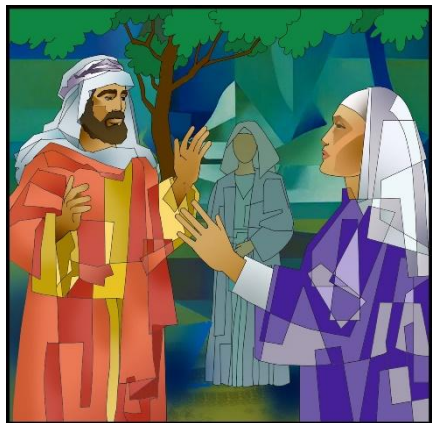




The Stories Jesus Tells

The Stubborn Judge & The Persistent Widow

"She's at it again!"

Pentecost 18

October 12, 2025

Prelude

Confession & Absolution

P: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit

C: Amen

P: Brothers and sisters in Christ, let us gather with true hearts that confess our sins to God, that earnestly ask for forgiveness and that trust in our renewal through the work of our Savior Jesus the Christ.

A: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: who made heaven and earth. [Psalm 124:8]

A: I said I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C: And you forgave the iniquity of my sin. [Psalm 32:5]

A: Almighty God, merciful Father:

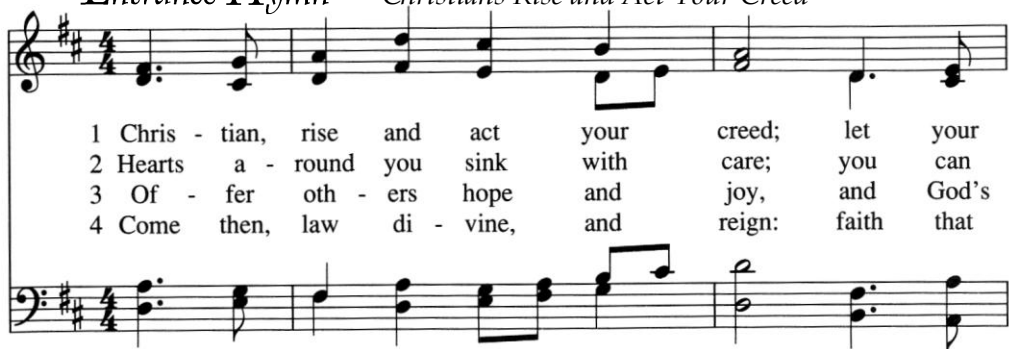
C: I confess to you all my sins with which I have offended you and my neighbors. I am sorry for them. I devote myself to repentance and pray for your mercy. In your boundless grace and compassion send me your Holy Spirit that I may be strengthened in my faith and made ready for a life obedient to your will and your way.

P: God is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and full of steadfast love. [Exodus 34:6] Therefore, in obedience to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ, I declare the entire forgiveness of all your sin in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Entrance Hymn

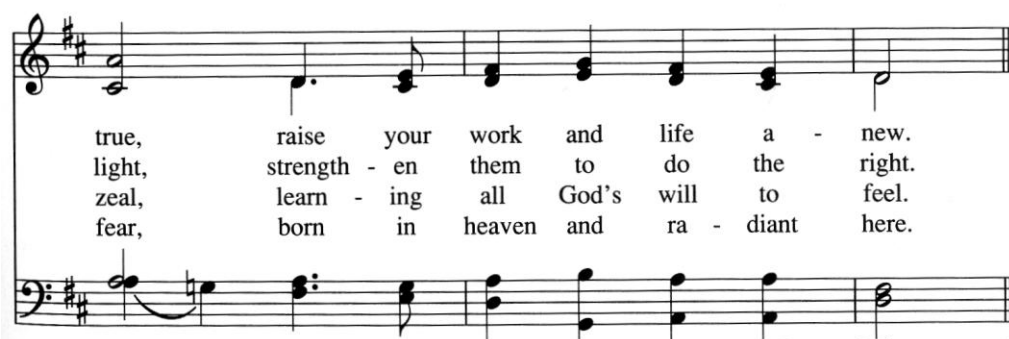
Christians Rise and Act Your Creed



1 Chris - tian, rise and act your creed; let your
 2 Hearts a - round you sink with care; you can
 3 Of - fer oth - ers hope and joy, and God's
 4 Come then, law di - vine, and reign: faith that



prayer be in your deed; Seek the right, per - form the
 help their load to bear; You can bring in - spir - ing
 wor - ship your em - ploy; Giv - ing thanks in hum - ble
 doubt as - sails in vain, Per - fect love be - reft of



true, raise your work and life a - new.
 light, strength - en them to do the right.
 zeal, learn - ing all God's will to feel.
 fear, born in heaven and ra - diant here.

Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you

Kyrie

ELW Setting 2

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.



P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Hymn of Praise

ELW Setting 2



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are



seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



Refrain
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you

P: Let us pray:

C: Heavenly Father, the stories your Son tells make it clear that you invite us into prayerful conversation with you in every circumstance of life. Send us the Holy Spirit that we will not be lazy or anxious with prayer, but persistently petition, thank, lament, and complain, trusting that you not only hear our prayers, but listen and respond according to your will. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

First Lesson

I Samuel I

There was a certain man . . . whose name was Elkanah . . . He had two wives. The name of the one was Hannah, and the name of the other, Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children. Now this man used to go every year from his town to worship and to sacrifice to the Lord of Hosts at the holy site at Shiloh . . . On the day when Elkanah sacrificed, he would give portions to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters, but to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her most even though the Lord had kept her from having children. Her rival, Peninnah, used to tease her severely just to irritate her, because the Lord had kept her from having children. This is how it went, year after year - as often as Hannah went up to the house of the Lord, Peninnah would tease her mercilessly. Every year this harassment made Hannah weep and she would not eat.

Hannah's husband, Elkanah, said to her, "Hannah, why do you weep? Why don't you eat? Why is your heart so sad? Am I not more to you than ten sons?"

One year, after everyone had eaten and drunk at Shiloh, Hannah rose and presented herself before the Lord. Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the

Lord. Hannah was deeply distressed and prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly.

She made this vow: "O Lord of Hosts, if only you will look on the misery of your servant, and remember me, and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a male child, then I will set him before you as a Nazirite until the day of his death. He will not drink wine nor other liquors, and no razor shall touch his head."

As she continued praying before the Lord, Eli watched her mouth.

Hannah was praying silently, so only her lips moved, but her voice was not heard. This made Eli think she was drunk.

So, Eli said to her, "How long will you make a drunken spectacle of yourself? Put away your wine."

But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman deeply troubled. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the Lord. Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation all this time."

Then Eli answered, "Go in peace. The God of Israel grant the petition you have made to him."

And she said, "Let your servant find favor in your sight."

Then the woman went to her room and ate and drank with her husband and her countenance was sad no longer.

Hannah and her husband, Elkanah, rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord. Then they went back to their home in Ramah. Elkanah and his wife Hannah were intimate, and the Lord remembered her prayer and promise. Hannah conceived and eventually gave birth to a son. She named him "Samuel," for she said, "I have asked him of the Lord."

Reader: The Word of the Lord! **C: Thanks be to God!**

Psalm

121



My help comes from the LORD, the mak- er of heav- en and earth.

*I lift up my eyes to the hills--
from where will my help come?*

**My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth. R**

*The Lord will not let your foot be moved;
The Lord who keeps you will not slumber.*

**The Lord who keeps Ísrael
will neither slumber nor sleep. R**

*The Lord ís your keeper;
the Lord is your shade at yóur right hand.*

**The sun shall not strike yóu by day,
nor the móon by night. R**

*The Lord will keep you f́rom all evil;
The Lord will ḱep your life.*

**The Lord will keep your going out and your ćoming in
from this time on and évermore. R**

Second Lesson

I Thessalonians 5

We earnestly urge you, brothers and sisters, to admonish the disorderly! Encourage those who think they just can't do it! Be supportive of the weak! Be patient with everyone! Make sure that none of you repays evil for evil, but always pursue the good in one another and all! Always rejoice! Constantly pray! In all things give thanks, for this the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. Do not extinguish the Spirit! Do not despise prophecy! Scrutinize everything! Cling to what is good, but stay away from every appearance of evil!

Reader: The Word of the Lord! C: Thanks be to God!

Children's Sermon

Verse

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

S124

Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel

Luke 18

As Jesus was heading to Jerusalem for the last time and answering questions about when "The Kingdom of God" was coming, he told this short parable about it being God's plan for everyone to always be praying and never become discouraged.

Wonce upon a time, in a certain city, there was a Judge who did not have any respect or awe for God, nor did he have any respect for people. But, there was also a Widow in that city who kept coming to this judge, saying, 'Justify me from The Unrighteous, who are against me!' For some time, the judge was not willing to do what the widow was demanding. Yet, after a while, the Judge thought to himself, 'Even though I do not have respect or awe of God nor do I have respect for people, still, because of the weariness this widow gives me, I will justify her so when we met again at the end of all things, she will not sock me in the eye!

And the Lord said, "Listen carefully to what the Judge, the Unrighteous one, says! And may not God have instigated The Justification for God's elect - those crying out to God day and night - and be long-suffering with them? Yes, I tell you, God will instigate The Justification for them in haste. However, when the Son of Man does come, will he find 'The Faith' on the earth?"

P: The Gospel of the Lord! C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon & Hymn of the Day *What a Friend We Have in Jesus* **742**

1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
3 Are we weak and heav-y - lad - en, cum-bere'd with a load of care?

What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.

Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; oh, what need-less pain we bear—
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor-rows share?
 Do your friends de-spise, for-sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.

all be-cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a so-lace there.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers & Passing of the Peace & Offering / Offertory 692



We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an
of-fer-ing. Lord, use our voic-es, Lord, use our hands, Lord, use our
lives, they are yours: we are an of-fer-ing. All that we have, all that we are,
all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voic-es, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
we are an of-fer-ing, we are an of-fer-ing.

A: Let us Pray

C: Living God, we praise you for the abundant blessings of this life. In humble recognition of the love you always show to us, we bring these gifts and ourselves as our thanks. Use them and us to bear the fruit of goodness and grace so that your glory will be known to all. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



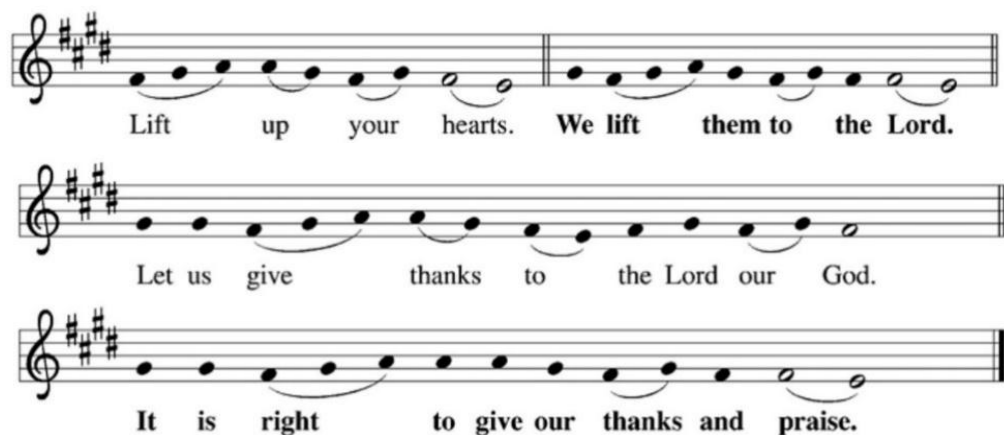
Donate
to Grace
here!

Great Thanksgiving

ELW Setting 2



The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

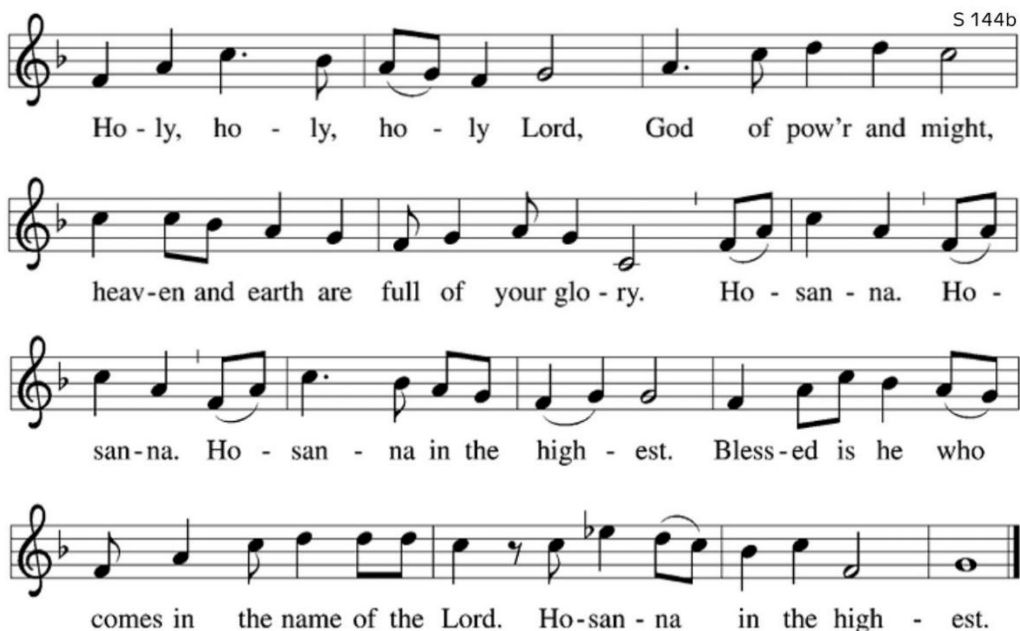


Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed . . .



S 144b

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

The Lord's Prayer

C: 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. 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 now and forever. Amen.

Distribution Hymns

789, 441, 745



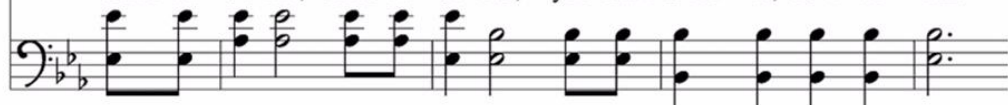
1 Sav - ior like a shep-herd lead us; much we need your ten - der care.
 2 We are yours; in love be - friend us, be the guard-ian of our way;
 3 You have prom-ised to re - ceive us, poor and sin - ful though we be;
 4 Ear - ly let us seek your fa - vor, ear - ly let us do your will;



In your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us, for our use your fold pre-pare.
 keep your flock, from sin de - fend us, seek us when we go a - stray.
 you have mer - cy to re - lieve us, grace to cleanse, and pow'r to free.
 bless - ed Lord and on - ly Sav - ior, with your love our spir - its fill.



Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still.



Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have bought us; we are yours.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, hear us chil - dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, ear - ly let us turn to you.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus, you have loved us, love us still.





1 Oh, hap - py day when we shall stand a - mid the
2 Oh, bless - ed day when Christ shall come and show him -
3 Oh, what a might - y rush - ing flood of joy and
4 O Lord, your grace is ev - 'ry - thing; your love has



heav'n - ly throng; and sing with hosts from ev - 'ry land the
self as Lord, and thou - sands meet in their new home which
love and peace will roll down o - ver us with good and
made us free to stand a - mong the saints and sing the

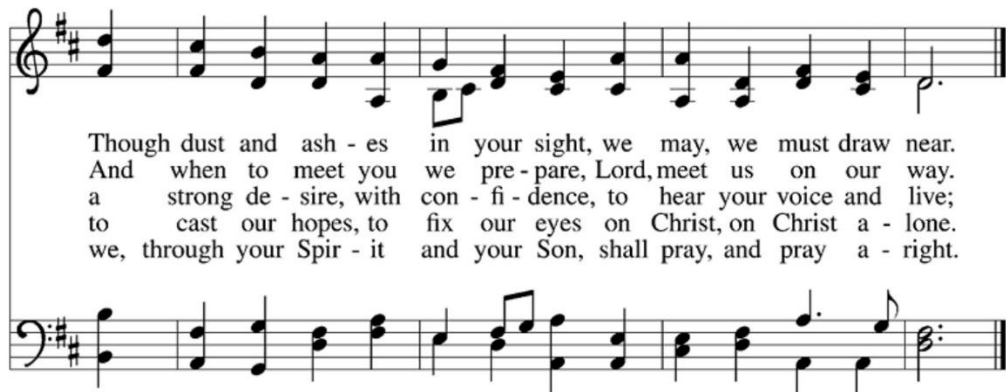


new ce - les - tial song, the new ce - les - tial song.
Je - sus has pre - pared, which Je - sus has pre - pared.
bless - ed - ness and grace, and bless - ed - ness and grace.
glo - ry that we see, the glo - ry that we see.



1 Lord, teach us how to pray a - right, with rev - 'rence and with fear.
2 We per - ish if we cease from prayer; oh, grant us pow'r to pray.
3 Give deep hu - mil - i - ty; the sense of god - ly sor - row give;
4 Faith in the on - ly sac - ri - fice that can for sin a - tone;
5 Give these, and then your will be done; thus strength - ened with all might,





Post Communion Blessing & Prayer & Benediction

Recessional

Prayer is the Soul's Sincere Desire

[tune: 260]

1. Prayer is the soul's sincere desire,
unuttered or expressed,
The motion of a hidden fire
That trembles in the breast.
2. Prayer is the burden of a sigh,
The falling of a tear,
The upward glancing of an eye
When none but God is near.
3. Prayer is the simplest form of speech
That infant lips can cry;
The simplest of words will always reach
God's majesty on high.
4. Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
The Christian's native air,
Our watchword at the gates of death;
We enter heav'n with prayer.
5. Prayer is the contrite sinner's voice,
Returning from our ways,
While angels in their songs rejoice
And stand to praise who prays!
6. The Saints in prayer appear as one
In word and deed and mind,

While with the Father and the Son
Their fellowship they find.

7. No prayer is made on earth alone:
The Holy Spirit pleads,
And Jesus at the Father's throne
For prayers intercedes.

8. O Christ by whom we come to God,
The Life, the Truth, the Way!
The path of prayer – you have trod;
Lord, teach us how to pray.

Postlude & Dismissal



Sunday October 12

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. No Sunday School/Confirmation classes due to holiday weekend

10:00 a.m. Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary

Monday October 13

9:30 a.m. Widowed Support Group

7:00 p.m. Social Ministry / Green Team Meeting

Tuesday October 14

6:30 a.m. Breakfast & Bible Study in Fellowship Hall (*Tobit*)

11:00am Bible Study with Pastor Chris – in person or online

3:30 p.m. Bible Study Lite 101 w/ Pastor Chris

4:30 p.m. No Confirmation Class

7:00 p.m. Bible Study with Pastor Chris (online only)

Wednesday October 15

9:00 a.m. Piecemakers Quilting Group

Friday October 17

7:00 p.m. Women's Group Meeting – Women, Wine & Wisdom

Sunday October 19

Christmas Wreath Sale

Chat w/ a Council Member after Each Service

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. Worship

9:45 a.m. Sunday School & Confirmation classes

12:30 p.m. Choir rehearsal in the sanctuary



Friday, October 17th
Women, Wine &
Wisdom (and a guest
speaker!)



Christmas Wreath
Sale Next Sunday,
October 19th!



CHAT WITH A COUNCIL PERSON

Grace's Annual Congregation Meeting is just around the corner on Nov 16th at 12:15 (in-person/online) and as part of the lead-up to the meeting our Congregation Council members will be available after each worship service starting on October 19th to answer questions, take comments or even accolades! The Town Hall will be on Nov 9th at 9:45 a.m. (in-person/online).



Here at Grace on
Saturday,
October 25th
11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.