

## Order of Worship for November 10, 2024

### Prelude:

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

### Opening Hymn: “Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings” - Hymn #782

### Confession:

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

C: **Amen**

P: Lord God you have given us all we have. You call on us to be stewards, to take care of what you have entrusted to us—

C: **Our bodies, our families, our work, our education, the world around us.**

P: But we neglect our responsibilities as stewards,

C: **We take for granted what you give to us. We abuse our bodies. We complain about what we don’t have or about how bad is Your choice in what You have given to us. We misuse so much of what You have entrusted to us.**

P: We have become like the servant who said of his master, “My master is a long time in coming,” and then abuses what the master had entrusted to him.

C: **Forgive us, Lord.**

P: Jesus Christ took on the duty of being the steward of our salvation. He faced death on the cross as payment for our lack of stewardship. By His command and by the power He gives to His people, the Church, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

### Entrance Psalm: Psalm 50:9-15

P: I will not accept a bull from your house

C: **or goats from your folds.**

P: For every beast of the forest is Mine,

C: **the cattle on a thousand hills.**

P: I know all the birds of the hills,

C: **and all that moves in the field is mine.**

P: “If I were hungry, I would not tell you,

C: **for the world and its fullness are Mine.**

P: Do I eat the flesh of bulls

C: **or drink the blood of goats?**

P: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,

C: **and perform your vows to the Most High,**

P: and call upon Me in the day of trouble;

C: **I will deliver you, and you shall glorify Me.**

**ALL: Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,**

**as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever, Amen.**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

**Prayer of the Day:**

P: Lord God, as You have given us far more than we can ask or think, give us the confidence to share those blessings freely, knowing that You supply all that we truly need and have given us eternal life in Your Son, Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**First Lesson: Deuteronomy 26:1-4**

R: When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance and have taken possession of it and live in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from your land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket, and you shall go to the place that the LORD your God will choose, to make His name to dwell there. And you shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘I declare today to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our fathers to give us.’ Then the priest shall take the basket from your hand and set it down before the altar of the LORD your God.

R: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 9:10-15**

R: He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way to be generous in every way, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission that comes from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift!

R: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Third Lesson: Mark 12:38-44**

P: In His teaching [Jesus] said, “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes and like greetings in the marketplaces and have the best seats in the synagogues and the places of honor at feasts, who devour widows’ houses and for a pretense make long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.” And He sat down opposite the treasury and watched the people putting money into the offering box. Many rich people put in large sums. And a poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which make a penny. And Jesus called His disciples to Him and said to them, “Truly, I say to you, this poor widow has put in

more than all those who are contributing to the offering box. For they all contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Response to Mark 12:** *“The Temple Rang with Golden Coins”* - **Hymn #787**

**PK-1<sup>st</sup> Grade Sing:** *“I’ve got the Joy, Joy, Joy down in my Heart”*

**Children’s Message:** (8:30)

**Sermon Hymn:** *“How Clear Is Our Vocation, Lord”* - **Hymn #853**

**Sermon:** *“For the Joy”* - **Hebrews 12:1-3**

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider Him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart. (Hebrews 12:1-3)

Did people get out and vote this past week? That is a question many had as they considered their choices. Besides their core supporters, were people really excited about either candidate? Was it a matter of considering the lesser of two evils?

“Eyes on the Prize” was the title of a PBS series on the civil rights movement. It showed how people were willing to face a lot of opposition—abuse, imprisonment, violence—because they looked to the freedoms they hoped to gain. But more often we are motivated by simpler things. When Bill Clinton won his first election as president his campaign manager James Carville made the statement “It’s the economy, stupid.” The idea was that people will vote more to what benefits them as individuals than to some noble cause. Each day it is easier for us to be motivated by what brings satisfaction, comfort, or enjoyment to “me” right now.

How do we match that with the words of Hebrews?

Let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.

In the Declaration of Independence Jefferson wrote the famous words, “All men are created equal. They have been endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, among

those being, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” For our world today the big goal often is the “the pursuit of happiness.” That can be seen as the whole purpose of having life and liberty. Life is ultimately about what makes me feel good. That is so often the thrust of advertising which fuels so much of our economy. Why bother with living the life that Jesus calls us to do?

Jeffrey Rosen wrote a book called “The Pursuit of Happiness” which explores how Jefferson got that idea. “Happiness” was an idea that came from Roman culture and was emphasized in the 1600 and 1770’s by European scholars as not talking about pleasure, but virtue. The pursuit of happiness did not mean doing something for my pleasure, but doing the right things to benefit others.

That is a noble idea, but one missed by Jefferson and others. Though he did help to found good principles in our country, Jefferson was a slave holder who fathered children through one of those slaves outside of his marriage. He was constantly wracked by debt because of his spending habits.

And he was no different than any of us are. It is always so easy for us to wrap up our lives on the “pursuit of happiness” as the way to put me first in life. It is the sin that “so easily entangles,” as Hebrews says.

That is why Hebrews tell us to “fix our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.” Why? Because He gives us a different reason to live our lives. “For the joy set before Him He endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

“For the joy.” Jesus went the way that led to His suffering and death. Why? “For the joy set before Him.” What gives Jesus joy? Why would Jesus have to be involved in a “pursuit of happiness”? If as God He has everything, what is there for Him to pursue?

In Luke 15 Jesus tells the famous parables of the lost sheep and the lost coin. He concludes both stories by saying, “There is more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents.” What gives God the greatest joy is when a lost person is found—when he or she is brought to faith in Christ Jesus.

God wants us to share that joy. That is why Jesus came to this earth to give us life and liberty—the new life which wakes us from the death of sin and free us from living for “me” to the pursuit of real happiness—living for God by loving others. That is the virtue that we were created with by God, but lost because of sin. In Jesus, God restores us to the genuine “pursuit of happiness,” to live in the joy of winning the lost.

I have told the story many times before about the boy who came home from school excited because he was given the project of making a birdhouse. He wanted to do it with his

dad. Dad was tired from work and did not have the same enthusiasm for the project as the boy had. But he noticed how the boy had collected some scrap lumber, old paint and tools for the project. So together they put together what could be considered a birdhouse. The boy was so excited by it that he put it on the kitchen table before bed anticipating the excitement of taking it to school.

After the boy went to sleep the father went back to his workshop and found some good wood he had been saving for a special project. He carefully measured and cut it out, using special tools to make a beautiful birdhouse and painted it neatly. Satisfied with his work, he placed it on the table and took the first birdhouse and threw it away.

The next morning the boy woke up ready to go, then ran into the kitchen and his face dropped. In near tears he asked his mom, “Where is my birdhouse?” His mom replied, “It is there on the table.” He said, “No, where is the house that me and dad made?” The father heard this from his bedroom. He sheepishly went outside to the trash, took the first birdhouse out of the can, dusted it off, and brought it to the kitchen. His son’s face lit up. That day the boy went off to school wanting to show his classmates. “Look what me and my dad made!”

God wants us to be able to say that as well. He wants us to have the joy of saying, “Look what me and my Dad made!” He shares with us what gives Him greatest joy—saving the lost. As God Almighty He could do it just fine by Himself. But instead He wants to include us in that. “For the joy” Jesus endured the cross. “For the joy” of saving the lost and letting us be in on that.

### **Stewardship Message:**

**Hymn of Response:** *“Lord of All Good”* - Hymn # 786

**Creed:** Close of the Commandments p. 322

### **Responsive Prayer on “For the Joy:”**

P: “You make known to me the path of life; in Your presence there is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”(Psalm 16:11)

**C: Joyfully, dear Father in Heaven, we thank You for the everlasting joy that comes from knowing and following Jesus.**

P: Dear Father, help us to never forget that the “joy of the Lord is our strength.”(Nehemiah 8:10)

**C: Joyfully, Lord, we thank and praise You for Who You are and all that You do for us. Thank You for daily showering us with Your love and mercy.**

P: Dear Father, “Restore to me the joy of Your salvation, and uphold me with a willing spirit”(Psalm 51:12)

**C: Joyfully, Lord, thank You for Your promise that, “You will never leave us nor forsake us.” (Hebrews 13:5).**

**ALL: Let us never take for granted, dear Father, all that You give and do for us day by day. Teach us to experience Your joy. Help us to discover the joy in sharing our blessings with others.**

P: Your Word calls us “to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.”(1 Peter 4:10)

**C: Help us, Lord, to see the suffering and the needs of people. Grant us hearts that are willing to respond as servants of Your love, grace, and mercy. Use us as Your hands, feet, and mouth in service to others.**

P: Your Word exhorts us to love our neighbors as ourselves. (Matthew 22:39).

**C: Lord, help us to love our neighbors and to show hospitality to all people. Help us to be loving and serving people.**

P: Filled with Jesus’ joy, prompt us to serve others in Your name with joy.

**C: Help us to discover the joy in service.**

P: “And David said: ‘Blessed are You, O Lord, the God of Israel our Father, forever and ever. Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all.’” (verses 10b, 12a)

**C: Joyfully we give You thanks and praise.**

P: “In Your hand are power and might, and in Your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all.”(verse 12b)

**C: “With joy now we thank You, our God, and praise Your glorious name”(verse 13).**

P: “But who am I, and what is my people, that we should be able thus to offer willingly?”(verse 14a)

**C: “For all things come from You, and of Your own have we given You”(verse 14b)**

P: As David the king freely offered his wealth for the building of the temple,

**C: so do we offer our gifts freely and joyfully for the building of Your Kingdom.**

(other concerns . . .)

**ALL: Lord God, thank You for allowing us to “discover the joy” as we return to You a portion of what You have first given us. Through Christ Who gave Himself for us, we pray. Amen**

8:30 service . . .

**Lord’s Prayer:**

**Closing Prayer:**

P: Lord God Almighty, even as You bless Your servants with various and unique gifts, continue to grant us the grace of Your Holy Spirit to use them always to Your honor and glory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Blessing: (Pastor)**

**C: Amen.**

**Closing Hymn:** *“Run to Finish”*

**Postlude:**

11 AM continues . . .

## **Service of the Sacrament**

**Exhortation to Communicants:**

P: Christ Jesus, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, suffering its shame, and sat down on the right hand of the throne of God calls us to come His meal of His true body and blood, in, with, and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion. He does this to forgive us of our sins and give us encouragement as we follow Him. We hear His call and come to His supper.

**The Words of our Lord:**

**The Lord’s Prayer:**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

**Distribution of Holy Communion**

*“Take My Life and Let It Be” - Hymn 784*

*“We Praise You, O God” - Hymn 785*

**Dismissal**

**Prayer after Communion:**

P: Lord God Almighty, even as You bless Your servants with various and unique gifts, continue to grant us the grace of Your Holy Spirit to use them always to Your honor and glory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

**Blessing**

C: Amen

**Closing hymn:** *“Run to Finish”*

**Postlude:**

