THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
Mills River, North Carolina
The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2026

Sacred Place +++ Sacred Space
Please observe silence after the altar candles are lit

PRELUDE *The Trusting Heart* *Marianne Kim*

Hymns and service music are found in the blue 1982 Hymnals (H) and the purple Glory to God hymnals (GTG) They are in the racks under the chairs.

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE HYMN *GTG #39 Great is Thy Faithfulness*

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;
there is no shadow of turning with thee.
Thou changest not; thy compassions they fail not.
As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.

Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!
Morning by morning, new mercies I see.
All I have needed thy hand hath provided.
Great is thy faithfulness, Lord unto me!

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
sun, moon, and stars in their courses above
join with all nature in manifold witness
to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow:
blessings all mine with ten thousand beside. *Refrain*

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be our God.
People For ever and ever. Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE *GTG #605 Praise to God the Father*

Praise to God the Father; praise to God the Son;
praise to God the Spirit: praise to the Three -in-One.
Sing praise. sing praise to the Lord on high.
Praise to God Almighty; praise to the Holy One.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant God be with you..
People And also with you.
Celebrant Let us pray.

O God, whose blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of the devil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life: Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen***.

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25

A reading from the book of Joshua.

Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: 'Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.' "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples

through whom we passed; and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 78:1-7

[1]Hear my teaching, O my people; *
incline your ears to the words of my mouth.
[2]**I will open my mouth in a parable; ***
I will declare the mysteries of ancient times.
[3]That which we have heard and known,
and what our forefathers have told us, *
we will not hide from their children.
[4]**We will recount to generations to come**
the praiseworthy deeds and the power of the LORD, *
and the wonderful works he has done.
[5]He gave his decrees to Jacob
and established a law for Israel, *
which he commanded them to teach their children;
[6]**That the generations to come might know,**
and the children yet unborn; *
that they in their turn might tell it to their children;
[7]So that they might put their trust in God, *
and not forget the deeds of God,
but keep his commandments.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

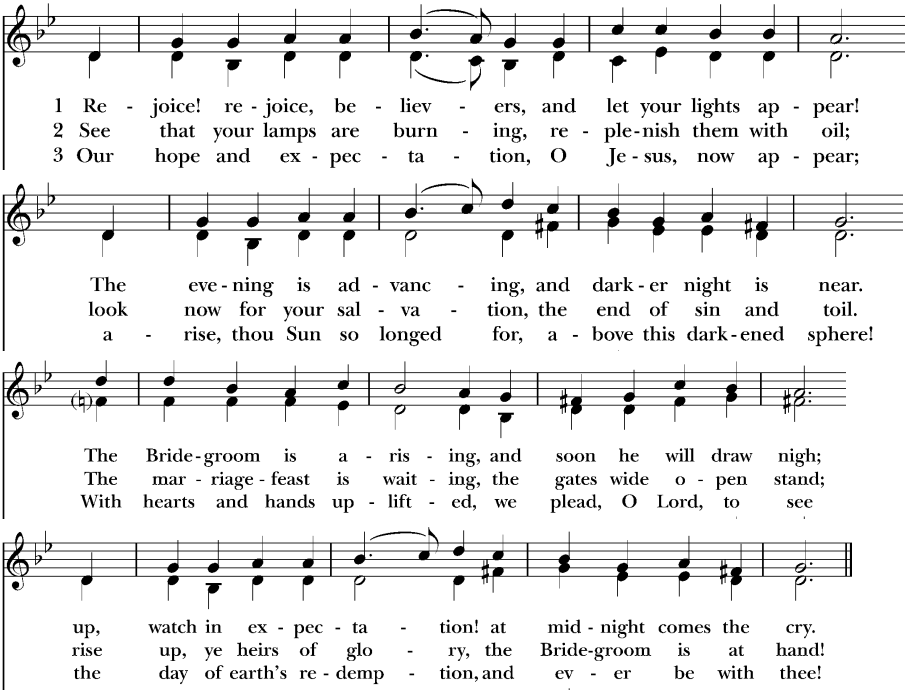
A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

SEQUENCE HYMN *H #68 Rejoice! rejoice, believers*



GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

Deacon The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People Glory to you, Lord Christ.

[Jesus said,] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13]Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON The Rev. Tracey Kelly

THE NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,

and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Sisters and brothers, we humbly bring our prayers before God saying, "We lift our hearts and voices to you*;* hear us, good Lord."

Celebrant: Almighty God, giver of every good gift: send forth your light and your truth, that they may lead us in discerning who we are as Christ's church now, and who God is calling us to be in our next season of shared ministry; so guide the hearts and minds of those who shall choose a Bishop for this diocese, that we may receive a faithful shepherd, who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins to God.

God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. ***Amen***.

THE PEACE

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

GATHERING *GTG #504 We Come as Guests Invited*

We come as guests invited when Jesus bids us dine,
his friends on earth united to share the bread and wine;
the bread of life is broken; the wine is freely poured
for us, in solemn token of Christ our dying Lord.

We eat and drink, receiving from Christ the grace we need,
and in our hearts believing on him by faith we feed;
with wonder and thanksgiving for love that knows no end,
we find in Jesus living our ever present friend.

One bread is our for sharing, one single fruitful vine,
our fellowship declaring renewed in bread and wine.
renewed, sustained, and given by token, sign, and word,
the pledge and seal of heaven, the love of Christ our Lord.

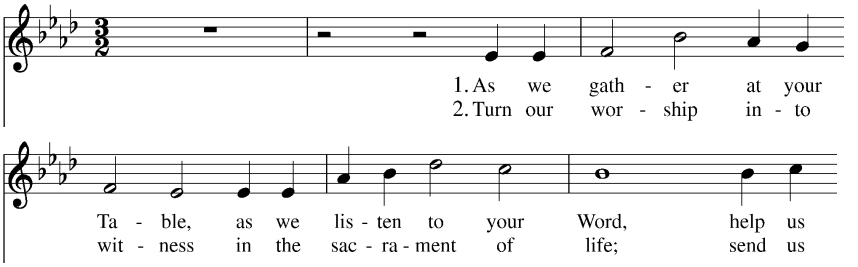
THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

OFFERTORY *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning* *Donna Lewis Jones*

PRESENTATION HYMN *As we gather at your table (Raquel)* (WLP 763)




know, O God, your pres - ence; let our hearts and minds be
forth to love and serve you, bring - ing peace where there is
stirred. Nour - ish us with sa - cred sto - ry till we
strife. Give us, Christ, your great com - pas - sion to for -
claim it as our own; teach us through this ho - ly
give as you for - gave; may we still be - hold your
ban - quet how to make Love's vic - t'ry known.
im - age in the world you died to save. to verse 3
3. Gra - cious Spi - rit, help us
sum - mon oth - er guests to share that Feast where tri -
um - phant Love will wel - come those who had been last and
least. There no more will en - vy blind us nor will
pride our peace des - troy, as we join with saints and
pride our peace des - troy, as we join with saints and
an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.
an - gels to re - peat the sound - ing joy.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

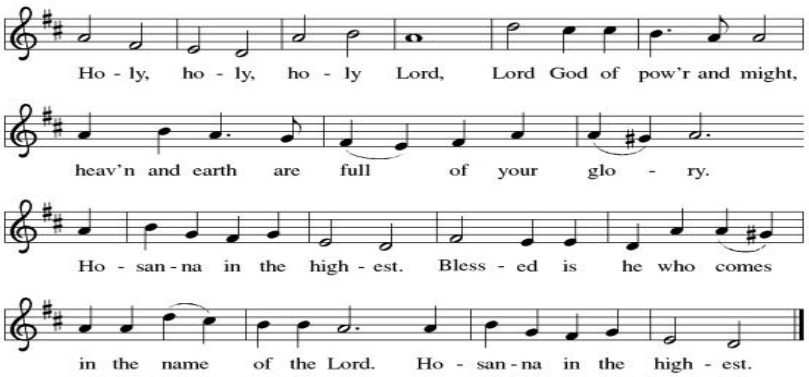
Celebrant	The Lord be with you.
People	And also with you.
Celebrant	Lift up your hearts.
People	We lift them to the Lord.
Celebrant	Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People	It is right to give our thanks and praise.

All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things.

You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; You brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind.

Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing,all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; And so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

SANCTUS



Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise.

Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign
and give himself for us, an offering.

Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take, eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me."

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection and ascension, longing for Christ's coming in glory, and presenting to you these giftsyour earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

Dying, you destroyed our death.
Rising, you restored our life.
Christ Jesus, come in glory!

Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit's power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home.

Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN.

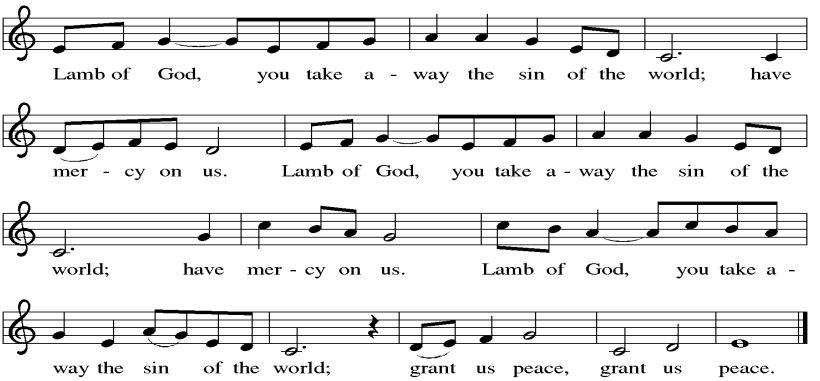
THE LORD'S PRAYER

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM *GTG #604 Lamb of God*

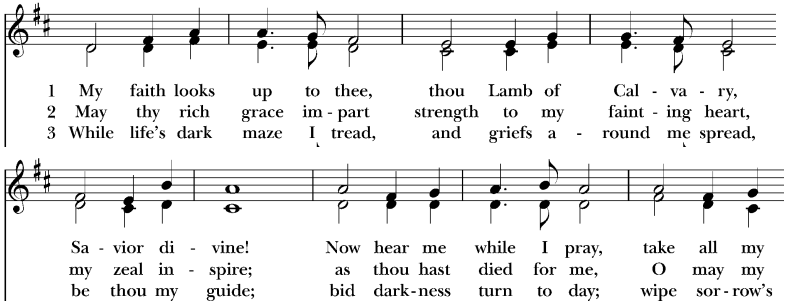


COMMUNION INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

(The bread and wine are given to the people. Please indicate that you would prefer a gluten-free wafer by placing your hands with palms together when you come up to receive Communion.)

COMMUNION HYMN *H #391 My faith looks up to thee*





POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN *LEVAS #221 This Little Light of Mine*



DISMISSAL

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Bible Study Sundays, 9:15 am
Gentle Yoga with Kelly, Fridays, 9:00 am
The Next Chapter, Tues. Nov. 10, 11:30 am
Evening Book Club, Thurs. Nov. 12, 6:00 pm, Michal Baird's home
Daytime Book Club, Tues. Nov.17, 11:30 am, Southern Streams Coffee House

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