



The raising of Lazarus (after Rembrandt), Vincent van Gogh 1890.

November 23, 2025

Reflections

"Well now, everything dies, baby, that's a fact
But maybe everything that dies someday comes back"

Bruce Springsteen, "Atlantic City"

"The emotion which tore [Jesus'] breast and clamored for utterance was just rage. ... His inwardly restrained fury produced a profound agitation of his whole being, one of the manifestations of which was tears. ... He has not only saved us from the evils which oppress us; he has felt for and with us in our oppression, and under the impulse of these feelings has wrought out our redemption."

B.B. Warfield, "The Emotional Life of Our Lord"

"One short sleep past, we wake eternally
And death shall be no more; Death, thou shalt die."

John Donne, "Death, be not proud"

"No one can defeat him. God's plan is irresistible, and to remember that and to learn that and to live in the light of that is the only road to sanity."

Dick Lucas

"Jesus, they drove the cold nails through Your tired hands
And rolled a stone to seal Your grave
Feels like the devil's rolled a stone onto my heart
Can You roll that stone away?"

Rich Mullins, "Jesus"

Order of Worship

GATHERING

You Alone Can Rescue

Who O Lord could save themselves
Their own soul could heal
Our shame was deeper than the sea
Your grace is deeper still

And You alone can rescue
You alone can save
You alone can lift us from the grave
You came down to find us led us out of death
To You alone belongs the highest praise

You O Lord have made a way
The great divide You healed
For when our hearts were far away
Your love went further still
Yes Your love goes further still

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up
and have not let my foes rejoice over me.

**O Lord my God, I cried to you for help,
and you have healed me.**

O Lord, you have brought up my soul from Sheol;
you restored me to life from among those who go down to the pit.

Sing praises to the Lord, O you his saints,
and give thanks to his holy name.

**For his anger is but for a moment,
and his favor is for a lifetime.**

Weeping may tarry for the night,
but joy comes with the morning.

You have turned for me my mourning into dancing;
you have loosed my sackcloth
and clothed me with gladness,

that my glory may sing your praise and not be silent.

O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you forever!

from Psalm 30

Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Crown Him with Many Crowns

Crown him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon his throne.
Hark! how the heavenly anthem drowns
all music but its own.
Awake, my soul, and sing
of him who died for thee,
and hail him as thy matchless king
through all eternity.

Crown him the Lord of life,
who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife
for those he came to save;
his glories now we sing
who died and rose on high,
who died eternal life to bring,
and lives that death may die.

Crown him the Lord of love;
behold his hands and side,
rich wounds, yet visible above,
in beauty glorified;
no angels in the sky
can fully bear that sight,
but downward bends their burning eye
at mysteries so bright.

Crown him the Lord of years,
the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres,

ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail!
for thou hast died for me;
thy praise shall never, never fail
throughout eternity.

PRAISE SONG

Jesus I Come

Out of my bondage, sorrow and night,
Jesus, I come; Jesus I come.
Into Thy freedom, gladness and light,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of my sickness into Thy health,
Out of my wanting and into Thy wealth,
Out of my sin and into Thyself,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of my shameful failure and loss,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the glorious gain of Thy cross,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of earth's sorrows into Thy balm,
Out of life's storms and into Thy calm,
Out of distress into jubilant psalm,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of unrest and arrogant pride,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into Thy blessed will to abide,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of myself to dwell in Thy love,
Out of despair into raptures above,
Upward forever on wings like a dove,
Jesus, I come to Thee.

Out of the fear and dread of the tomb,
Jesus, I come; Jesus, I come.
Into the joy and light of Thy home,
Jesus, I come to Thee.
Out of the depths of ruin untold,
Into the peace of Thy sheltering fold,
Ever Thy glorious face to behold,

Jesus, I come to Thee.

CONFESSION & ASSURANCE

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Lord and Giver of Life, We confess that, in the face of suffering and hardship, we are quick to forget your resurrecting power. We grow frustrated and impatient when things don't go our way. And our prayers seem to go unanswered. We don't trust that you can accomplish greater things than we could ever ask or imagine. Call us out of our dark tombs of sin and shame. And into the light of your life-giving love and mercy. Breathe your loving Spirit into every troubled breast. We pray in the power of Jesus' name Amen.

SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

"Death is swallowed up in victory."

"O death, where is your victory?"

O death, where is your sting?"

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 15:54-57

RENEWAL SONG

Living Hope

How great the chasm that lay between us
How high the mountain I could not climb
In desperation I turned to heaven
And spoke Your name into the night
Then through the darkness Your loving-kindness
Tore through the shadows of my soul
The work is finished the end is written
Jesus Christ my living hope

Who could imagine so great a mercy
What heart could fathom such boundless grace
The God of ages stepped down from glory
To wear my sin and bear my shame
The cross has spoken I am forgiven
The King of kings calls me His own

Beautiful Savior I'm Yours forever
Jesus Christ my living hope

Hallelujah praise the One who set me free
Hallelujah death has lost its grip on me
You have broken every chain
There's salvation in Your name
Jesus Christ my living hope

Then came the morning that sealed the promise
Your buried body began to breathe
Out of the silence the Roaring Lion
Declared the grave has no claim on me

Jesus Yours is the victory

Jesus Christ my living hope
Oh God You are my living hope

PASSING OF THE PEACE OF CHRIST

May the peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

CHILDREN DISMISSED

LIFE TOGETHER

PREACHING OF THE WORD

"That You May Believe: The Furious Longing of God"

Ethan Smith

³⁸ Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days."

⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me."

⁴³ When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out."

⁴⁴ The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what he did, believed in him, ⁴⁶ but some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷ So the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered the council and said, "What are we to do? For this man performs many signs. ⁴⁸ If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation." ⁴⁹ But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰ Nor do you understand that it is better for you that one man should die for the people, not that the whole nation should perish." ⁵¹ He did not say this of his own accord, but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, ⁵² and not for the nation only, but also to gather into one the children of God who are scattered abroad. ⁵³ So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

⁵⁴ Jesus therefore no longer walked openly among the Jews, but went from there to the region near the wilderness, to a town called Ephraim, and there he stayed with the disciples.

⁵⁵ Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves. ⁵⁶ They were looking for Jesus and saying to one another as they stood in the temple, "What do you think? That he will not come to the feast at all?" ⁵⁷ Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where he was, he should let them know, so that they might arrest him.

John 11:38-57

This is the Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

RESPONSE

SONG OF RESPONSE

My Friends May You Grow in Grace

My friends, may you grow in grace
And in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior.
My friends, may you grow in grace
And in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

To God be the glory!

Now and forever
Now and forever, Amen

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OFFERTORY

O the Deep, Deep Love of Jesus

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Vast, unmeasured, boundless free!
Rolling as a mighty ocean,
In its fullness over me!
Underneath me, all around me,
Is the current of Thy love;
Leading onward, leading homeward,
To thy glorious rest above!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Spread His praise from shore to shore!
How He loveth, ever loveth,
Changeth never, nevermore!
How He watches o'er His loved ones,
Died to call them all His own;
How for them He intercedeth,
Watcheth o'er them from the throne!

O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
Love of every love the best!
'Tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'Tis a haven sweet of rest!
O the deep, deep love of Jesus,
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
And it lifts me up to glory,
For it lifts me up to Thee!

DOXOLOGY

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!

COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

COMMUNION SONG

Behold

The empty filled the wounded healed

The broken back together

The poor are blessed the weary rest

We will dance forever

The blinded see the chained are free

The doubtful now believer

The outcast known the orphan home

You are my Redeemer

Behold behold behold what love can do

Behold behold He's making all things new

The lost return the voiceless heard

The mourner now rejoicing

The mountains shake the world awake

Creation all composing

The sad untrue the earth renewed

The song has found its singer

The darkness light the dead alive

You are my Redeemer

We've been struck down we're not destroyed

We've sown in tears we'll reap in joy

SENDING

SENDING SONG

The Lord Has Overcome

The Lamb has overcome
The Lamb has overcome
The battle's done and the victory is won
For the Lamb has overcome

No grave could hold him down
No grave could hold him down
Up from the ground, "He is risen!" was the sound
No grave could hold him down

At God's right hand is he
At God's right hand is he
Our Perfect Plea as he lives to intercede
At God's right hand is he

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Glory be unto his name

The table now is spread
The table now is spread
This wine and bread, broken body and blood shed
The table now is spread

The day is drawing near
The day is drawing near
He shall appear and will wipe away each tear
The day is drawing near

The Lamb has overcome
The Lamb has overcome
The battle's done and the victory is won
For the Lamb has overcome

BENEDICTION

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with

everything good that you may do his will, working in us that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.

Hebrews 13:20-21

LIFE TOGETHER

SERVE

Speas Elementary Food Cupboard is bare: list of items to donate in Looking Up.

Compassion International sponsorship packets in back of sanctuary.

WS Prison Worship Service - Dec 7th 4pm: Contact Margaret Ann Speakman.

CHURCH LIFE

MRFM \$500,000 Matching Gift - Now- Dec 31: Gifts + increased/new commitments.

Advent Devotionals are available on sanctuary bookshelves.

Gathering Hour - Nov. 24 8-9pm: All women welcome at Lot 63!

Advent Wreath Making - Nov. 30 10am: Registration open.

First Wednesday Fellowship - Dec. 3 5:30-7pm: All welcome!

Blue Christmas Prayer Service - Dec. 3 7pm: A service of lament and hope.

Men's Breakfast - Dec. 6 8:30-10am: Breakfast with Guest Speakers.

Lessons & Carols - Dec. 7 6:30pm: Hosted at Redeemer Church.

Cocoa & Carols - Dec. 13 4-5pm: Cookies, crafts, games, and singing in the Pavilion.

Quito Missions Trip: Info packets in back of sanctuary and registration open.

PARENTS & CHILDREN

Progressive Friendsgiving - Nov. 23 5-7pm: Registration open to all youth.

Youth Christmas Party - Dec. 5 5-7pm: Register.

Kids Connection - *November Verse* - There are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. There's so much more. John 21:25

FINANCIAL UPDATE AS OF NOVEMBER 18TH, 2025

	Actual to Date	Budget through 11/30	Difference	
Income	\$1,167,574	\$1,246,714	-\$79,140	-6.35%
Expense	\$1,190,799	\$1,358,892	-\$168,093	-12.37%
Surplus (Deficit)	-\$23,225	-\$112,178	\$88,953	

ANNUAL MINISTRY BUDGET: \$1,482,783

Making Room for More	Campaign Goal	Campaign Commitments	Gifts Received
	\$8.6 million	\$5,236,302	\$3,159,731