Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15th, 2026 - Divine Service 4 - LSB 203ff



Announcements

Opening Hymn | 508

"The Day Is Surely Drawing Near" v.1-4

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]*

God's Gift of Forgiveness Engenders Our Forgiveness of Others

The Day of the Lord is *"near and hastening fast," and it will be "a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation" (Zeph. 1:"14,15). The Lord will search out and punish "the men who are complacent" concerning His Word, "who fill their master's house with violence and fraud" (Zeph. 1:,12). Then all their works and efforts will be for nothing: "Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them" (Zeph. 1:13). But those who fear, love and trust in the Lord are "good and faithful" stewards of His property (Matt. 25:21). They live by faith in His free gift of forgiveness, and they multiply His goods in the loving forgiveness of their neighbor, and "the master of those servants" settles His accounts with them by the gracious reckoning of His Gospel (Matt. 25:19). Likewise, "God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thess 5:9). Therefore let us also "put on the breastplate of faith and love" in our dealings with one another (1 Thess. 5:8).*

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Hymn of Praise | 508 The Day Is Surely Drawing Near" v.5-7

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

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.
Almighty and ever living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same 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 Zephaniah 1:7-16

7 Be silent before the Lord God!
For the day of the Lord is near;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests.
8 And on the day of the Lord's sacrifice—
"I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who
array themselves in foreign attire.
9 On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the
threshold, and those who fill their master's house
with violence and fraud.
10 "On that day," declares the Lord,
"a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,
a wail from the Second Quarter,
a loud crash from the hills.
11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!
For all the traders are no more;
all who weigh out silver are cut off.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the men who are complacent,
those who say in their hearts,
'The Lord will not do good, nor will he do ill.'

13 Their goods shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them."
14 The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter;
the mighty man cries aloud there.
15 A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified
cities and against the lofty battlements.
This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

The Epistle Reading is from 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you
have no need to have anything written to you. 2 For you
yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will
come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying,
"There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will
come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant
woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you are not in
darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.
5 For you are all children of light, children of the day. We
are not of the night or of the darkness. 6 So then let us not
sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.
7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get
drunk, are drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day,
let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and
love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God has
not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through
our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us so that whether
we are awake or asleep we might live with him. 11 Therefore
encourage one another and build one another up, just as
you are doing.
This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

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



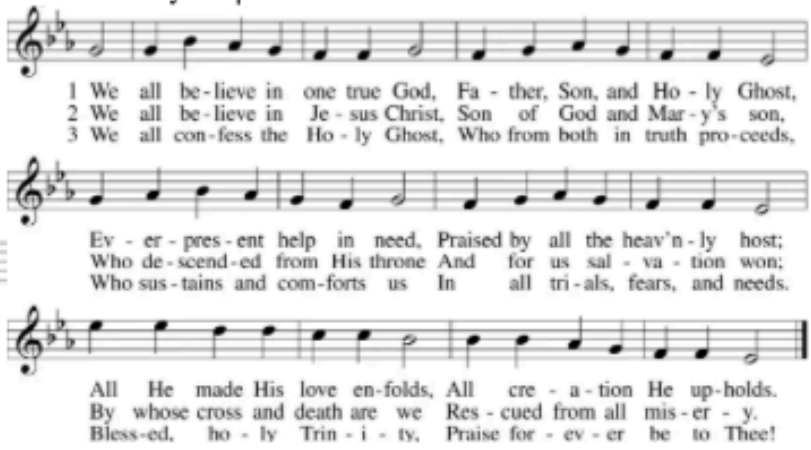
The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

14 [Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey,
who called his servants and entrusted to them his property.
15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another
one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.
16 He who had received the five talents went at once and
traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also
he who had the two talents made two talents more. 18 But
he who had received the one talent went and dug in the
ground and hid his master's money. 19 Now after a long
time the master of those servants came and settled
accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five
talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying,
'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made
five talents more.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done,
good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a
little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your
master.' 22 And he also who had the two talents came
forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents;
here I have made two talents more.' 23 His master said to
him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been
faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into
the joy of your master.' 24 He also who had received the
one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be
a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering
where you scattered no seed, 25 so I was afraid, and I went
and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is
yours.' 26 But his master answered him, 'You wicked and
slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not
sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you
ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at
my coming I should have received what was my own with
interest. 28 So take the talent from him and give it to him
who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will
more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from
the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.
30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness.
In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth."'
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 | 667 "Saints, See the Cloud of Witnesses"

Sermon - *"The Parable of the Talents"*

The master gives his servants talents to ***m***_____ on his behalf, according to their ***a***_____.
Our Master has given each of us varying *'talents'* to use ***f***_____ for our Master's purposes.
We await Christ's return, but we're *Not* to be waiting ***i***____.
Jesus has entrusted us with His ***p***_____.
The life of a ***s***_____ is one of *faithfulness* in using the ***a***_____ & ***o***_____ He gives us.
We shouldn't *over-**e***_____ God's gifts to us, as if *His church* can't ***s***_____ without us. That is ungodly ***p***____.
Yet we also should not *under-**e***_____ the gifts & abilities God has given us either. That is false ***h***_____.
God has gifted ***M***__ in certain ways to serve in His kingdom.
What matters is being ***f***_____ with what you've been given, *Not* ***h***____ ***m***____, for it all belongs to ***G***___!
2-Servants start with ***d***_____ amounts, yet were ***e***_____ *faithful* in working with what they were given.
1-Servant ***b***_____ his gifts, doing *less* than ***n***_____.
Christ has graciously ***r***_____ us to ***"live under him in his kingdom and s____ him."*** *(Luther's Sm.Cat.-Ap.Cr., pt.2)*
The most *faithful* things we as stewards can do are:
#1-Tell others the ***G***___ ***N***___, that we're all ***s***_____ before God, yet for Christ's sake our sins are forgiven by His cross, death & resurrection;
#2-As we've been ***f***_____ our sins, we forgive even what seems ***u***_____ in others.
The ***w***_____ & ***s***_____ servant *really didn't know* the ***M***____, and so buries the Master's gift.
L_____ faith always produces ***f***____ in action.
Through Christ's ***W***___ & ***S***_____, faith is ***s***_____, which in turn strengthens ***f***_____.

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

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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]*



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]

Dist. Hymn | 348 ***"The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"***
| 783 ***"Take My Life and Let It Be"***

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 | 680 *"Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise"*

Sending

Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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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.