

Last Sunday of the Church Year
November 23, 2025
10:30 am Contemporary

AS WE GATHER

There is a phrase familiar to both preschoolers and powerbrokers. When they see that someone else has something they want, they declare, "That's mine!" seizing either toys or territory for themselves. This phrase is not unfamiliar to our God either. But where humans are motivated by selfishness, the Lord acts out of love. He claims you as His own because He loves you and He wants you to be with Him for eternity. You are His treasured possession! He will never leave you behind like a toddler may accidentally abandon her teddy bear, or neglect you like a king would treat those who supported his rival. When the Lord says, "You are Mine," you have His pledge of enduring faithfulness, today and unto eternity!

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING SONG

This Is Amazing Grace

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger
The King of Glory the King above all kings

Who shakes the whole earth
with holy thunder
And leaves us breathless
in awe and wonder
The King of Glory the King above all kings

This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You laid down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh Jesus I sing for
all that You've done for me

Who brings our chaos back into order
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter
The King of Glory the King of Glory

Who rules the nations with truth and justice
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance
The King of Glory the King above all kings

This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place

That You would bear my cross
You laid down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh Jesus I sing for
all that You've done for me

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King
who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King
who conquered the grave

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King
who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy worthy worthy

Oh! This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You laid down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh Jesus I sing for
all that You've done for me
All that You've done for me

CCLI Song # 6333821

INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

SONG

Gratitude

All my words fall short
I got nothing new
How could I express
All my gratitude
I could sing these songs
As I often do
But every song must end
And You never do
So I throw up my hands
And praise You again and again

'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah,
Hallelujah
And I know it's not much
But I've nothing else fit for a king
Except for a heart singing hallelujah
Hallelujah

I've got one response
I've got just one move
With my arms stretched wide
I will worship You
So I throw up my hands
And praise You again and again
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah,
Hallelujah
And I know it's not much
But I've nothing else fit for a king
Except for a heart singing hallelujah
Hallelujah

Come on my soul
Oh don't you get shy on me
Lift up your song
'Cause you've got a lion inside of those

lungs
Get up and praise the Lord
Come on my soul
Oh don't you get shy on me
Lift up your song

'Cause you've got a lion inside of those
lungs
Get up and praise the Lord
Come on my soul
Oh don't you get shy on me
Lift up your song

'Cause you've got a lion inside of those
lungs
Get up and praise the Lord
So I throw up my hands
And praise You again and again
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah,
Hallelujah

And I know it's not much
But I've nothing else fit for a king
Except for a heart singing hallelujah
Hallelujah

So I throw up my hands
And praise You again and again
'Cause all that I have is a hallelujah,
Hallelujah
And I know it's not much
But I've nothing else fit for a king
Except for a heart singing hallelujah
Hallelujah

CCLI Song # 7158417

SALUTATION

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, You reign among us by the preaching of Your cross. Forgive Your people their offenses that we, being governed by Your bountiful goodness, may enter at last into Your eternal paradise; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

READINGS

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:13–18

"Your words have been hard against me, says the LORD. But you say, 'How have we spoken against you?' You have said, 'It is vain to serve God. What is the profit of our keeping his charge or of walking as in mourning before the LORD of hosts? And now we call the arrogant blessed. Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape.'"

Then those who feared the LORD spoke with one another. The LORD paid attention and heard them, and a book of remembrance was written before him of those who feared the LORD and esteemed his name. "They shall be mine, says the LORD of hosts, in the day when I make up my treasured possession, and I will spare them as a man spares his son who serves him. Then once more you shall see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between one who serves God and one who does not serve him."

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Colossians 1:13–20

He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 23:32–43

Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." And they cast lots to divide his garments. And the people stood by, watching, but the rulers scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself, if he is the Christ of God, his Chosen One!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, "Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same

sentence of condemnation? And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong." And he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom." And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

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 of the world to come. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON SONG

What He's Done

See on the hill of Calvary
My Savior bled for me
My Jesus set me free

Look at the wounds that give me life
Grace flowing from His side
No greater sacrifice

What He's done
What He's done
All the glory and the honor to the Son
My sins are forgiven
My future is Heaven
I praise God for what He's done

Sing for the freedom He has won
Even death is dead and done
His life has overcome

Speak say the Name above all names
Over every broken place
He is risen from the grave

What He's done
What He's done
All the glory and the honor to the Son
My sins are forgiven
My future is Heaven
I praise God for what He's done

Now on a throne of majesty
The Father's will complete
He reigns in victory

Sing hallelujah to the King
He is worthy to receive
All the worship we can bring

What He's done
What He's done
All the glory and the honor to the Son
My sins are forgiven
My future is Heaven
I praise God for what He's done

What He's done
What He's done
All the glory and the honor to the Son
My sins are forgiven
My future is Heaven
I praise God for what He's done
I praise God for what He's done

CCLI Song # 7189257

SERMON

"Is it All in Vain?"
Malachi 3:13-18

Pastor Eric Clausen

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORDS PRAYER

HOLY COMMUNION

WORDS OF OUR LORD

Leader: 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 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 blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

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

People: And also with you.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

At The Cross (Love Ran Red)
There's a place
Where mercy reigns and never dies
There's a place
Where streams of grace
flow deep and wide
Where all the love I've ever found
Comes like a flood comes flowing down

At the cross at the cross
I surrender my life
I'm in awe of You I'm in awe of You
Where Your love ran red
and my sin washed white
I owe all to You I owe all to You (Jesus)

There's a place
Where sin and shame are powerless
Where my heart
Has peace with God and forgiveness
Where all the love I've ever found
Comes like a flood comes flowing down

At the cross at the cross
I surrender my life
I'm in awe of You I'm in awe of You
Where Your love ran red
and my sin washed white
I owe all to You I owe all to You

At the cross at the cross
I surrender my life
I'm in awe of You I'm in awe of You
Where Your love ran red
and my sin washed white
I owe all to You I owe all to You

Here my hope is found
Here on holy ground
Here I bow down here I bow down
Here arms open wide
Here You saved my life
Here I bow down here I bow

Here my hope is found
Here on holy ground
Here I bow down here I bow down
Here arms open wide
Here You saved my life
Here I bow down here I bow

At the cross at the cross
I surrender my life
I'm in awe of You I'm in awe of You
Where Your love ran red and my sin
washed white
I owe all to You I owe all to You
I owe all to You I owe all to You
Jesus Savior of the world
Jesus

CCLI Song # 7017786

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Leader: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, we give thanks that we have again received the Body and blood of Christ, the bread from heaven. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage, that we speak the truth in love and build up the Body of Christ until that day we see You face-to-face; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Leader: 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 give you peace.

People: Amen

CLOSING SONG

Jesus Thank You

Thank You for Your goodness
Thank You for Your kindness
Thank You for all the things You do
Jesus thank You

Jesus I can hardly count the times
Your grace has pulled me out
Sin and shame had left me bound
I once was lost but now I'm found
I once was lost but now I'm found

Thank You for Your goodness
Thank You for Your kindness
Thank You for all the things You do
Jesus thank You
Thank You for the blessings
Thank You for a million little things
Thank You for the ways that You've come
through
Jesus thank You

Looking back all I can see
Is a history of miracles
I know if You're here with me
Then nothing is impossible

Jesus thank You
Jesus thank You thank You thank You

I can't say it enough
I can't say it enough
I can't say it enough
I can't thank You enough
I can't thank You enough
I can't thank You enough no
I can't thank You enough
I can't thank You enough
I can't thank You enough

Jesus thank You
Jesus thank You
Jesus thank You thank You thank You

CCLI Song #7200310

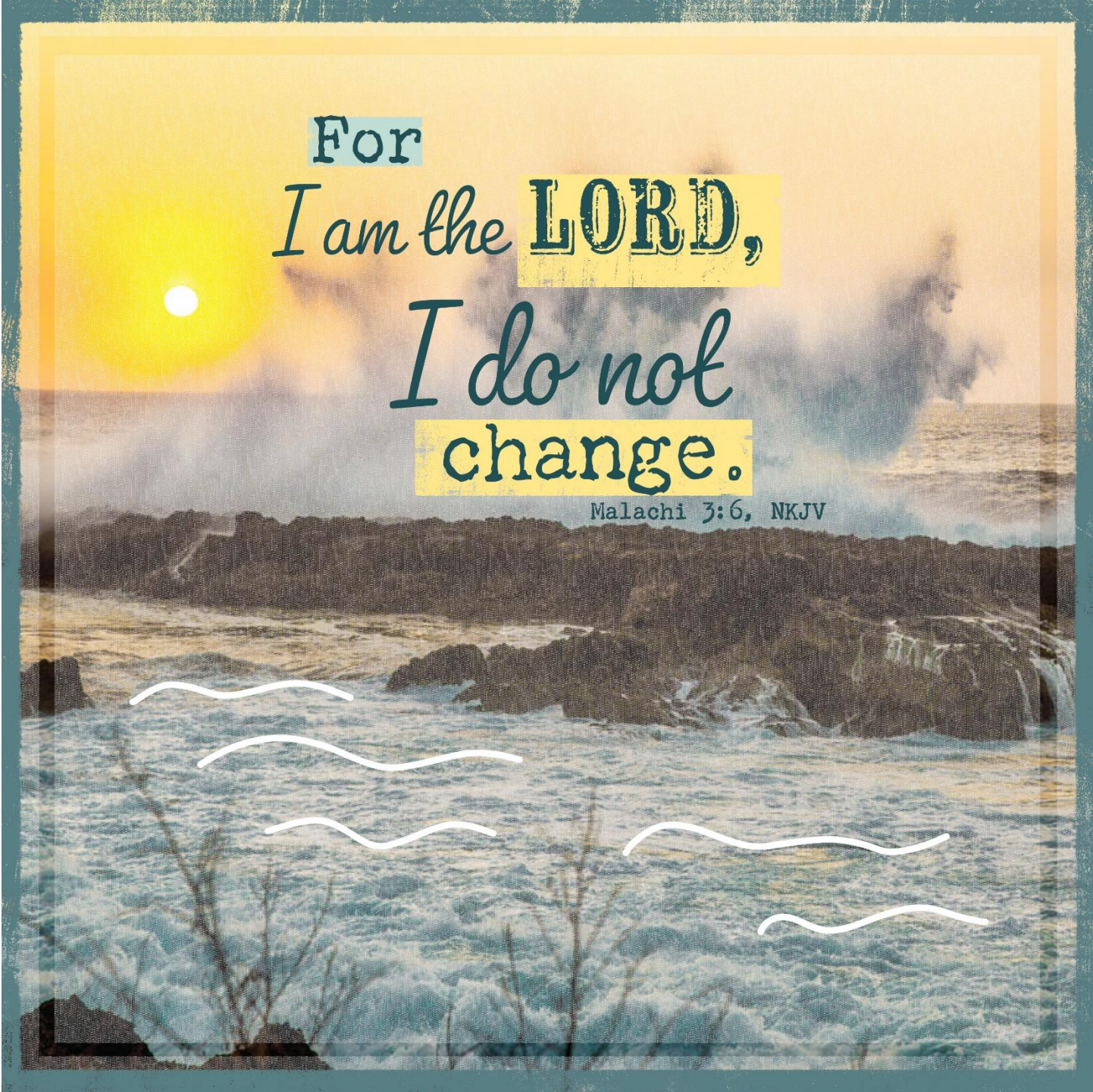
DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series C, Quarter 3.
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For
I am the **LORD**,
I do not
change.

Malachi 3:6, NKJV