

Seventh & James Baptist Church
November 8, 2026 · 11:00 a.m.
The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

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Chiming of the Hour

Meditation "Let All Things Now Living" with "Now Thank We All Our God" (Traditional Welsh melody, Johann Crüger) arr. Lloyd Larson

Welcome and Call to Worship Matt Rosencrans

One: Beloved child of God, you are welcome here….

Many: We give thanks to God for bringing us into this moment of worship.

One: For no matter who you are or where you've been, you matter to God and to us.

Many: Our hearts rejoice and give thanks for all those who have come before us and made a place for us to worship, pray, sing, wonder, doubt, believe, and just be.

One: May the love of God through Christ our Lord convince you of your worth and invitation into this body of believers as we worship together in thanksgiving and hope.

Gathering Hymn, No. 332 "O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing"

Responsive Reading of Psalm 70 Eli Ryden

One: Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O Lord, make haste to help me!

Many: Let those be put to shame and confusion who seek my life. Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire to hurt me.

One: Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!" turn back because of their shame. Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You. Let those who love Your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"

All: But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay!

Prayer of Thanksgiving Eli Ryden

Old Testament Reading *Amos 5:18-24* Jeanne Ryden

Epistle Reading *1 Thessalonians 4:13-18* Marc Fowler

Hymn, No. 457 "Come and Feast, for All Are Welcomed"

Gospel Reading *Matthew 25:1-13* Daniel Farris

One: This is the Word of the Lord.
Many: Thanks be to God.

The Prayers of God's People Daniel Farris

Offertory "Sweet By and By" arr. Mark Hayes

Dean Kiesling, *piano*

During the offertory, we invite you to prayerfully consider your stewardship of all the resources God is entrusting to you. The work of God at Seventh & James is dependent on the financial generosity and volunteer service of its members and friends. Offering plates are available at the doors of Harper Hall as you leave worship. Join us as you respond to God's call.

Doxology, No. 707

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise God, all creatures here below;
Praise God, above ye heavenly host.
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Children's Sermon Leslie Rosencrans

All children are invited to come forward for the Children's Sermon.
Preschoolers [ages 4-kindergarten] may then go to Extended Session.

Sermon "Ready or Not" Erin Conaway

(Matthew 25:1-13)

Anthem "Agnus Dei" from *Mass in G major, D.167* Franz Schubert

Sam Conaway, *tenor*
Kieran Newton, *baritone*
Zoe Guess, *soprano*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi
Miserere nobis
Dona nobis pacem
Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world
Have mercy on us
Grant us peace

Communion

One: Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love Him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You…

Many: In thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

One: We have not loved You with our whole heart;

Many: We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

One: We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

Many: 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.

One: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,

All: Strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

One: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Many: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God. Amen.

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

One: It is right to give our thanks and praise. It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You. By the baptism of His suffering, death, and resurrection You gave birth to Your Church, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

All communion bread is gluten-free.

Please come forward to receive Communion from any of the three stations at the front of the tabernacle. You will be served the bread and the cup. A basket is available for your empty cup once you are finished. To ease congestion, please walk down on the right side of your aisle and return up the left side of your aisle. You may come to any of the three stations. Communion will be brought to anyone unable to come forward; please raise your hand as the Minister and Deacon walk back to serve you.

Silent Reflection

The whole meaning of the Christian community lies in offering a space in which we wait for that which we have already seen. Christian community is the place where we keep the flame alive among us and take it seriously, so that it can grow and become stronger in us. In this way we can live with courage, trusting that there is a spiritual power in us that allows us to live in this world without being seduced constantly by despair, lostness, and darkness. That is how we dare to say that God is a God of love even when we see hatred all around us. That is why we can claim that God is a God of life even when we see death and destruction and agony all around us. We say it together. We affirm it in one another. Waiting together, nurturing what has already begun, expecting its fulfillment – that is the meaning of marriage, friendship, community, and the Christian life.

— Henri Nouwen, *Finding My Way Home*

Hymn of Commitment, No. 619 "Blessed Assurance, Jesus Is Mine"

If you would like to make a public profession of your faith in Christ or request membership in this congregation, our ministers will greet you at the front of the sanctuary.

Congregational Response

In response to your decision, we pledge ourselves to be the family of God for you in this place; we offer you our love, our care, our kinship, and our hopes; we hope to learn from you, give to you, and receive from you, by God's grace. Amen.

Pastoral Blessing Erin Conaway

Choral Benediction "O Rest in the Lord" from *Elijah* Felix Mendelssohn

O rest in the Lord,
Wait patiently for Him,
And He shall give thee thy heart's desires.

Postlude "Toccatina on AZMON" Alfred L. Fedak

Today at Seventh

On Communion Sundays, the Benevolence offering is received at the doors to help our neighbors in need.

Our pianist today is Dean Kiesling.

Hearing devices are available at the sound booth for any who need assistance.

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