



Worship with Communion The 24th Sunday after Pentecost Celebrating Our Gifts

VIDEO: Participate on any device at 10AM on November 15
go.mysjec.com/facebook or go.mysjec.com/youtube
You can watch the videos at any time after their premier.

Welcome! We're glad you chose to worship with us today!

♪ **God's Holy Ways are Just and True**

God's holy ways are just and true, God's promises are ever new. Alleluia, alleluia!
Let ev'ry heart with praises sing, and make this house with voices ring:
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Bring back to mind God's grace and love; our needs provided from above. Alleluia, alleluia!
God kept his word and Jesus came to make a people in God's name.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Tell once again the deeds of old, the story of our mighty God. Alleluia, Alleluia!
For all God's glorious works and ways, we shall rejoice through endless days.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Words: Psalm 111; para Barbara Woollett, c 1984. ©1990 Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Music: *LASST UNS ERFREUEN*, 1623.

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be God's kingdom, now and forever. AMEN!**

Celebrant Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord.

People **AMEN!**

All **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the**

sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. AMEN!

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

People **AMEN!**

First Lesson

Reader 1 A reading of First Thessalonians chapter 5, verses 1 through 11.

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.

Reader 1 The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Unison Reading

Reader 1 Let us read in unison Psalm 123.

All To you I lift up my eyes, to you enthroned in the heavens. As the eyes of servants look to the hand of their masters, and the eyes of a maid to the hand of her mistress, so our eyes look to you, O Lord our God, until you show us your mercy. Have mercy upon us, O Lord, have mercy, for we have had more than enough of contempt, too much of the scorn of the indolent rich, and of the derision of the proud.

Gospel

Matthew 25. 14-30

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "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.’”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Note: A talent is worth about 20 years of a day laborer's wages—an amount equal to about \$400,000 today.

Sermon

Consecrating Our Selves and Our Gifts

Celebrant How hard would it be for you to sell everything you own and then give those proceeds all away? This month as we consecrate our gifts and our selves, we realize that the Lord is not asking us to give it all away. God is asking for a portion—a portion that indicates that yes, we would be willing to give it all away for God, if asked. You are invited to return your pledge cards by mail or drop them off in the mail slot at the church. May the Holy Trinity bless what you have decided to give back to God so that many more people might come to know the love, forgiveness, grace, and renewing power of God.

People **AMEN!**

A Litany of Consecration

adapted from prayers by Maren C Tirabassi & Ozzie Smith Jr

Reader 2 It is God, not the economy, who reminds us of our abundance.

People **We have received grace, and grace we give.**

Reader 2 It is the Bible, not the budget, which calls our church to faithfulness.

People **We have received grace, and grace we give.**

Reader 2 God, who is the source of all resources, inspires creative uses of finances, time, energy, and enthusiasm.

People **We have received grace, and grace we give.**

Reader 2 Bless, O God, all the financial resources that will pass through our hands in the years to come. May our planning be wise, our spending be faithful, our giving be joyful, and our saving offer peace of mind.

People **Keep us from waste, worry, and regret; remind us always to be sensitive to the needs of those who have less than we do; let justice and compassion guide our earning, investing, spending, and saving.**

Reader 2 Everlasting God, our dwelling place in all generations, in the midst of new dimensions, and in the face of changing ways: we bring our gifts and talents before you, in gratitude and hope.

People **In every time and every season, we are mindful of all you have entrusted to us, and we ask that we might live our lives as good and trustworthy stewards of your abundance and your joy.**

Reader 2 Release us from the fear of scarcity and lack. Help us to trust you with all our hearts, to encourage one another, and to build up your reign on this earth through the ministry of our congregation, of the Diocese of Fond du Lac, and of The Episcopal Church.

People **We pray this day for your blessing upon our gifts, upon our lives, and upon your church: inspire our hearts each day to fearlessly take hold of real life; to give, love, and live abundantly, in the name of Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, now and ever more. AMEN!**

Reader 2 Let us sing in celebration of our stewardship of our lives.

♪ **Gratefully Offer Talents and Service**

Gratefully offer talents and service, meeting the challenge of this new day.
 Partners in mission, working with vision, strengthen Christ's body in a new way.
 Faithfully serving all of God's children, telling our stories, list'ning to theirs.
 Teaching, upholding, with love enfolding, we help to bear all burdens and cares.
 Joyfully praising, learning, supporting, finding new paths of service and prayer.
 Led by the Spirit, life we inherit, giving God glory now everywhere.

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Nicene Creed

Celebrant Let us join in the words of the Nicene Creed.

All We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN!

Prayers of the People

from The Episcopal Network for Stewardship

Reader 3 That we may turn to God for guidance and direction as we strive to serve one another and the Church with the gifts God has entrusted to our care.

All **Open our hearts, Lord, to serve you with joy.**

Reader 3 That we may more easily choose to serve rather than to be served, to give rather than to take, to contribute rather than to consume.

All **Open our hearts, Lord, to serve you with joy.**

Reader 3 That we may learn to more deeply trust God to provide us with all that we need.

All **Open our hearts, Lord, to serve you with joy.**

Reader 3 That we may learn to see the difference between the simple things we need and the many things we want.

All **Open our hearts, Lord, to serve you with joy.**

Reader 3 That, like the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may say “Yes” to what God calls us to do, always remembering that God has done great things for us.

All **Open our hearts, Lord, to serve you with joy.**

Reader 3 That, through our good stewardship, we may build up God’s kingdom here on earth as it is in heaven.

All **Open our hearts, Lord, to serve you with joy.**

Reader 3 That we may recognize the many blessings the poor and those in need bring to us, even as we seek to share our blessings with them.

All **Open our hearts, Lord, to serve you with joy.**

Reader 3 That we may come to more fully realize that everything we have is a gift from God and that we are called to generously share these gifts with all who are in need.

All **Open our hearts, Lord, to serve you with joy.**

Reader 3 That we may learn to see ourselves as God’s beloved children who have been called to work in God’s kingdom and spread God’s love throughout the world.

All **Open our hearts, Lord, to serve you with joy.**

Reader 3 That we may find more time to pray, to give thanks for all of God's blessings and ask for guidance in best using the gifts entrusted to our care.

All **Open our hearts, Lord, to serve you with joy.**

Reader 3 That as we look upon the world, we may see the unseen, love the unlovable, and bind up the brokenhearted wherever we find them.

All **Open our hearts, Lord, to serve you with joy.**

Reader 3 We lift up the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

All **Open our hearts, Lord, to serve you with joy.**

Reader 3 Loving God, we come to you in thanksgiving, knowing that all that we are and all that we have is a gift from you. Speak your words into the depths of our souls, that we may hear you clearly. We offer to you this day all the facets of our lives—at home, at work, at school, and everywhere else—to be patient, to be merciful, to be generous, to be holy, and to be fearless. Give us the wisdom and insight to understand your will for us and give us the fervor to carry out our good intentions. We offer our gifts of time, talent, and possessions to you as a true act of faith, to reflect our love for you and our neighbors. Help us to reach out to others, as you our God have reached out to us. We ask these things in the name of your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.

All **AMEN!**

Reader 3 We pray to you also for the forgiveness of our sins.

All **Most merciful God, we confess that 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. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. AMEN!**

Celebrant Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

All **AMEN!**

Passing the Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People And also with you.

Invitation to Communion

from the Iona Community, Scotland

Celebrant The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; come.

♪ Womb of Life and Source of Being

Womb of life and source of being, home of ev'ry restless heart,
In your arms the worlds awakened; you have loved us from the start.

We your children, gather 'round you, at the table you prepare.

Sharing stories, tears and laughter, we are nurtured by your care.

Word in flesh, our brother Jesus, born to bring us second birth,
You have come to stand beside us, knowing weakness, knowing earth.
Priest who shares our human struggles, Life of Life and Death of Death,
Risen Christ, come stand among us, send the Spirit by your breath.

Brooding Spirit, move among us; be our partner, be our friend.

When our mem'ry fails, remind us whose we are, what we intend.

Labor with us; aid the birthing of the new world yet to be,

Free of servant, lord, and master, free for love and unity.

Mother, Brother, holy Partner; Father, Spirit, Only Son:

We would praise your name forever, one-in-three and three-in-one.

We would share your life, your passion, share your word of world made new,
Ever singing, ever praising, one with all, and one with you.

Offering Our Gifts

Celebrant Gifts and offerings may be mailed to the church, dropped off in the church mail slot, or sent through your bank. There are also online giving options on our web site at mySJEC.com/donate. We are grateful for your continued financial support of our ministry and mission.

Celebrant Inspire us to always share your love through action, O God:

People **Strengthen us to always be an inviting safe community for all.**

Great Thanksgiving

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant God of all power, Ruler of the Universe, you are worthy of glory and praise.

All **Glory to you for ever and ever.**

Celebrant At your command all things came to be: the vast expanse of interstellar space, galaxies, suns, the planets in their courses, and this fragile earth, our island home.

All **By your will they were created and have their being.**

Celebrant From the primal elements you brought forth the human race, and blessed us with memory, reason, and skill. You made us the rulers of creation. But we turned against you, and betrayed your trust; and we turned against one another.

All **Have mercy, Lord, for we are sinners in your sight.**

Celebrant Again and again, you called us to return. Through prophets and sages you revealed your righteous Law. And in the fullness of time you sent your only Son, born of a woman, to fulfill your Law, to open for us the way of freedom and peace.

All **By his blood, he reconciled us. By his wounds, we are healed.**

Celebrant And therefore we praise you, joining with the heavenly chorus, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all those in every generation

who have looked to you in hope, to proclaim with them your glory, in their unending hymn:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant And so, Father, we who have been redeemed by him, and made a new people by water and the Spirit, now bring before you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

On the night he was betrayed he took bread, said the blessing, broke the bread, and gave it to his friends, and said, "Take... eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, he took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Remembering now his work of redemption, and offering to you this sacrifice of thanksgiving,

All **We celebrate his death and resurrection, as we await the day of his coming.**

Celebrant Lord God of our Fathers and Mothers: God of Abraham and Sarah, of Isaac and Rebekah, of Jacob, Leah, and Rachel; God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ: Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us. Deliver us from the presumption of coming to this Table for solace only, and not for strength; for pardon only, and not for renewal. Let the grace of this Holy Communion make us one body, one spirit in Christ, that we may worthily serve the world in his name.

All **Risen Lord, be known to us in the breaking of the Bread.**

Celebrant Accept these prayers and praises, Father, through Jesus Christ our great High Priest, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, your Church gives honor, glory, and worship, from generation to generation.

All **AMEN!**

Celebrant And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,
All 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, for ever and ever. AMEN!

Breaking Bread

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Celebrant gives the invitation to spiritual communion to all participating near and far.

People In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. AMEN!

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. AMEN!

Blessing

Celebrant May the blessing of God, who Creates, Redeems, and Sustains, be upon you and all you love and pray for, this day and for ever more.

All Alleluia! AMEN!

♪ God, We See What You Have Given

God, we see what you have given; signs of grace are everywhere!

All around are gifts from heaven — gifts enough for all to share.

We are stewards of your bounty, called to give as we've received;

And your blessings have been plenty from the day we first believed.

We are stewards of the richness that you send from heav'n above.

For in Christ, you gave up greatness, humbly showing us your love.

In a manger — gift from heaven! On a cross — with love and pain!

You proclaimed we are forgiven; now you send us in your name.

We are stewards of your welcome that you showed through Christ the Son.

In his living and his teaching, Jesus welcomed everyone.

To the outcast and the stranger, he showed hospitality!

By your Spirit, may we also give the welcome we've received.

We are stewards, sent out sharing, offering you our very best.

Through our serving and our caring may we give as we've been blessed.

God of love, may faithful living be much more than Sunday talk.

Send us loving, serving, giving; Help us daily walk your walk!

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Sending

Celebrant Go forth into the world, sharing the Good News of God's love! Alleluia, alleluia!

All Thanks be to God! Alleluia, alleluia!

St James Episcopal Church, 434 North 8th Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220

If you have any questions, concerns, or pastoral needs, please call The Rev Diane M Murray, Rector: 920.860.5152

Thank you for your support! Gifts may be mailed to the church or sent through your bank.

There are also online giving options on our web site at mySJEC.com/donate.

November's special offering supports Painting Pathways Clubhouse—please label accordingly.

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The St James Tree of Life



Every household should have received a mailing in early November with a letter from the Vestry, a celebration of progress we've made in our St James Tree of Life goals, and a pledge card. If you need a copy, please send an email to info@mysjec.com or contact Amma Diane.