



## The 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 16, 2025

Worship at 9:30 a.m.

### Gathering

*The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right."*

*A warm welcome whether you are joining us in-house or by social media. Our prayer is that worship today will be a blessing as we sing and pray and hear God's Word together. We welcome you to the Lord's Table this morning. Christ Church is a family of faith deeply rooted in our upper Bucks communities, supporting one another in faith, working together to serve God.*

*Please take this weekly resource home with you – use it to take notes, jot down reminders, pray, remember dates. You can call (215.766.8730) or email (christpipersville@gmail.com) for prayer needs. In an emergency, please call the parsonage at 267-362-8129.*

### WELCOME AND WORSHIP ANNOUNCEMENTS

**THE PRELUDE:** time for prayer and preparation.

*Please stand in body or spirit at Pastor's invitation.*

In the name of the Father, Son + and Holy Spirit, one God, **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.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful and loving God, **Your loving presence calls us to mercy, but we can be a stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.**

Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. We who once were lost have been found and know the mercy of God. 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 HYMN ELW #796, HOW FIRM A FOUNDATION (NEXT PAGE)**



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
 3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
 4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove  
  
 is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!  
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.  
 my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;  
  
 What more can he say than to you he has said  
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
 The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign  
 and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,  
  
 who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
 up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."  
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."  
 like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.  
 Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

## 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.**

## THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. *Silence. Pastor offers the Prayer of the Day. We join in our hearts.*

O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Please be seated.*

## Word

**THE FIRST LESSON** is from Malachi, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter. (Malachi 4:1-2a)

<sup>1</sup> See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2a</sup> But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

+ *Silence* +

**PSALM 98** is read responsively by verse.

<sup>1</sup> Sing a new song to the Lord, who has done marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

<sup>2</sup> **O Lord, you have made known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup> You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

<sup>4</sup> **Shout with joy to the Lord, all you lands;  
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

<sup>5</sup> Sing to the Lord with the harp,  
with the harp and the voice of song.

<sup>6</sup> **With trumpets and the sound of the horn  
shout with joy before the king, the Lord.**

<sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,  
the world and those who dwell therein.

<sup>8</sup> **Let the rivers clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the Lord,  
who comes to judge the earth.**

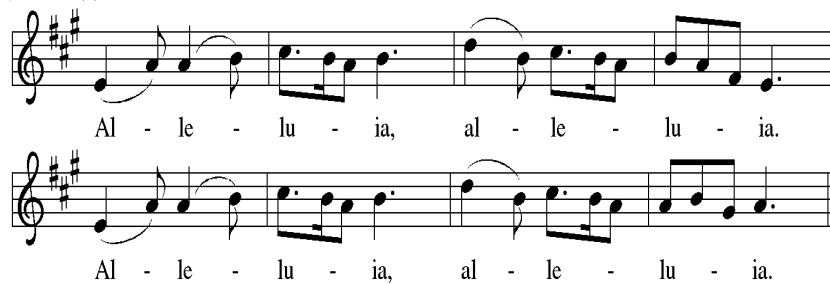
<sup>9</sup> The Lord will judge the world with righteousness  
and the peoples with equity. **Amen.**

**THE SECOND READING** is from 2 Thessalonians, the 3rd chapter. (2 Thess. 3:6-13)

<sup>6</sup> Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. <sup>7</sup> For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, <sup>8</sup> and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. <sup>9</sup> This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. <sup>10</sup> For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. <sup>11</sup> For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. <sup>12</sup> Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

#### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW #174**



**THE HOLY GOSPEL** according to Luke, the 21st chapter. (Luke 21:5-19)

**Glory to you O Lord!** <sup>5</sup> When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, <sup>6</sup> "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down."

<sup>7</sup> They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" <sup>8</sup> And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

<sup>9</sup> "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." <sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against

kingdom; <sup>11</sup> there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

<sup>12</sup> “But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. <sup>13</sup> This will give you an opportunity to testify. <sup>14</sup> So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, <sup>15</sup> for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. <sup>16</sup> You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. <sup>17</sup> You will be hated by all because of my name. <sup>18</sup> But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup> By your endurance you will gain your souls.” The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

*The alleluia repeats. Please be seated.*

## TEACHING THE WORD / SERMON

### HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #632, O GOD OUR HELP



- 1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
- 2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
- 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
- 4 A thou-sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm-y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,  
bears all our years away;  
they fly forgotten, as a dream  
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,  
our hope for years to come,  
still be our guard while troubles last  
and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

## Meal

### THE PRAYERS

Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

*We pray for the world, our community, and our church. Each petition concludes with: ...in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.** We are invited to pray for the needs of our hearts with the words: ‘...people of God, for what else shall we pray?’*

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

**THE PEACE** The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

*We greet one another in peace saying, "Peace be with you" or similar words. Feel free to step out of your pew!  
Following the peace, please be seated.*

#### **OFFERTORY, AS WE GATHER OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS / ANTHEM**

*We offer our love, obedience and lives in thanksgiving as a response to God's gifts and mercies.  
If you are worshipping remotely tithes and offerings may be gathered and given by mail, online  
at [christpipersville.org](http://christpipersville.org) or using the QR code. The Table is prepared.*



**OFFERTORY RESPONSE** *Please stand as the song begins.*



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

#### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray. *a brief silence* Lord of the harvest,  
**we return to you a portion of what you have given to us.**  
**Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches,**  
**but on you, who richly provides for us.**  
**Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need,**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also 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 right and a joyful thing to give you thanks O God,  
holy, almighty and merciful ...

*Pastor offers the Eucharistic prayer; we join in our hearts. The prayer concludes:*

...With the whole people of God, we give thanks  
praying with trust and hope for the coming of the Kingdom in the words our Savior 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.

#### AGNUS DEI



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;

you suf - fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.  
 you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.  
 e - ter - nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

My brothers and sisters, come to the Table, for all is ready!  
**We shall come with joy, alleluia, amen!**

*We share in the Lord's Body and Blood. We believe the risen Christ is truly present in the forms of bread and wine to forgive, renew and strengthen. All are welcome-this is the Lord's Table and He invites you! If you have taken an elements cup and prefer to commune where you are seated, please do so at any time after the invitation. The elements are offered with the words: 'The Body of Christ given for you' and 'The Blood of Christ shed for you'. The recipient may respond "Amen".*

*The musicians and other assistants will be communed first, followed by those online. Then the congregation comes forward by the center aisle, the organ side first, and then the pulpit side. Receive the Host (bread) from Pastor, with the words, 'The body of Christ, given for you.' The assistant offers the chalice of wine for intinction, (dipping the bread into the wine) with the words: 'The blood of Christ, shed for you. The communicant may say: Amen. Please return to your pew by the side aisle. Anyone, child or adult, who does not wish to take communion is invited to come forward, hands folded, to receive a blessing, or remain seated and commune by prayer. The communion song, #472 "Eat This Bread", is sung.*

**Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and never be hungry.  
 Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.**

Text: Taizé Community, © 1984 Les Presses de Taizé,  
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*When all have communed and the Table is cleared, please stand at Pastor's invitation.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

*Silence*

#### THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

O God, our life, our strength, our food: **we give you thanks for sustaining us with the body and blood of your Son. By your Holy Spirit enliven us to be Christ's body in the world, that our words and actions praise You serving your creation and all peoples as witnesses to Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

*Please be seated for Mission & Ministry Announcements.*

## Sending

*Please stand in body or spirit at Pastor's invitation.*

### THE BENEDICTION

The Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN, ELW #785, WHEN PEACE LIKE A RIVER



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when  
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let  
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my  
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I  
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.  
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

#### *Refrain*



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888  
Music: VILLA DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

### THE DISMISSAL

Go in peace, serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

### THE POSTLUDE

# Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church

353 E. Dark Hollow Rd  
Pipersville PA 18947  
215. 766. 8730 office  
267. 362. 8129 parsonage

The Rev. Marie L. Caron, pastor  
*the people of Christ Church, ministers*  
Mrs. Cindy Carper, Secretary  
Mr. Brian Maddux, Council President

## WORSHIP ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND CREDITS:

*The ordo is the traditional liturgy of Holy Communion.*

*ELW is Evangelical Lutheran Worship.*

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## THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**LIVE-STREAMED WORSHIP** can be seen on Facebook Live and Zoom. Watch your email for links to the live-streamed service and the recorded service to be posted to our website ([www.christpipersville.org](http://www.christpipersville.org)).

**NOVEMBER'S WEB SITE AND BULLETINS** are sponsored by Sandra and Jeff Cron in honor of our 1<sup>st</sup> born as she celebrates her 16<sup>th</sup> birthday and brings so much joy to us.

**WE WELCOME** Rich Spotts as our organist this morning and thank him for his musical leadership.

### LECTOR:

**FELLOWSHIP HOST:** The Kelly Family

**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS** – The prayer list is printed in the newsletter and is posted on the bulletin board. In addition, please remember Bob Parish (H,R,St), Jim Campbell (H,R), Paul Gruver (H,R), Martha (H,R) and the G Family (H,Support). Please contact the church office, 215-766-8730 or e-mail, with any prayer needs. Names will remain on the prayer list for one month unless a new request is made.

**CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET MEETING** is scheduled for today immediately following worship. Copies of the proposed budget were sent by email and printed copies are available on the table by the sanctuary doors.

**VOLUNTEER(S) ARE NEEDED** to direct this year's Sunday School family Christmas Pageant. Please let Cindy know if you can lead rehearsals during the Sunday School time the first 2 Sundays in December and the pageant during worship on December 21st. Thank you.

**FAITH MATCH:** An anonymous donor has offered to match up to \$1,000.00 in extra giving to help end the year on a positive financial note. You may place your gift in one of the specially marked envelopes on the table by the sanctuary doors or use any envelope noting it's for the faith challenge. Thank you for your support!

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS** are needed the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Sundays of the month through May. See the sign-up sheet on the Sunday School bulletin board at the top of the stairs. Lessons are provided in advance and you can sign up for one or more Sundays. Share your faith with our youth!

**ADOPT-A-CHILD/TEEN/PARENT FOR CHRISTMAS**—We are once again collecting gift cards rather than adopting a specific person. We are collecting gift cards from any place and amount of your choosing (i.e. Wal-Mart, Target, Giant, Weis) to be donated to the Adopt-A-Child program to be used where needed. Gift cards should be placed in a marked envelope and put in the offering plate, Kim Szymanowski's mailbox or dropped off at the church office. All gift cards are needed by December 1st.

**POINSETTIA ORDER AND REMEMBRANCE FORMS** are available on the table with the bulletins. Cost for poinsettias is \$8 or you may also make a donation to one of the special church funds for Christmas. The order deadline is December 3<sup>rd</sup> and checks should be made payable to the church.

**FELLOWSHIP PERIOD** hosts are needed. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board.

**LECTORS:** Volunteers would be appreciated to read the lessons each Sunday. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board & copies of the lessons are available at least a week in advance.

**A NEW CHURCH DIRECTORY** with updated addresses and phone numbers (no photos) is to be published in a few months. Your help by verifying your address and phone number with the church office would be appreciated or see Cindy after worship.

**LIVING NATIVITY:** The Palisades Area Lutheran Ministries will be performing a live Nativity on Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, at 3 & 5 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2170 Rt 212, Coopersburg. Many volunteers are needed...actors, choir, costume prep, cookies, etc. See the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to volunteer.

**BULLETIN/WEB SITE SPONSORS:** You may sponsor the Sunday bulletin or the church website in honor or memory of a loved one and we'll list your gift in the bulletin as well as social media and our website. The requested donation is \$20/week for the bulletin and \$25/month for the website. Sponsorship envelopes and a sign-up sheet are posted on the bulletin board for your convenience.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** A volunteer is needed each week to collect the trash and place it in the trash cart after worship. Instructions are posted on the bulletin board. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Volunteers are also needed to fill the candles, turn off fans/lights and change the hymn board...see Pastor Caron or Kim Campbell with any questions or to volunteer.

**MEALS ON WHEELS:** Drivers are needed for the Tinicum area on a regular basis as well as substitute drivers. Please call 215-345-6065 if you are able to deliver meals one or more times a month at lunch time.

**DID YOU KNOW...**Many Thrivent policy holders are eligible to designate "Thrivent Choice Dollars" to a charity of their choice. Christ Lutheran Church is one of those options. We received \$961.00 through this program in 2024 and \$1,130.00 to date in 2025.

**GIANT GIFT CARDS** can be purchased after worship (see Cindy Carper or Kim Szymanowski) or during the week from the church office. Gift cards are available in \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50 & \$100 denominations. Checks should be made payable to Christ Lutheran Church. (*Gift cards may not be used to purchase other gift cards.*) Giant gives 5% back to the church for every card purchased. We raised \$2,800 in 2024 and \$2,200 to date in 2025.

**THE LORD’S PANTRY** has a continuing need for donations. During the month of November we are collecting canned vegetables and paper towels, but all types of canned/dry goods are welcome (stew, chunky soups, peanut butter, condiments, etc.). Donations may be placed in the pantry cabinet by the parking lot doors or contact the church office to make drop off arrangements. You may also purchase Giant gift cards to be provided to The Lord’s Pantry.

**TABOR HOME SUPPORT** – We have an ongoing collection of diapers (any size, except newborn) for Tabor Home. Diapers may be placed under the coat rack and will be delivered periodically to Tabor Home.

**SIMPLY GIVING** is a program that enables you to financially support our ministry easily, securely and faithfully. You choose the amount and the schedule: weekly, bimonthly, or monthly. You can easily change the amount or timing. You can be a blessing! Contact the church office with any questions.

#### **The Week of November 16<sup>th</sup> at a Glance**

Sun. 11/16 The 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship  
10:30AM Congregational Budget Meeting, Fellowship Period  
Mon. 11/17 Happy Birthday, Ashley Swope!  
Wed. 11/19 11AM Ensemble  
Thur. 11/20 8:30AM Morning Prayer, 9:00AM Bible Study  
Happy Birthday, Carl Swope!  
Fri. 11/21 Office Closed, Pastor’s Day Off  
Happy Birthday, Ava Cron!  
Sun. 11/23 The 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost  
9:30AM In-Person and Live-Streamed Worship  
10:30AM Fellowship Period