Last Sunday of the Church Year

November 22nd, 2026 - Divine Service 4 - LSB 203ff



By the Cross of Christ, We Enter the Kingdom of Our God and Father

When the crucified and risen Lord Jesus comes to judge the living and the dead, *"he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats" (Matt. 25:32). "To those on his right,"* who have been crucified and raised with Him through repentance and faith in His Gospel, He will grant the blessed kingdom of His Father *(Matt. 25:34).* Having been justified by His grace they live unto righteousness in Him *(Matt. 25:35-40).* But *"those on his left,"* who trust in themselves and despise their neighbor, will depart *"into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matt 25:41).* Until that day, the Lord searches for His sheep *"as a shepherd seeks out his flock" (Ezek. 34:11-12).* Through His preaching of repentance, He disciplines the proud sheep and goats, *"the fat and the strong,"* but through the preaching of forgiveness He rescues the lost, binds up the injured, strengthens the weak and feeds *"the lean sheep" (Ezek. 34:16, 20).* In this way, He destroys the power of death in the children of Adam by His cross, so that *"in Christ shall all be made alive"* by His resurrection *(1 Cor. 15:20-26).*

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Announcements

Children's Choir ***"Give Thanks"***

Opening Hymn | 908

"Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear"

Confession and Absolution

Please stand.
The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *[Matt. 18:20; 28:19b]*

Our help is in the name of the Lord
who made heaven and earth. *[Psalm 124:8 32:5]*
If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared. *[Psalm 130:3-4]*

Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. *[Luke 18:13]*

Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen

Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority. I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.** *[John 20:19-23]*

Salutation and Collect of the Day *[2 Timothy 4:22]*

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Please be seated.

Today's Readings from God's Word

The First Reading is from Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

11 "For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for
my sheep and will seek them out. 12 As a shepherd seeks out his
flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so
will I seek out my sheep, and I will rescue them from all places
where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick
darkness. 13 And I will bring them out from the peoples and
gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their
own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by
the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. 14 I will
feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of
Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in
good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the
mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep,
and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God.
16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will
bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat
and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice...
20 "Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: Behold, I, I
myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep.
21 Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the
weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, 22 I
will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will
judge between sheep and sheep. 23 And I will set up over them
one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall
feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I, the Lord, will be their
God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am
the Lord; I have spoken."

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Reading is from 1 Corinthians 15:20-28

20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the
firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For as by a
man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection
of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall
all be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the
firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.
24 Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to
God the Father after destroying every rule and every
authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put
all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be
destroyed is death. 27 For "God has put all things in
subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are
put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all
things in subjection under him. 28 When all things are
subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be
subjected to him who put all things in subjection under
him, that God may be all in all.

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Please stand to greet the Gospel reading singing the Alleluia verse.



The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter.

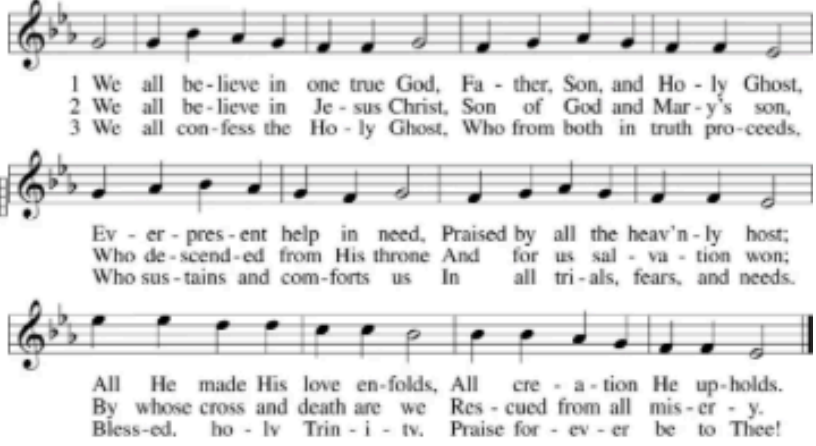
Glory to You, O Lord.

131 [Jesus said:] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory,
and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious
throne. 32 Before him will be gathered all the nations, and
he will separate people one from another as a shepherd
separates the sheep from the goats. 33 And he will place the
sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34 Then the
King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are
blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for
you from the foundation of the world. 35 For I was hungry
and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me
drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36 I was
naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I
was in prison and you came to me.' 37 Then the righteous
will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you
hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38 And
when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or
naked and clothe you? 39 And when did we see you sick or
in prison and visit you?' 40 And the King will answer them,
'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of
these my brothers, you did it to me.'
41 "Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me,
you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and
his angels. 42 For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I
was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43 I was a stranger and
you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me,
sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' 44 Then they
also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry
or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did
not minister to you?' 45 Then he will answer them, saying,
'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least
of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away
into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

Creedal Hymn | 953 *"We All Believe in One True God"*



Children's Message

Children are invited to come forward for a message by Pastor Fitch.

Sermon Hymn | 735 "Have No Fear, Little Flock"

Sermon ***"The Final Victory"***

~3/4 of Americans believe in **h**_____.
1 Cor. 15 is also known as the ***"R_____ Ch_____."***
By His **d**____ & **r**_____,
Christ won the final & eternal **v**_____!
F_____ views of heaven & eternity shouldn't **s**_____ us.
Many believe they can go to **h**_____, w/o faith in God;
that a person gets to heaven by what he **d**____;
that way it's all up to **m**__. *(I can do it without God)*
This is the ultimate **i**_____!
Our old **A**____ loves this, because he wants to be in **c**_____!
Getting to heaven without God is simply not **p**_____.
Real faith in God through Christ Jesus is **r**_____!
Jesus says: *"I am the **w**___, and the **t**____, and the **l**____.*
*No one comes to the Father **e**_____ through me."(John 14:6)*
Sin closes **h**_____ to us.
Our sin **d**_____ with Jesus.
"It is f_____!" *(Jn19:30)*
Christ Is ***R***____!
I am **f**_____.

Satan will continue to hound us and **f_____**,
but he cannot **w___** against us,
so long as we cling to the victorious **C_____**,
strengthened by His **W____** & **S_____**.
This is why it's important to face our own **m_____**,
to be **d_____** in your Christian life & **f____**.
"It is f_____. *Your sins are forgiven. He won't be long anyway"*

Prayers of the Church *[1 Timothy 2:1-4]*

After each petition, the pastor will say, "...Let us pray to the Lord;" the congregation responds ***"Lord have mercy."***

Offering

In Person | Mail to Church | Bank Bill Pay | ACH
Please stand.

Preface

The Lord be with you.
And also with you *[2 Timothy 4:22]*
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord. *[Colossians 3:1]*
Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.
It is right to give Him thanks and praise *[Psalm 136]*

It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation.

Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and Saying:

Sanctus *[Isaiah 6:3, Matthew 21:9]*



Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only begotten son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In your righteous judgement You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and their children from the tree of life. Yet, in Your great mercy, You promised salvation by a second Adam, Your Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord, and made His cross a life giving tree for all who trust in Him.

We give You thanks for the redemption You have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Grant us Your Holy Spirit that we may faithfully eat and drink of the fruits of His cross and receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood.

Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

The Lord's Prayer *[Matthew 6:9-13]*

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 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 forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

[Matt. 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 22:23-25]

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: ***"Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."***

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: ***"Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.***
This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini *[John 20:19]*

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

Agnus Dei *[John 1:29]*



Text: Stephen P. Starke

Distribution of Holy Communion

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us. [Matt. 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29]

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith confessed at this altar, any who have not been instructed, in doubt, or holding a different confession from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder. [1 Cor. 11:17-34]

Chime Choir ***"Crown Him With Many Crowns"***

Dist. Hymns | 711 ***"Savior, Like A Shepherd Lead Us"***
| 605 ***"Father Welcomes"***

When all have communed, please stand.

Nunc Dimittis *LSB 211*



Post-Communion Collect

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Benedicamus

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Benediction

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with His favor and † give you peace.
Amen.

Please be seated.

Closing Hymn | 837 ***"Lift High the Cross"***

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Elder Chair: Mike Waltz
Mercy Ministry Chair: Regina Allman

The purpose of this congregation shall be to serve its members and community and to spread the Kingdom of God by preaching the Word of God, by the administration of the Sacraments and by the religious instruction of youth and adults, according to the confessional standard of the Lutheran Church, and to foster Christian fellowship and charity. It shall also be the purpose and the responsibility of this congregation to provide a Christian and parochial education for its children to the best of its ability.