

Seventh Sunday After Pentecost

July 27th 2025
Portage Lake United Church
Proper 12 (17)



Lectionary Year C
Liturgical Color: Green



Thankful Henry Ossawa Tanner, 1894

Welcome and Announcements

We gather in the name of the Holy Trinity, one God, source of all goodness and mercy. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here.

- The new church directory is available on the table in the lounge. Pick one up today.
- We are looking for folks to do coffee next Sunday.
- Angel Mission needs: Low sodium pasta sauce
- ***Are there any other announcements?***



Serving This Morning

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland

Musician: Ardys Maki

Greeter: Judy Albee

Reader: Marla Bohnhoff

Prayer Writer: Jim Northey

Coffee: Biruta Lowther, Sangja Lee

Children's Church: Olivia Byykkonen

PRELUDE AND MEDITATION

God sees into our hearts more clearly than we do. Indeed,
God is the one who prompts us to look at what we have
swept under the rug of our repressions and
rationalizations.

(Marjorie J. Thompson)



Ann Campbell

+ Call to Worship (responsive)

Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;
God's glory will dwell in our land.

Let us hear what God will speak!

Righteousness and peace will kiss each other;
faithfulness will spring up from the ground.

Let us hear what God will speak!

God will speak peace to God's people,
to those who turn to God in their hearts.

Let us hear what God will speak!



334 With Grateful Heart My Thanks I Bring


(Psalm 138)




1 With grate - ful heart my thanks I bring; be - fore the
2 I cried to you, and you did save; your word of
3 O Lord, en - throned in glo - ry bright, you reign a -
4 You will stretch forth your might - y arm to save me




“gods” your praise I sing. I wor - ship in your ho - ly
grace new cour - age gave. The kings of earth shall thank you,
lone in heaven - ly height; the proud in vain your fa - vor
when my foes a - larm. The work you have for me be -



place and praise you for your truth and grace; for truth and
Lord, for they have heard your won - drous word; yes, they shall
seek, but you have mer - cy for the meek. Through trou - ble
gun shall by your grace be ful - ly done. Your love for -



grace to - geth - er shine in your most ho - ly Word di - vine.
come with songs of praise for great and glo - rious are your ways.
though my path - way be, you will re - vive and strength - en me.
ev - er will en - dure: your mer - cy, Lord, is ev - er sure.



Though Psalm 138 is usually regarded as a personal song of thanksgiving, this paraphrase makes clear that it also deals with the theme of God's sovereignty over would-be deities and over all human rulers. The fourth stanza shows that the psalm looks forward as well as backward.

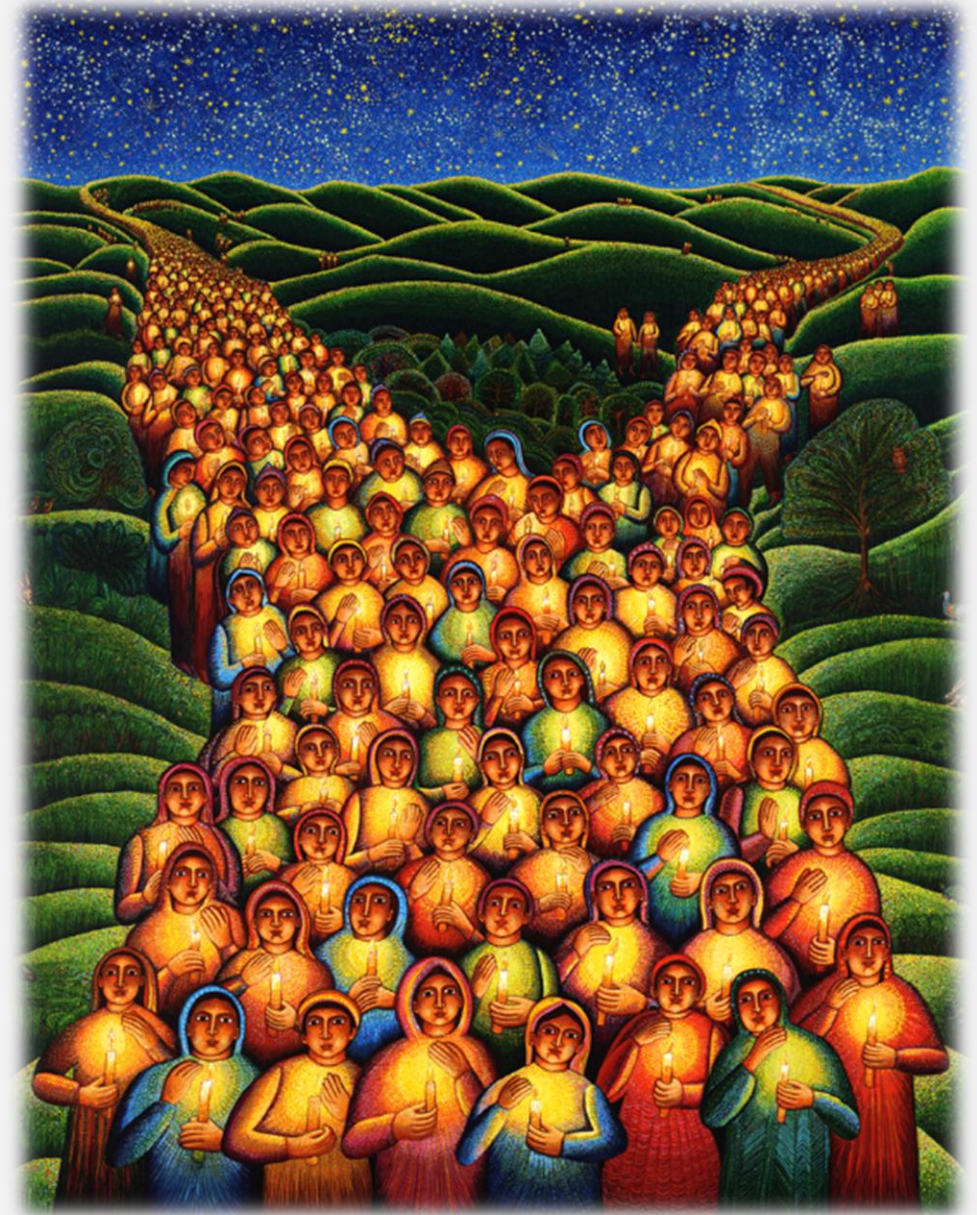
✚ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Merciful God,
who are we but dust and ashes
to pray on behalf of our hurting world
and our wounded souls?
And yet you answer on the day we call.
Today we search and knock.
We pray for deliverance for all those suffering
under the wrath of war and violence,
all those experiencing illness and famine,
and all those who oppress and are oppressed.
Teach us to pray,
that we may know of your steadfast love
and be assured of your faithfulness,
for we know you will fulfill your purpose
for the whole creation.
Amen.



+ Prayer of Confession (Unison)

Gracious God, we humbly confess
that we have fallen short
of who you call us to be.
We seek peace and comfort in our lives,
ignoring the needs of those around us.
We live our lives in ways
that bring chaos and calamity to our neighbors.
Cleanse us from sin
and show us your steadfast love,
so that in turning to you,
we may seek unity and peace for all of creation.



Festival of Lights
John August Swanson, 2000

+ PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

We greet one another with a sign of God's peace.

Children of God, we are the body of Christ.

By one spirit we were baptized into one body.

Keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of Peace.

Amen. We are bound by the love of Christ.



WORD



Abraham Speaks with God
Cunradus Schlapperitzi 1445
New York Public Library Manuscript Illumination

Genesis 18:20-32

Abraham bargains with God

18:20 Then the LORD said, "How great is the outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah and how very grave their sin! 18:21 I must go down and see whether they have done altogether according to the outcry that has come to me, and if not, I will know." 18:22 So the men turned from there and went toward Sodom, while Abraham remained standing before the LORD. 18:23 Then Abraham came near and said, "Will you indeed sweep away the righteous with the wicked? 18:24 Suppose there are fifty righteous within the city; will you then sweep away the place and not forgive it for the fifty righteous who are in it? 18:25 Far be it from you to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous fare as the wicked! Far be that from you! Shall not the Judge of all the earth do what is just?" 18:26 And the LORD said, "If I find at Sodom fifty righteous in the city, I will forgive the whole place for their sake." 18:27 Abraham answered, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord, I who am but dust and ashes. 18:28 Suppose five of the fifty righteous are lacking? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five?" And he said, "I will not destroy it if I find forty-five there." 18:29 Again he spoke to him, "Suppose forty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of forty I will not do it." 18:30 Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak. Suppose thirty are found there." He answered, "I will not do it, if I find thirty there." 18:31 He said, "Let me take it upon myself to speak to my lord. Suppose twenty are found there." He answered, "For the sake of twenty I will not destroy it." 18:32 Then he said, "Oh, do not let my lord be angry if I speak just once more. Suppose ten are found there." He answered, "For the sake of ten I will not destroy it."

Word of God, Word of Life. Thanks be to God

Colossians 2:6-19 (6-14 shown here)

2:6 As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, 2:7 rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. 2:9 For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, 2:10 and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority.

2:11 In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; 2:12 when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. 2:13 And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, 2:14 erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross.

Colossians 2:6-19 (15-19 shown here)


2:15 He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it. 2:16 Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. 2:17 These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. 2:18 Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, 2:19 and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

✚ Hymn "Seek Ye First" #333

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LIFE IN CHRIST

Matthew 6:33 

333

Seek Ye First

LAFFERTY Irregular

Karen Lafferty (b. 1948)

Karen Lafferty (b. 1948)



D F#m G D G

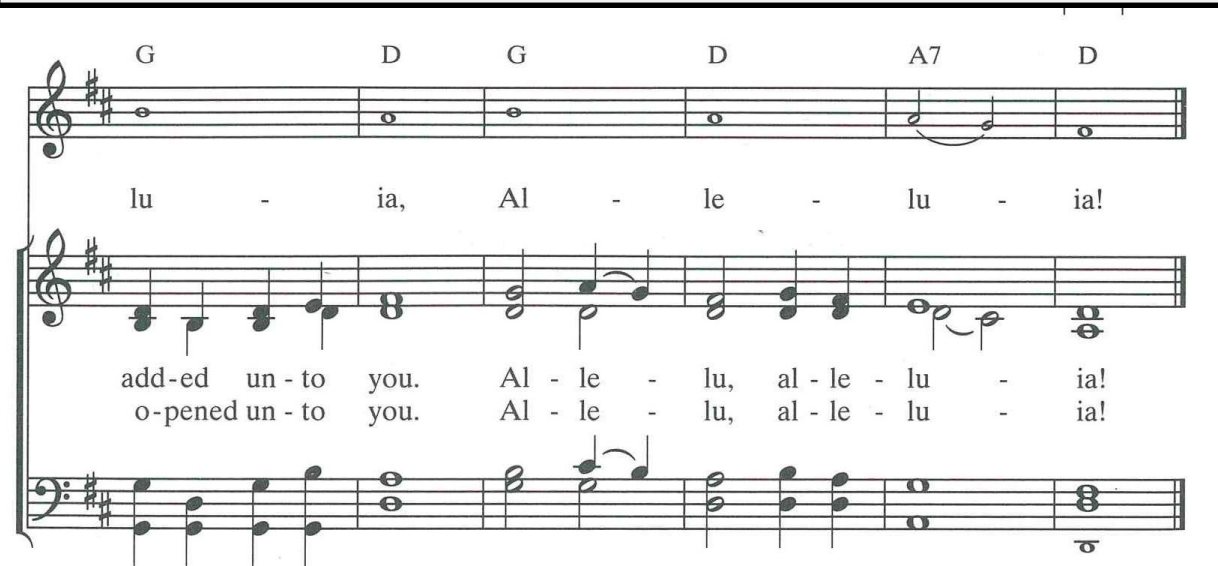
Descant Al - le - lu - ia, Al -

1. Seek ye and first the king - dom of God And His
2. Ask and it shall be giv - en un - to you, Seek and

D Em A7 D F#m

le - lu - ia, Al - le -

righ - teous - ness, And all these things shall be
ye shall find, Knock and the door shall be



G D G D A7 D

lu - ia, Al - le - lu - ia!

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!
o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

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✚ GOSPEL READING Luke 11:1-13

11:1 He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, "Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples." 11:2 He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. 11:3 Give us each day our daily bread. 11:4 And forgive us our sins, for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us. And do not bring us to the time of trial." 11:5 And he said to them, "Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, 'Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; 11:6 for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him.' 11:7 And he answers from within, 'Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything.' 11:8 I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs. 11:9 "So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. 11:10 For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. 11:11 Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? 11:12 Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? 11:13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The Gospel of the Lord. Thanks be to God

Sermon



Lord's Prayer
James Tissot, 1836-1902

Offering and Prayer of Dedication

Generous God,
we give you thanks for all your blessings to us.
Use these gifts we offer as a sign of your great love,
so that all may know and share the abundance
of your grace; in your holy name we pray. Amen.



✚ OFFERING HYMN “Servant Song” #277 GREEN

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E♭(D) A♭(G) B♭7(A7) E♭(D) C♯m(Bm)



1 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney; we are trav - 'lers
3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh, I'll
5 Will you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as

F♯m7(E♯m7) B♭(A) A♭(G) B♭7(A7) E♭(D) A♭(G) B♭7(A7) E♭(D)



Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to
on the road. We are here to help each oth - er
of your fear. I will hold my hand out to you,
laugh with you. I will share your joy and sor - row
Christ to you? Pray that I may have the grace to

F♯m(E♯m) A♭(G) B♭7(A7) E♭(D)



let you be my ser - vant too.
walk the mile and bear the load.
speak the peace you long to hear.
till we've seen this jour - ney through.
let you be my ser - vant too.

Text and music: Richard Gillard (b. 1953); harm. Betty Pulkingham (b. 1929)
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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

God of acceptance and love, hear our prayer.

PRAYER OF OUR SAVIOR

According the Gospel of Luke

Father,
may your name be revered as holy.
May your kingdom come.
Give us each day our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
for we ourselves forgive everyone
indebted to us.
And do not bring us to
the time of trial.
Amen.



+SENDING HYMN "Immortal, Invisible" #263 BLUE

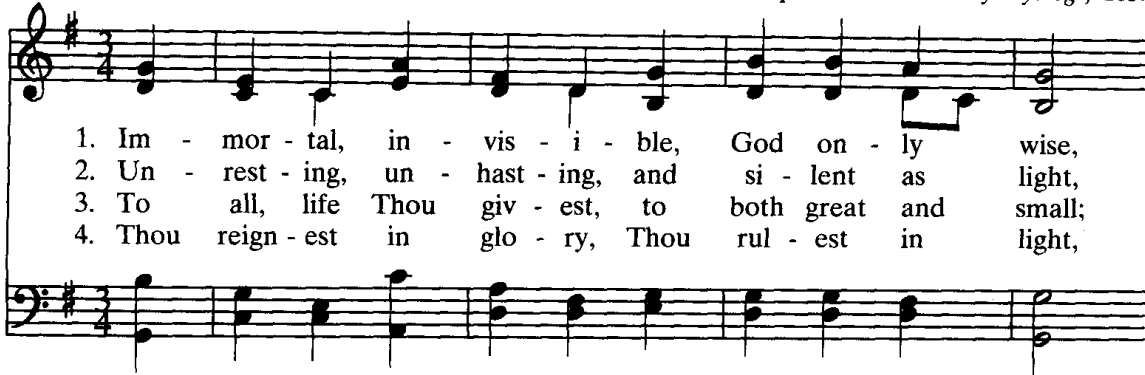
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Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise 263

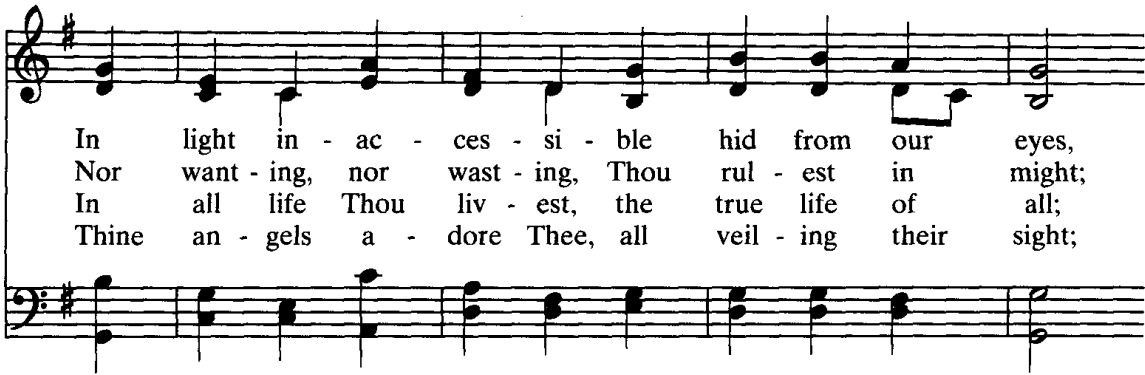
ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11

Walter Chalmers Smith, 1867; alt. 1987

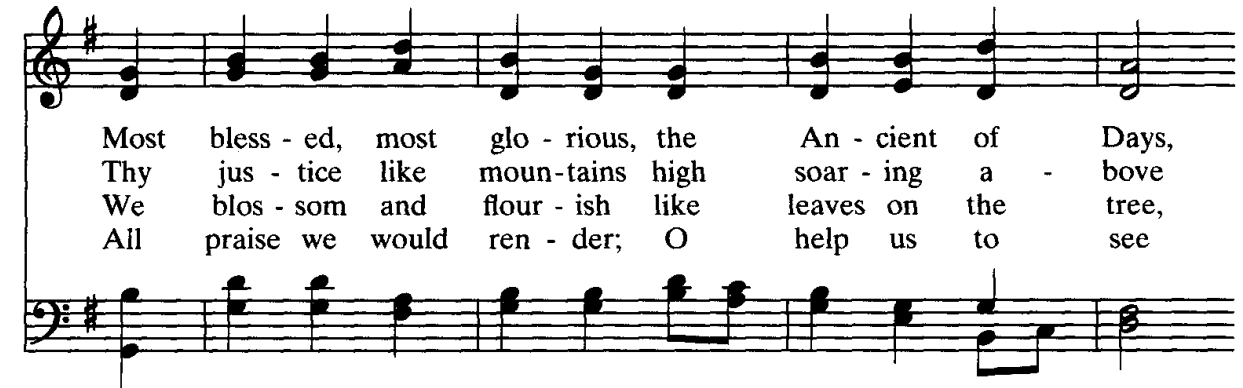
Welsh folk melody
Adapted in *Caniadau y Cyssegr*, 1839



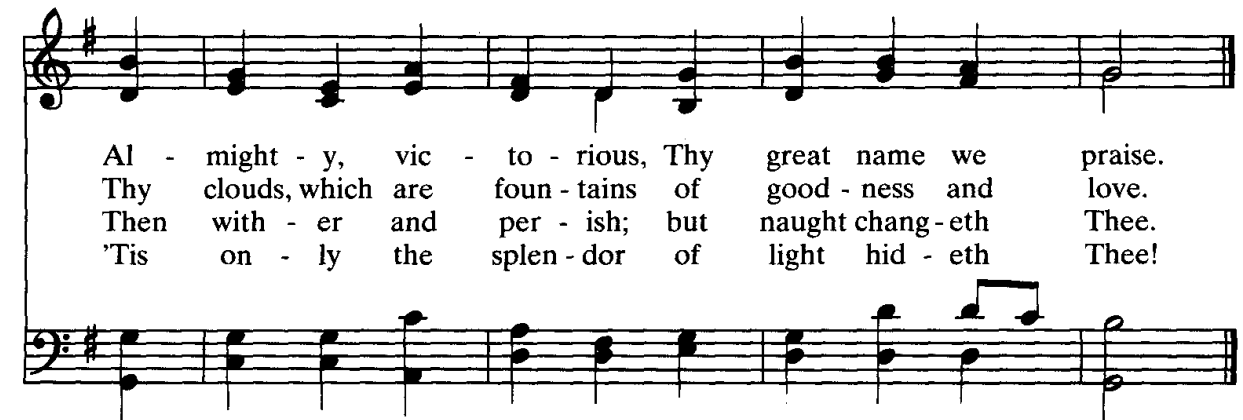
1. Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
2. Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
3. To all, life Thou giv - est, to both great and small;
4. Thou reign - est in glo - ry, Thou rul - est in light,



In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;
In all life Thou liv - est, the true life of all;
Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
We blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
All praise we would ren - der; O help us to see



Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
Thy clouds, which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
Then with - er and per - ish; but naught chang - eth Thee.
'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth Thee!

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

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Ask, and it will be given to you;
search, and you will find;
knock, and the door will be opened to you.
Go in peace, confident in the promises of God.

May the grace of Christ attend you,
the love of God surround you,
and the Holy Spirit keep you,
this day and forevermore.



Postlude and Reflection

This week's lectionary texts all say that the sins of Sodom and Gomorrah were arrogance, excess food and leisure, injustice and inhospitality, and not helping the poor and oppressed.

Why do you think rich and powerful church leaders in the Middle Ages and in modern times went against the Bible and taught that the sin of Sodom and Gomorrah was "homosexuality" (a word not invented until the late nineteenth century)?

Thanks to

Presider: Rev. Peter Norland
Musician: Ardys Maki
Greeter: Judy Albee
Reader: Marla Bohnhoff
Prayer Writer: Jim Northey
Coffee: Biruta Lowther, Sangja Lee
Children's Church: Olivia Byykkonen

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Portage Lake United Church

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) & UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Rooted in the Trinity. Growing in God's Word.
Branching out to those in need. Nourished by many waters.

Visio Divina

Photos by

Ann Campbell
Greg Campbell
Sherry Middlemis-Brown
Jim Northey

Cover

Thankful

Notes: Henry Ossawa Tanner was the first internationally acclaimed African American artist. His art reflects the influence of the AME church, his father, and his own views on race and education. In this painting, he counters common African American stereotypes of his day, which often offensively misrepresented African Americans and their belief systems.

While many mainstream churchgoers believed the African American faith to be overly emotional and expressive, this painting stands in stark contrast to those kinds of caricatures. This piece shows an older gentleman with (perhaps) his grandson praying before a meal. In their impoverished state, they have their heads bowed in a dignified pose as they participate in a common daily ritual. It is a simple, yet effective display of two devoted subjects giving thanks for that which they do possess.

Date: 1894

Artist: Tanner, Henry Ossawa, 1859-1937

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56998>

Word

Prophet Hosea Panel from the Maesta Altarpiece of Siena 1308-1311

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=46447>

Sermon

Lord's Prayer Date: 1886-1894

Artist: Tissot, James, 1836-1902

<https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=58143>

Additional descriptions can be found at the Art in the Christian Tradition image library, a service of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/>. All images are available via Creative Commons 3.0 License.