

**THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY**

Mills River, North Carolina

**The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost**

**November 19, 2023**

Sacred Place +++ Sacred Space

Please observe silence after the altar candles are lit

**PRELUDE** *Like A River Glorious* *Lloyd Larson/James Mountain*

A bell rings three times; the people stand.

**PRESENTATION OF THE WORD**

**ENTRANCE HYMN** *GTG #612 We Praise You, O God*

We praise you, O God, our Redeemer, Creator:

in grateful devotion our tribute we bring.

We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;

we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

We worship you, God of our fathers and mothers;

through trial and tempest our guide you have been.

When perils o'er take us, you will not forsake us,

and with your help, O Lord, our struggles we win.

With voices united our praises we offer

and gladly our songs of thanksgiving we raise.

With you, Lord, beside us, your strong arm will guide us.

To you, our great Redeemer, forever be praise!

**OPENING ACCLAMATION**

*Celebrant* Blessed be our God.

*People* For ever and ever. Amen.

**SONG OF PRAISE** *GTG #596 You Are Holy*

You are holy, you are whole. You are always ever more than we ever understand. You are always at hand. Blessed are you coming near.

Blessed are you coming here to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead. You are holy, you are wholeness; you are present. Let the cosmos praise you, Lord! Sing hosanna in the highest! Sing hosanna! Sing hosanna to our God!

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* God be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

***Amen.***

### FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah.

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. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." 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. 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. 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, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. 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. 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.

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

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: 90: 1-8 ,12**

- <sup>1</sup>Lord, you have been our refuge \*  
from one generation to another.
- <sup>2</sup>**Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or the land and the earth were born, \***  
**from age to age you are God.**
- <sup>3</sup>You turn us back to the dust and say, \*  
“Go back, O child of earth.”
- <sup>4</sup>**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past \*  
and like a watch in the night.**
- <sup>5</sup>You sweep us away like a dream; \*  
we fade away suddenly like the grass.
- <sup>6</sup>**In the morning it is green and flourishes; \*  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**
- <sup>7</sup>For we consume away in your displeasure; \*  
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.
- <sup>8</sup>**Our iniquities you have set before you, \*  
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**
- <sup>12</sup>So teach us to number our days, \*  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

A reading from Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 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! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. 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. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or

asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

**SEQUENCE HYMN *GTG# 385 All People That on Earth Do Dwell***

All people that on earth do dwell, sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;  
him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell.

Come ye before him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed; without our aid he did us make;  
we are his folk; he doth us feed,  
and for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise; approach with joy his courts unto;  
praise, laud, and bless his name always,  
for it is seemly so to do.

For why? The Lord our God is good; his mercy is forever sure;  
his truth at all times firmly stood,  
and shall from age to age endure.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30**

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

*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

[Jesus said, "The kingdom of heaven will be as when] a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 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.' 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.' 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.' 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.' 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 seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' 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? 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. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 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. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

*Deacon*            The Gospel of the Lord.

*People*            Praise to you, Lord Christ.

**THE SERMON**    The Rev. Anne Bridgers

#### **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, our help comes from the Lord. Let us pray, saying, "We praise your holy name; **and offer you our prayer, O Lord.**

*Celebrant* 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** *Will the Circle Be Unbroken* by Ada Ruth Habershon  
(The people return to their seats to gather for the Liturgy of the Table.)

*Will the circle be unbroken, by and by, Lord, by and by?  
There's a better home awaiting, In the sky, Lord, in the sky.*

#### THE HOLY COMMUNION

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

**OFFERTORY** *Lord of All Being* Ryan Singleton and Mary Noel

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

*Presider* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Presider* Lift up your hearts.

*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**

*Presider* 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 S 130 *Holy, holy, holy*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and  
might, Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,  
God of power and might, hea - ven and earth are

full, full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na

in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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 gifts your 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 S-164 *Jesus Lamb of God*



Je - sus, Lamb of God: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins: have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world:

give us your peace, give us your peace.

**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 GTG # 501 *Feed Us, Lord***

Feed us, Lord. Feed us, Lord.

In the broken bread, be revealed again.

Come and feed our hearts, O Lord.

Quench us, Lord. Quench us, Lord.

On this thirsty ground, may your love flow down.

Come and quench our hearts, O Lord.

Fill us, Lord. Fill us, Lord.  
with the bread and wine of the risen Christ.  
Come and fill our hearts, O Lord.

Lead us, Lord. Lead us, Lord,  
nourished here by Christ, given strength for life.  
Come and lead our hearts, O Lord.

#### **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 *GTG #305 Come Sing, O Church, In Joy***

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has led us through the ages long!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns supreme,  
empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Let courage be our friend; let wisdom be our guide,  
empowering us to catch the vision, dream the dream!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!  
For Christ the Lord has triumphed o'er the ages long!  
In bold accord, come celebrate the journey now and praise the Lord!

#### **DISMISSAL /COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

From riteplanning.com. Copyright © 2023 Church Publishing Inc. All rights reserved.  
Hymns and service music are found in the blue *1982 Hymnals* (Church Publishing Inc.)  
and the purple *Glory to God* hymnals (GTG) (Presbyterian Publishing Corp.). They are  
located in the racks under the chairs. Music is reprinted and streamed with permission  
under ONE LICENSE # A-730051. All rights reserved.

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

Choir Practice, Sunday, Nov. 26, 9:30 am  
Gentle Yoga with Kelly, Wed. Nov. 30, 9:30 am  
Men's Breakfast, Saturday, Dec. 2, 9:00 at the church  
Stewardship Celebration, Dec. 3, after church  
Women's group, Saturday, Dec.9, 10:00 am

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

The Rev. Tracey Kelly, Rector, [tracey@ourholyfamily.org](mailto:tracey@ourholyfamily.org)  
The Rev. Deacon Paulette Rempel, [paulette@ourholyfamily.org](mailto:paulette@ourholyfamily.org)  
Ryan Singleton, Interim Music Director, [singletonryan97@gmail.com](mailto:singletonryan97@gmail.com)  
Charlotte Garcia, Children and Youth Minister, [charlotte@ourholyfamily.org](mailto:charlotte@ourholyfamily.org)  
Jeanne Mason, Parish Administrator, [secretary@ourholyfamily.org](mailto:secretary@ourholyfamily.org)  
Liz Spahr, Pastoral Care Coordinator, [liz@ourholyfamily.org](mailto:liz@ourholyfamily.org)  
Warren Spahr, Sr. Warden, [srwarden@ourholyfamily.org](mailto:srwarden@ourholyfamily.org)  
Stan Phipps, Jr. Warden, [stan@ourholyfamily.org](mailto:stan@ourholyfamily.org)