

Sunday, November 16, 2025 – Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm: Psalm 98

1 - Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things.

What do you think is the right balance between old songs and new songs?

Long-range planning process and singing more familiar hymns.

What old songs would you not want to give up?

What new songs do you especially like or especially speak to you?

How does a song become one of your favorite songs?

Songs as "buckets of memories."

2 - O LORD, you have made known your victory.

3 - You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness.

What songs especially speak to you of God's victory over sin, death, and the power of the devil?

What songs especially remind you of God's steadfast love and faithfulness?

5 - Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

6 - With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.

What musical instruments do you especially like to have as a part of worship?

7 - Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

8 - Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD.

Cf. Luke 19: 40 – Jesus answered, "I tell you, if these were silent, the rocks would shout out."

I would not want a bunch of stones to have to do what I should be doing.

Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

Some members of the Thessalonian community, because of their belief in the nearness of Christ's return, had ceased to work and were living off the generosity of others. Paul warns them bluntly that if they want to eat, they need to work.

6-7 - We command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us.

1 Corinthians 11: 1 – Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

7-9 - We were not idle when we were with you, 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. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate.

Acts 18: 2-3 – (In Corinth) Paul went to see (Aquila and Priscilla), and, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they worked together – by trade they were tentmakers.

10-12 - For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.

How do you maintain a balance between caring for the poor and not letting certain people live off of other people?

13 - Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

How are you doing at not growing weary in doing what is right?

What helps you not grow weary in doing what is right?

Gospel: Luke 21:5-19

5-6 - When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God (*comes right after the gifts of the rich vs. the two small copper coins of the poor widow*), (Jesus) said, "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."

7 - They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?"

Mark 13: 1, 3-4 – As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" . . . When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?"

Matthew 24: 1, 3 – As Jesus came out of the temple and was going away, his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. . . . When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

Luke 21: 8 - 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."

9-11 - "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. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven."

12-18 - "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. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls."

20-21 – When you see Jerusalem surrounded by armies, then know that its desolation has come near. Then those in Judea must flee to the mountains.

24 – Jerusalem will be trampled on by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

25 – There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations.

26 – People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world.

27 – Then they will see 'the Son of Man coming in a cloud' with power and great glory.

28 – Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.