honor You. We have buried what You have given us rather than loving our neighbor with those gifts. We have become complacent in our thoughts, our words, and our actions. 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 Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. God has not destined you for wrath but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

WORD

Offering

1. **Over the skies of Bethlehem**
   Appeared a star
   While angels sang to lowly shepherds
   Three wise men seeking truth
   Travelled from afar
   Hoping to find the Child from heaven
   Falling on their knees they bowed
   Before the humble Prince of Peace

Chorus
I bring an offering
Of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves
The praises that I sing
Jesus may You receive
The honor that You're due
O Lord I bring an offering to You
I bring an offering to You

2. The sun cannot compare
To the glory of Your love
There is no shadow in Your presence
No mortal man would dare
To stand before Your throne
Before the Holy One of heaven
It's only by Your blood
And it's only through Your mercy
Lord I come

Chorus
I bring an offering
Of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves
The praises that I sing
Jesus may You receive
The honor that You're due
O Lord I bring an offering to You
I bring an offering to You

Chorus
I bring an offering
Of worship to my King
No one on earth deserves
The praises that I sing
Jesus may You receive
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Salutation

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.
Almighty and ever-living God, You have destined us to obtain salvation through Your Son, delivering us from the darkness of sin and claiming us as children of light. Ready our hearts for Your return, that we may be defended from complacency; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Prayer--Veteran's Day

P Lord God, You have sustained our nation in the past and continue to bless us. We recall how so many have given their lives for the cause of freedom. Men and women continue to sacrifice and serve in the armed forces. Today, we pause to reflect and honor those who gave or who continue to sacrifice so much in the defense of our freedom to be faithful. Through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

C **Amen.**

HANDBELL CHOIR

Old Testament Reading

Zephaniah 1:7–16

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is near;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice
and consecrated his guests.
8 And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—
"I will punish the officials and the king's sons
and all who array themselves in foreign attire.
9 On that day I will punish
everyone who leaps over the threshold,
and those who fill their master's house
with violence and fraud.
10 "On that day," declares the LORD,
"a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,
a wail from the Second Quarter,
a loud crash from the hills.
11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!
For all the traders are no more;
all who weigh out silver are cut off.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the men
who are complacent,
those who say in their hearts,
'The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do ill.'
13 Their goods 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 mighty man cries aloud there.
15 A day of wrath is that day,
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.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

[1]Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. [2]For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3]While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. [4]But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. [5]For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. [6]So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. [7]For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. [8]But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9]For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10]who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. [11]Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse

Matthew 25:29a

P For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance.

C **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:14–30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[14][Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. [15]To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. [16]He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. [17]So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. [18]But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. [19]Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. [20]And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' [21]His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' [22]And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' [23]His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' [24]He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, [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 answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? [27]Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. [28]So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. [29]For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. [30]And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Offering

At Your Name

1) **At Your name**
   The mountains shake and crumble.
   At Your name
   The oceans roar and tumble.

At Your name angels will bow,
the earth will rejoice,
Your people cry out.

Chorus

Lord of all the earth…
We shout Your name, shout Your name
Filling up the skies…
With endless praise, endless praise
Yahweh Yahweh,
We love to shout Your name, oh Lord

2) At Your name
The morning breaks in glory.
At Your name
Creation sings Your story.
At Your name angels will bow,
the earth will rejoice,
Your people cry out

Chorus

Lord of all the earth…
We shout Your name, shout Your name
Filling up the skies…
With endless praise, endless praise
Yahweh Yahweh,
We love to shout Your name, oh Lord

Misc 1
(BRIDGE)

There is no one like our God
We will praise You praise You
There's no one like our God
We will sing, we will sing

There is no one like our God
We will praise You praise You
There's no one like our God
We will sing

There is no one like our God
We will praise You praise You
There's no one like our God
We will sing

Chorus 2x

Lord of all the earth…
We shout Your name, shout Your name
Filling up the skies…
With endless praise, endless praise
Yahweh Yahweh,
We love to shout Your name, oh Lord

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Sermon

Creed

Nicene Creed

C **I believe in one God,**
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life T **of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

P As children of light, we cry out to the Lord who sees and hears us and deals bountifully with us in our time of need.

O Lord, our God, our dwelling place from generation to generation, You gather us around Your gifts of Word and Sacrament as we await the return of Christ. Thank You for entrusting us with these gifts, and help us to remain faithful in our waiting as we proclaim the Gospel to the world. Hear our prayer, O Lord,

C **give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

P Loving Father, You claimed us as children in Holy Baptism, bringing us out of darkness and into Your marvelous light. Help us to walk as children of light, encouraging and building one another up, that Your works may be displayed in us while it is still day. Hear our prayer, O Lord,

C **give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

P Sovereign Lord, as You have called us to keep watch and to not grow weary, You have also given us leaders to watch over us. Strengthen all who are in authority over us, that they may see and care for the needs of Your people and Your creation. Hear our prayer, O Lord,

C **give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

P Merciful Lord, a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past. Be with those who are in long or difficult seasons of life, those who are sick, those who are grieving, and those who are in distress and anguish, [*especially . . .*]. Give them peace in their waiting that they be comforted in knowing that their strength is in You. Hear our prayer, O Lord,

C **give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

P Ever-present Lord, You have prepared the Table and consecrated Your guests. Bring us to receive the gift of Christ's body and blood with repentant and thankful hearts that we be strengthened in our waiting for Your return. Hear our prayer, O Lord,

C **give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

P Believing that You have not destined us for wrath but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, we trust that You hear and answer us according to Your good and gracious will. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SACRAMENT

Preface

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 Him thanks and praise.**

Proper Preface

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

We Fall Down

Chorus
And we cry holy, holy, holy
And we cry holy, holy, holy
And we cry holy, holy, holy is the Lamb

We fall down
We lay our crowns
At the feet of Jesus
The greatness of mercy and love
At the feet of Jesus

Chorus
And we cry holy, holy, holy
And we cry holy, holy, holy
And we cry holy, holy, holy is the Lamb

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Prayer of Thanksgiving *Psalm 84:5*

P Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son to bear our sin and be our Savior.

C **For You are a God who will always do what is good.**

P Gathered in the name and remembrance of Jesus, we cry to You, O Lord, to forgive us, renew us, and lead us with Your Word and Spirit.

C **Blessed are those whose strength is in You.**

P Gather us together from the ends of the earth, especially with all the faithful who will awaken and arise on the Last Day,

C **that we, too, may enter into the joy of our Master that has no end.**

P To You, O Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all the glory and honor, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

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.

The Words of Our Lord

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Distribution Hymns

You Never Let Go

1) Even though I walk through the valley
Of the shadow of death
Your perfect love is casting out fear
And even when I'm caught in the middle
Of the storms of this life
I won't turn back I know You are near

(Pre-Chorus)
And I will fear no evil
For my God is with me
And if my God is with me
Whom then shall I fear
Whom then shall I fear

Chorus
Oh no You never let go
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no You never let go
In ev'ry high and ev'ry low
Oh no You never let go
Lord You never let go of me

2) And I can see a light that is coming
For the heart that holds on
A glorious light beyond all compare
And there will be an end to these troubles
But until that day comes
We'll live to know You here on the earth

Pre-Chorus
And I will fear no evil
For my God is with me
And if my God is with me
Whom then shall I fear
Whom then shall I fear

Chorus 2x
Oh no You never let go
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no You never let go
In ev'ry high and ev'ry low
Oh no You never let go
Lord You never let go of me

Bridge
Yes I can see a light
That is coming for the heart that holds on
And there will be an end to these troubles
But until that day comes
Still I will praise You
Still I will praise You
(REPEAT)

Chorus
Oh no You never let go

Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no You never let go
In ev'ry high and ev'ry low
Oh no You never let go
Lord You never let go of me

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Graves Into Gardens

1. **I searched the world but it couldn't fill me**
   Man's empty praise and treasures that fade
   Are never enough
   Then You came along and put me back together
   And every desire is now satisfied here in Your love

Chorus
Oh there's nothing better than You
There's nothing better than You
Lord there's nothing
Nothing is better than You

2. **I'm not afraid to show You my weakness**
   My failures and flaws
   Lord You've seen them all
   And You still call me friend
   'Cause the God of the mountain
   Is the God of the valley
   And there's not a place
   Your mercy and grace won't find me again

Bridge
You turn mourning to dancing
You give beauty for ashes
You turn shame into glory
You're the only one who can

Bridge
You turn graves into gardens
You turn bones into armies
You turn seas into highways
You're the only one who can

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Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)

1) **One day when heaven was filled with His praises**
   One day when sin was as black as could be
   Jesus came forth to be born of a virgin
   Dwelt among men my example is He
   The Word became flesh
   And the light shined among us
   His glory revealed

Chorus (All sing)
Living He loved me dying He saved me
Buried He carried my sins far away
Rising He justified freely forever
One day He's coming
O glorious day O glorious day

2) One day they led Him up Calv'ry's mountain
One day they nailed Him to die on a tree
Suffering anguish despised and rejected
Bearing our sins my Redeemer is He
The hand that healed nations
Stretched out on a tree
And took the nails from me

Chorus (All sing)
Living He loved me dying He saved me
Buried He carried my sins far away
Rising He justified freely forever
One day He's coming
O glorious day O glorious day

3) One day the grave could conceal Him no longer
One day the stone rolled away from the door
Then He arose over death He had conquered
Now is ascended my Lord evermore
Death could not hold Him
The grave could not keep Him
From rising again

(BRIDGE)
One day the trumpet will sound for His coming
One day the skies with His glories will shine
Wonderful day my beloved one bringing
My Savior Jesus is mine

Chorus (All sing)
Living He loved me dying He saved me
Buried He carried my sins far away
Rising He justified freely forever
One day He's coming
O glorious day O glorious day

(Ending)
O glorious day, glorious day
O glorious day

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Post-Communion Thanksgiving

P Let us pray.
We give thanks to You, almighty God, for giving us a taste of the life that is to come. Help us to walk as children of the day, strengthening our faith toward You and enlivening our love for one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

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 T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

Mighty to Save

1. Everyone needs compassion
Love that's never failing
Let mercy fall on me
Everyone needs forgiveness
The kindness of a Saviour
The hope of nations

Chorus
Saviour, He can move the mountains
My God is mighty to save
He is mighty to save
Forever, Author of salvation
He rose and conquered the grave
Jesus conquered the grave

2. So take me as You find me
All my fears and failures
Fill my life again
I give my life to follow
Everything I believe in
Now I surrender

Chorus
Saviour, He can move the mountains
My God is mighty to save
He is mighty to save
Forever, Author of salvation
He rose and conquered the grave
Jesus conquered the grave

(BRIDGE)
Shine your light, and
let the whole world see, we're singing
For the glory, of the risen King; Jesus
Shine your light, and
let the whole world see, we're singing
for the glory, of the risen King

Chorus 2x
Saviour, He can move the mountains
My God is mighty to save
He is mighty to save
Forever, Author of salvation
He rose and conquered the grave
Jesus conquered the grave

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Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 4.
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