

# TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

11:00am

November 8, 2020



Always with the Lord

## AS WE GATHER

The final three weeks of the Church Year are traditionally concerned with “the last things.” The lessons of the Church bring a special opportunity to reflect on the end of time and on the end of our earthly lives. In the Apostles’ Creed, we affirm our belief in the resurrection of the body, which is God’s good but temporary gift to us while we are living on earth. We hear today these words from the apostle Paul concerning everlasting life: **“We will always be with the Lord.”** Our Lord makes His presence known today in His Word and in the Lord’s Supper. You have the assurance that when Jesus returns, you will spend everlasting life in His gracious presence.

**WELCOME** – Pastor

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

## Old Church Choir

There's revival and it's spreading  
 Like a wildfire in my heart  
 A Sunday morning hallelujah  
 And it's lasting all week long

Can you hear it. Can you feel it  
 It's the rhythm of a gospel song  
 Oh once you choose it you can't lose it

Cause there ain't nothing  
 There ain't nothing gonna steal my joy

### Chorus

I've got an old church choir singing in  
 my soul  
 I've got a sweet salvation and it's  
 beautiful  
 I've got a heart overflowing  
 'Cause I've been restored  
 There ain't nothing gonna steal my joy  
 No there ain't nothing gonna steal my  
 joy

### Verse 2

When the valleys that I wander  
 Turn to mountains that I can't climb  
 Oh You are with me You never leave  
 me

Cause there ain't nothing  
 There ain't nothing gonna steal my joy

### Chorus

I've got an old church choir singing in  
 my soul  
 I've got a sweet salvation and it's  
 beautiful  
 I've got a heart overflowing  
 'Cause I've been restored  
 There ain't nothing gonna steal my joy  
 No there ain't nothing gonna steal my  
 joy

### Bridge

Clap your hands and stomp your feet  
 'Til you find that gospel beat  
 'Cause He's all you'll ever need  
 All you'll ever need (2X)

### Chorus

I've got an old church choir singing in  
 my soul  
 I've got a sweet salvation and it's  
 beautiful  
 I've got a heart overflowing  
 'Cause I've been restored  
 There ain't nothing gonna steal my joy  
 No there ain't nothing gonna steal my  
 joy

No there ain't nothing gonna steal my  
 joy

## INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen!**

## OPENING SENTENCES *Revelation 15:3–4*

Pastor: Great and amazing are Your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty!

**People: Just and true are Your ways, O King of the nations!**

Pastor: Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name?

**People: For You alone are holy.**

Pastor: All nations will come and worship You,

**People: for Your righteous acts have been revealed. Alleluia!**

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

**People: Merciful Father, we bring before You our confession, asking Your mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ. We are sinful from birth and daily add to that burden. Our actions have been thoughtless and have resulted in evil. Our words have been hurtful. We have left undone many things that could have brought glory and praise to You. Lord, grant us Your grace and forgiveness, and lead us to amend our sinful lives.**

Pastor: Because of the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus, God promises full and free pardon from our sins. His grace is given! Go and sin no more.

**People: Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His Bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**FIRST READING** *1 Thessalonians 4:13–18* (Paul comforts those who thought Christians who had died might miss Christ's return.)

Reader: <sup>13</sup> And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope.

**People: <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died.**

Reader: <sup>15</sup> We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves.

**People: <sup>17</sup> Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> So encourage each other with these words.**

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**10,000 Reasons**  
**(Bless the Lord, O my soul)**

Chorus

Bless the Lord, O my soul

O my soul

Worship His holy name

Sing like never before

O my soul

Worship Your holy name

The sun comes up,

it's a new day dawning

It's time to sing Your song again

Whatever may pass,  
 and whatever lies before me  
 Let me be singing  
 when the evening comes

Bless the Lord, O my soul

O my soul

Worship His holy name

Sing like never before

O my soul

Worship Your holy name,

Worship Your holy name

**CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

**Holy Gospel** *Matthew 25:1–13*

(Jesus teaches preparedness for His return.)

"Then the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten bridesmaids who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.

<sup>3</sup> The five who were foolish didn't take enough olive oil for their lamps, <sup>4</sup> but the other five were wise enough to take along extra oil. <sup>5</sup> When the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

<sup>6</sup> "At midnight they were roused by the shout, 'Look, the bridegroom is coming! Come out and meet him!' <sup>7</sup> "All the bridesmaids got up and prepared their lamps.

<sup>8</sup> Then the five foolish ones asked the others, 'Please give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.' <sup>9</sup> "But the others replied, 'We don't have enough for all of us. Go to a shop and buy some for yourselves.'

<sup>10</sup> "But while they were gone to buy oil, the bridegroom came. Then those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked. <sup>11</sup> Later, when the other five bridesmaids returned, they stood outside, calling, 'Lord! Lord! Open the door for us!'

<sup>12</sup> "But he called back, 'Believe me, I don't know you!'

<sup>13</sup> "So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return.

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to You, O Christ.**

## We Believe

We believe in God the Father  
 We believe in Jesus Christ  
 We believe in the Holy Spirit  
 And He's given us new life  
 We believe in the crucifixion  
 We believe that He conquered death  
 We believe in the resurrection  
 And He's coming back, He's coming back again, We believe, We believe!



## MESSAGE – Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

*What comes to mind when you consider heaven and what happens when we die?*

*Paul put it this way, "We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him."*

*What kind of comfort does this offer those who face evil and tragedy in the world?*

*Why should we talk about these things? Are you a **hope Giver** or hope Doubter?*

## HONORING OUR VETERANS

Pastor: This nation, under God, depends on each generation accepting the call to serve both God and country.

**People: Everywhere we look we are reminded of the commitment our veterans made in presenting their bodies as a living sacrifice.**

Pastor: So today we honor them as we proclaim a resounding....

**People: THANK GOD FOR YOU!**

Pastor: THANK YOU! That we are free to come and to worship the One who presented His body as the ultimate living sacrifice for ALL.

You, O God, are our God. You are with us in all the times of life to offer hope and light and everlasting comfort. We come to you now with thanks: thanks for our freedom; for our peace; for our prosperity and security. On this remembrance Sunday, we thank you, especially, for the women and men who gave of themselves in times of war to help to ensure the blessings that we now so richly enjoy.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to God for the land of our birth with all its chartered liberties. For all the wonder of our country's story:

**People: We give you thanks, O God.**

Pastor: For those who served their country in its hour of need, and especially for those who gave even their lives in that service:

**All: We give you thanks, O God. Bless this land with Your peace. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. We pray for the Church, the gathering of God's forgiven people, that we may support and encourage one another as we await the day of the Lord's return.

**People: In mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for our nation, our state, our local community, and our neighborhoods. May justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream in our courts and in all centers of government, that we may lead lives that are peaceful and peaceable.

**People: In mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray for those with special need for our petitions in these times, including the sick and hospitalized, the shut-ins, those facing challenges in employment or in other parts of their lives, that their needs may be met according to God's gracious plan. This day we remember [*names . . .* and] all those in need of our prayers.

**People: In mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We pray, O Lord, that we may use all of the good gifts You have given us with thanksgiving, caring for our own bodies, using the talents we have been given, and seeking to be the neighbors and friends You have designed us to be.

**People: In mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## Offering of Our Tithes and Gifts

If you brought your offering today, you are welcome to leave it in the offering plates you will find at the front of the church or in the main hallway. **Thank you.**

*St. Paul appreciates the continued support of those worshipping with us online and in person as we each help in sharing the amazing love of Jesus!*

### The Same Power

#### Verse 1

I can see the waters raging at my feet  
I can feel the breath of those surrounding me  
I can hear the sound of nations rising up  
We will not be overtaken  
We will not be overcome

I can walk down this dark and painful road  
I can face ev'ry fear of the unknown  
I can hear all God's children singing out  
We will not be overtaken  
We will not be overcome

#### Chorus

The same power that rose Jesus from the grave  
The same power that commands the dead to wake  
Lives in us lives in us  
The same power that moves mountains when He speaks  
The same power that can calm a raging sea  
Lives in us lives in us  
He lives in us lives in us

#### Verse 3

We have hope that His promises are true  
In His strength there is nothing we can't do  
Yes we know there are greater things in store  
We will not be overtaken  
We will not be overcome

#### Chorus

The same power that rose Jesus from the grave  
The same power that commands the dead to wake  
Lives in us lives in us  
The same power that moves mountains when He speaks  
The same power that can calm a raging sea  
Lives in us lives in us  
He lives in us lives in us

#### Bridge

Greater is He that is living in me  
He's conquered our enemy  
No power of darkness  
No weapon prevails  
We stand here in victory

## Chorus

The same power that rose Jesus from  
the grave  
The same power that commands the  
dead to wake  
Lives in us lives in us

The same power that moves mountains  
when He speaks  
The same power that can calm a raging  
sea  
Lives in us lives in us  
He lives in us lives in us

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## BENEDICTION *Numbers 6:22–27*

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you;  
the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you;  
the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace.

**All: Amen. Amen. Amen.**

## THE INVITATION

**What A Friend**

## Verse 1

Everybody has trials and temptations  
 Everybody knows heart break isolation  
 But we can lay our burdens down  
 Lay our burdens down

## Chorus

What a friend we have in Jesus  
 East to west my sins are gone  
 I see grace on every horizon  
 And forever and ever His heart is my  
 home

## Verse 2

Everybody has fears everybody got  
 worries  
 Everybody knows sorrow devastation  
 But we can lay our burdens down  
 Lay our burdens down

## Chorus

What a friend we have in Jesus  
 East to west my sins are gone  
 I see grace on every horizon  
 And forever and ever His heart is my  
 home

## Bridge

No more betrayal for He is faithful  
 He fills me up and my cup runneth  
 over  
 No more betrayal for He is faithful  
 How He has proven it over and over  
 (2x)  
 Over and over ...

## Chorus

What a friend we have in Jesus  
 East to west my sins are gone  
 I see grace on every horizon  
 And forever and ever His heart is my  
 home (2x)  
 And forever and ever His heart is my  
 home

May We Help You? Anyone who desires special private prayer with the Pastor may do so by remaining in the sanctuary until all worshippers have departed. At that time, come forward and speak with the Pastor.

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**WHERE WE SERVE**

<i>Preacher</i>	<i>Pastor Christopher Fairbairn</i>	
<i>Officiant</i>	<i>Pastor Jim Frusti</i>	
<i>Family Life Director</i>	<i>Jeanette Koch</i>	
<i>Music Director</i>	<i>Paul Ventimiglia</i>	
<i>Elder</i>	<i>Will Hoffmeier</i>	
<i>Reader</i>	<i>Mark Potter</i>	
<i>Counters</i>	<i>Carole Crete</i>	<i>Ruth Fisher</i>
<i>Greeters</i>	<i>McGuigan Family</i>	
<i>Tech Team</i>	<i>Curtis Kalina</i>	
<i>Welcome Center</i>	<i>Frank Newman</i>	
<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Chuck Hempel</i>	<i>Patrick Baker</i>

## News & Notes

*Attendance Last week :*

*Sunday 11.1.2020 – 8:30am - 74*

*11:00am - 55 = 129*

*Communion - 89*

*Bible Study and Small Group Opportunities –*

**SUNDAYS:** *Join us for bible study and fellowship @ 9:45am in the church*

*Parish Hall.*

**SATURDAYS:** *Men's Bible Study – Every second and fourth Saturday @ 9:30am – Parish Hall.*

*Today's flowers are:*

*One vase in memory of my son Ron from Bernice Baggett.*

*One vase "in appreciation for this congregation" from Lora Schmidt.*

*Please arrange to pick up your flowers after the 11am service.*



8	NOV, SUN	● All day	Veterans Acknowledgement
		● 8:30 – 9:30am	Worship w/Communion
		● 9:45 – 10:45am	Confirmation Class Room #3 School
		● 9:45 – 10:45am	Sunday School
		● 11am – 12pm	Worship
		● 6:30 – 7:30pm	AA Mtg church parish hall
9	NOV, MON	● 5:30 – 6:30pm	Board of Evangelism church office
		● 6 – 7:30pm	Coach V- Always Basketball gym
		● 6:30 – 7:30pm	Bd. of Christian Ed. church parish hall
		● 6:30 – 7:30pm	Board of Day School Room #4
10	NOV, TUE	● 6 – 9pm	Coach V- Always Basketball gym
11	NOV, WED	● 9:30 – 11am	Women's Bible Study church parish hall
		● 6:30 – 8pm	Coach V -Basketball-Gym GYM
		● 7 – 9pm	Northville Swim Club Meeting Room #4 - conference room
12	NOV, THU	● 6 – 9pm	Coach V- Always Basketball
13	NOV, FRI	● 6 – 7:30pm	Coach V - Always Basketball gym
		● 7 – 9pm	AA Mtg. church parish hall
14	NOV, SAT	● 9:30 – 11am	Men's Bible Study parish hall

Donations needed each week for Church and School – \$9,808  
 Received week of 11.1.2020 for Church (Envelopes plus loose plate\*)\$12,285.00 \*total includes online giving  
 School Income - \$5,994.05

A memorial was given to St. Paul Lutheran Church from Bernice Baggett in memory of her brother Don Lute.



**Remember Our Shut-Ins**

**Ruth Balko**  
 744 Horton  
 Northville, MI 48167



The "Gifts for All God's Children" tree is set up in the church hallway. All of these gifts will go to "Family of God" families. This year the gifts to be given were chosen by their pastor. Please take only one envelope until everyone has had a chance to take one. Sign your envelope out on the cards provided by signing your name next to the picture that is on

your envelope. Follow the directions that are inside the envelope. Wrap or bag your gift, **attach the envelope to the gift**, (so it is known what the gift is). Bring the gift to the Parish Hall by **December 6<sup>th</sup>**. Please purchase and wrap **ONLY** the gift mentioned so that each child has the same amount of gifts.

### All-Timers Bible Quizzing Tournament

Looking for Bible Quizzers, *young and old!*



This is a special annual Bible Quizzing tournament where there is **no age limit!** This means coaches, parents, and everyone else can test their Bible Quizzing skills. And this season, **St. Paul will be hosting the tournament on Saturday, January 16, 2021 on Matthew 14-19!** No prior knowledge of the material is required. All ages and experience levels are welcome.

Talk to Jake Fairbairn <[jakecfairbairn@gmail.com](mailto:jakecfairbairn@gmail.com), (248) 231-9684> for info or to register.

In the book of Acts, Luke shows that God works through His word and through poor and helpless people to bring people to faith in Christ. Please consider how the Lord calls every believer to bear witness to Jesus' death and resurrection and to salvation in His name. This month, Women in Christ is focusing on the mission grant entitled "Bringing Christ and Hope to Michigan's Urban Communities (Acts 2 Enterprise)." Acts 2 Enterprise works to make an impact in urban communities such as Detroit, Flint, Benton Harbor, and Pontiac to strengthen faith and address social needs in these communities. The amount of the grant is \$25,000. Please prayerfully support this effort as well as add to your MITE box this month. Thank you for your past support.



## AWPC DONATIONS

AWPC BOTIQUE would love to have your gently used donations of baby and toddler clothes, maternity clothes and baby equipment. There is a collection bin in the hall under the coat rack. Be creative and think of your kids, grandkids, friends and garage sales. If you have any questions or need help contact Robert McGuigan 734-318-8597 or Pat McGuigan 734-718-8597. We will get them to AWPC for you.

WOW! What a wonderful Wednesday we had at Family of God recently. Lisa and I (Pastor Chris) were glad to serve meals alongside our St. Paul family as we did something so simple and yet so meaningful to those who see our love for Jesus shown in love for them. It was an uplifting evening to sit with our Detroit neighbors and hear Pastor Tyler lead us in an engaging study of Acts. **JOIN US SOMETIME SOON** and you will feel blessed in such a positive way.

.... Many thanks to the volunteers who helped with the mission meal on the third Wednesday of October: Shopper: Janet Wisner; Cooks: Nancy Berg, Marilyn Edick, Kim Johnson, Linda Johnson, Barbara Hoffmeier, Doris Oltersdorf, Kathy Verseman, Janet Wisner; Brownie Bakers: Bernice Baggett, Marilyn Breuhan, Ruth Fisher, Karen Frusti, Kathy Hoener, Carol Kandah; Servers: Pastor Chris & Lisa Fairbairn, Wayne Gray, Barbara & Will Hoffmeier. Our next meal will be November 18th. If you would like to help please contact the Hoffmeier's #248.756.3035.

**FREE**

**FREE**

**FREE**

# IT'S BACK!!!!!! FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT



**SAT NOVEMBER 21 @ 5:00PM**

**PARISH HALL**

**PIZZA, POPCORN AND A LOT OF FUN**

**There will be plenty of room to space out for safety!!!**

**any questions let me know Jeanette**

**[Familylife@stpaulnorthville.org](mailto:Familylife@stpaulnorthville.org) 248-349-3140 ext13**

## Advent Dinners 2020

We will be having Advent Dinners 12/2 (Board of Christian Ed) , 12/9 ( Board of Evangelism) and 12/16/2020 in the church parish hall. Dinners will be served 5:30pm – 6:45pm. Social distancing rules will apply. If your group or board would like to sponsor the 12/16 meal, please call the church office 248-349-3140.



ADVENT NOON SERVICES –



At this time, when planning for the future seems like an exercise in futility, it is good to be reminded of God's future for all believers. It is secure and wonderful, and the season of Advent points us both towards Jesus' first coming and his second. Our Livonia Circuit congregations will once again join together at noon for our joint Advent services and find rest in the promises of God's future for us. We have called our gathering "Lutherans at Lunch" in previous years, but this year is different, of course, so it will just be "Lutherans at Noon" this year. Services will be Wednesdays, December 2, 9, & 16 at Christ Our Savior in Livonia. Physical distancing will be practiced, and masks are strongly recommended. All are welcome, of course—not just Lutherans!

### **Details**

Location: Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church, 14175 Farmington Rd., Livonia, MI 48154

Dates: Wednesdays, December 2, 9, & 16, 2020

Time: 12:00 noon

Lunch: unfortunately, no

Physical Distancing: yes, please

Masks: strongly recommended, though not required

### **"Await God's Future" Series**

<https://www.csl.edu/2020/10/new-advent-christmas-sermon-series-available-for-download-2/>