

CREATED, SAVED AND GIFTED BY GOD,  
WE SEEK, SERVE AND SHARE JESUS CHRIST.



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
NOVEMBER 19, 2023  
10:30 A.M.

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH  
901 EAST STROOP ROAD  
KETTERING, OH 45429-4688  
(937) 298-0136

# TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

## *Introduction*

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.

## *Who’s Got Talent?*

Jon Bloom is a cofounder of the Desiring God organization. Speaking to the parable of the talents, he suggests that being given one talent can appear unfair, can wound our pride. He is regularly tempted, he says, to covet his neighbors’ talents. And isn’t that always the way? Discounting our own gifts, we envy the abilities of others. And yet, Bloom points out, such behavior is, at its core, the sin of pride.

Our love of God can get eclipsed and our loving relationships with others can be damaged by such pride, which costs us any desire to be a good steward of the gifts God has given us. Hence the description of the last servant as “wicked” and “lazy” (Matthew 25:26). Being given a single talent means less of a chance to really impress the master and improve the servant’s own position. Therefore, the servant believes, the master is harsh and unjust.

Pride infects all of us, no matter how many talents we have. In a number of parables, Jesus takes aim at people with a generous amount of prestige, wealth, and power. That’s why this parable stings so much. Jesus is talking to all of us. We can and must be on the lookout for the sin of pride, which is at the root of so many unhealthy behaviors. Pride takes so many forms, including discouragement, self-pity, and hopelessness. Every single one of us is a cherished and deeply loved child of God—and God has blessed every single one of us, richly, with talents. Making the effort to be good stewards of the talents we have is a fine way to shut down self-pity and the sin of pride. God has reasons for giving us exactly the talents we have.

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Pr. Jamie Vannoy*

## \*\* CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*As the water is poured remember the promises made to you in your baptism.*

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## \*\* GATHERING SONG

*Come, Ye Thankful People, Come (ELW 693)*

1 Come, ye thank-ful peo - ple, come; raise the song of har - vest home.  
2 All the world is God's own field, fruit un - to his praise to yield;  
3 For the Lord our God shall come and shall take his har - vest home;  
4 E - ven so, Lord, quick - ly come to thy fi - nal har - vest home.

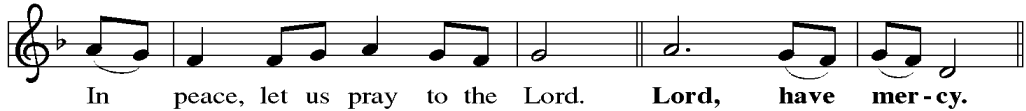
All be safe - ly gath - ered in ere the win - ter storms be - gin.  
 wheat and tares to - geth - er sown, un - to joy or sor - row grown.  
 from his field shall in that day all of - fens - es purge a - way;  
 Gath - er then thy peo - ple in, free from sor - row, free from sin,

God, our mak - er, doth pro - vide for our wants to be sup - plied.  
 First the blade, and then the ear, then the full corn shall ap - pear.  
 give his an - gels charge at last in the fire the tares to cast,  
 there, for - ev - er pu - ri - fied, in thy gar - ner to a - bide.

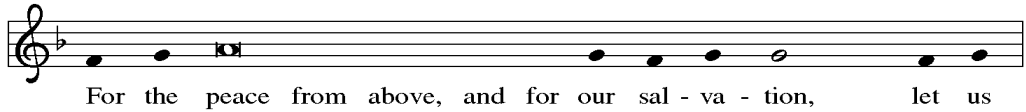
Come to God's own tem - ple, come, raise the song of har - vest home.  
 Lord of har - vest, grant that we whole - some grain and pure may be.  
 but the fruit - ful ears to store in his gar - ner ev - er - more.  
 Come, with all thine an - gels, come, raise the glo - rious har - vest home!

**\*\* GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**



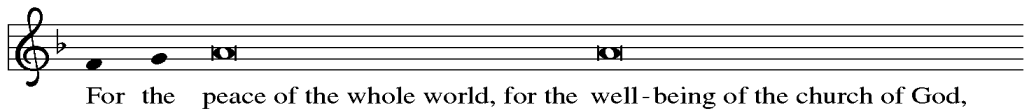
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**



For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



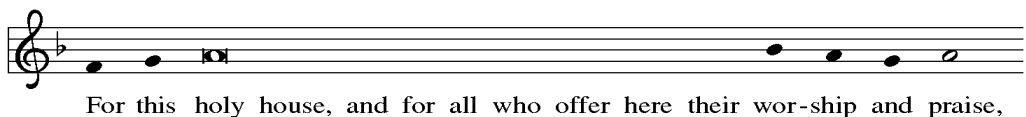
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



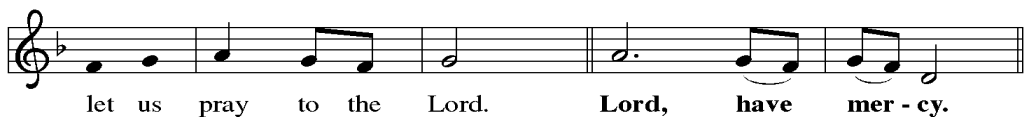
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



**A - men.**

\*\* CANTICLE OF PRAISE



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



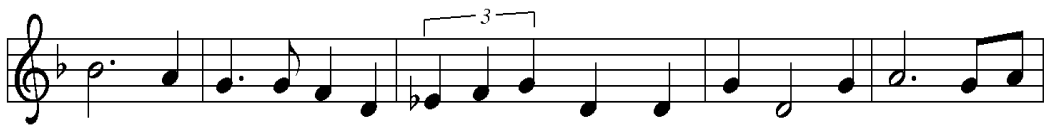
wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo-ry to God in the high - est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

**\*\* PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Righteous God, our merciful master, **you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

# WORD

*Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets,  
Jesus interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.*

## FIRST READING

**Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

*Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.*

A reading from the book of 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

**Psalms 90:1-8 [9-11] 12**

*So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)*

Lord, you have been our refuge  
from one generation to another.

**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,  
from age to age you are God.**

You turn us back to the dust and say,  
"Turn back, O children of earth."

**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past  
and like a watch in the night;**

you sweep them away like a dream,  
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

**in the morning it is green and flourishes;  
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**



For we are consumed by your anger;  
we are afraid because of your wrath.

**Our iniquities you have set before you,  
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

[When you are angry, all our days are gone;  
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;  
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**

Who regards the power of your wrath?  
Who rightly fears your indignation?]

**So teach us to number our days  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

## **SECOND READING**

## **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**


*Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

A reading from Paul's 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

**\*\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

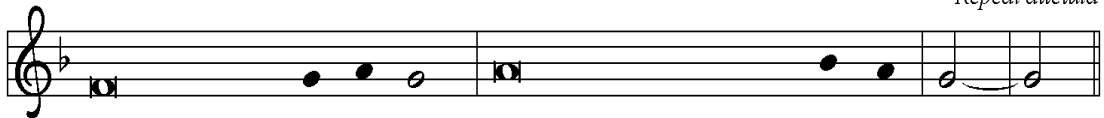


Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*



Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

**\*\* GOSPEL READING**

**Matthew 25:14-30**

*Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "For it is as if 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.'”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## YOUTH MESSAGE

### MESSAGE

*Pr. Jamie Vannoy*

### HYMN OF THE DAY

*Glory and Praise to Our God (W&P 43)*

#### REFRAIN

Glo - ry and praise to our God, who a - lone gives light to our days;

man - y are the bless - ings he bears to those who trust in his ways.

#### VERSES 1-3

1. We, the daught - ers and sons of him who built the val - leys and plains,
2. In his wis - dom he strength - ens us like gold that's test - ed in fire.
3. Ev - 'ry mo - ment of ev - 'ry day, our God is wait - ing to save,

praise the won - ders our God has done in  
 Though the pow - er of sin pre - vails, our  
 al - ways read - y to seek the lost, to

ev - 'ry heart that sings.  
 God is there to save.  
 an - swer those who pray.

*to refrain* **D.C.**

VERSE 4



**\*\* APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*\* PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

*Each intercession concludes:* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

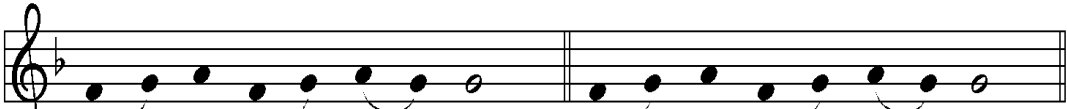
We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**OFFERTORY**


# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*


## \*\* DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,



heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. 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.

**\*\* WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

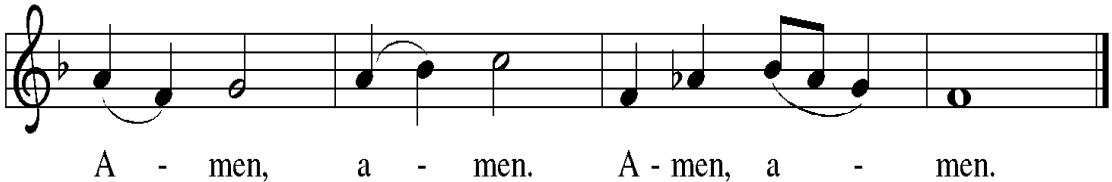


Christ has died. Christ is ris - en. Christ will come a - gain.

With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **Come, Lord Jesus.**

Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.



### \*\* LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

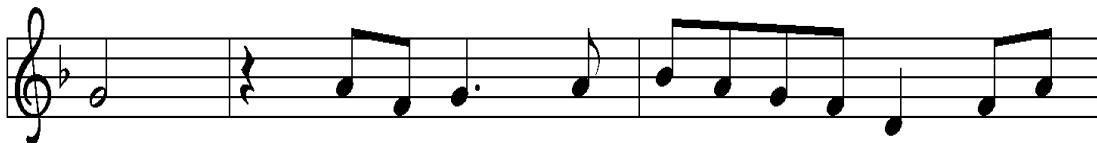
### COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

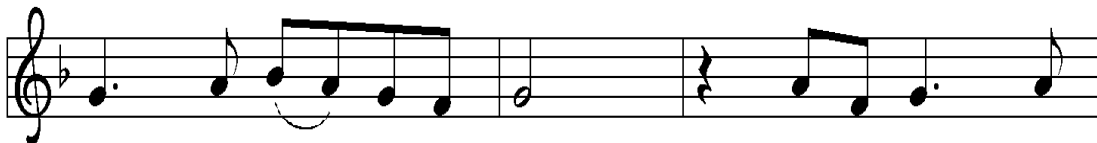
\*\* LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.



\*\* COMMUNION HYMN

*One Thing Remains (Your Love Never Fails)*



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,



give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.



Give thanks with a grate - ful heart, give thanks to the Ho - ly One,



give thanks be - cause he's giv - en Je - sus Christ, his Son.



And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am



rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. And



now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am

*Last time*



rich," be - cause of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!

**\*\* TABLE BLESSING**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless you and always keep you in God's grace.  
**Amen.**

**SONG AFTER COMMUNION: The Canticle of Simeon**



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful-



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. **Amen.**

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## \*\* BLESSING

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

*Now Thank We All Our God (ELW 840)*

1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,  
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,  
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,

who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;  
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,  
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,

who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way  
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,  
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;

with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to - day.  
 and free us from all harm in this world and the next.  
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

**\*\* DISMISSAL**

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Created, saved and gifted by God, we seek, serve and share Jesus Christ.**

**Hallelujah, thanks be to God!**

**“W + 2” = Worship Plus Two**

**Make a commitment to not only worship each week  
 but also try to find a way to serve in the congregation  
 and seek out a way to serve our community.**

**YOU ARE NOW ENTERING THE MISSION FIELD**

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