St. Paul
Lutheran Church

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost November 8, 2026 8:15 Setting 4

As We Gather

On the last three Sundays of the church year our thoughts turn towards the return of Christ, the judgment day and everlasting life. We are reminded of our constant prayer - "Amen! Come Lord Jesus, Come Soon! Amen!"

Ye Watchers and Ye Holy Ones LSB 670

Ye watchers and ye holy ones,
Bright seraphs, cherubim, and thrones,
Raise the glad strain: "Alleluia!"
Cry out, dominions, princedoms, pow'rs,
Virtues, archangels, angels' choirs:
"Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

O higher than the cherubim,
More glorious than the seraphim,
Lead their praises: "Alleluia!"
Thou bearer of the_eternal Word,
Most gracious, magnify the Lord:
"Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

Respond, ye souls in endless rest,
Ye patriarchs and prophets blest:
"Alleluia, alleluia!"
Ye holy Twelve, ye martyrs strong,
All saints triumphant, raise the song:
"Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

O friends, in gladness let us sing,
Supernal anthems echoing:
"Alleluia, alleluia!"
To God the Father, God the Son,
And God the Spirit, Three in One:
"Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!"

Text: J. Athelstan L. Riley, 1858–1945, alt.
Text: Public domain

P In the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

A Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?
C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

A 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.

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

P 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Service of the Word

Introit *Psalm 70*

[1]Make haste, O God, to deliver me!
O LORD, make haste to help me!
[2]Let them be put to shame and confusion
who seek my life!
Let them be turned back and brought to dishonor
who desire my hurt!
[3]Let them turn back because of their shame
who say, "Aha, Aha!"

[4]May all who seek you
rejoice and be glad in you!
May those who love your salvation
say evermore, "God is great!"
[5]But I am poor and needy;
hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliverer;
O LORD, do not delay!

Kyrie

C **Lord, have mercy;**
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

Gloria in Excelsis (sing)

C **To God on high be glory**
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!

We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.

Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;

You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation and Collect of the Day

Ⓐ The Lord be with you.

Ⓒ **And also with you.**

A Let us pray.
Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading *Amos 5:18–24*

18 Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why would you have the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, and not light,
19 as if a man fled from a lion,
and a bear met him,
or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall,
and a serpent bit him.
20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
21 "I hate, I despise your feasts,
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
22 Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them;
and the peace offerings of your fattened animals,
I will not look upon them.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.
24 But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual *Revelation 7:14b; Psalm 84:5*

These are the ones coming out of the great tribulation.
They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.
Blessèd are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

Epistle *1 Thessalonians 4:13–18*

13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who
are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For
since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus,
God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15 For this we declare
to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until
the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.
16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command,
with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God.
And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left,
will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the
air, and so we will always be with the Lord. 18 Therefore encourage one
another with these words.

L This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse

C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

C **These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Holy Gospel *Matthew 25:1–13*

A The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[1][Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took
their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2]Five of them were foolish,
and five were wise. [3]For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil
with them, [4]but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5]As the
bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. [6]But at
midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'
[7]Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. [8]And the foolish said
to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9]But
the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for
you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' [10]And while they
were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went
in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. [11]Afterward the
other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12]But he answered,
'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' [13]Watch therefore, for you know
neither the day nor the hour."

A This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed

C **I believe in one God,**
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,

God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

Jesus Sat with His Disciples LSB 932

Jesus sat with His disciples
On a mountainside one day;
As the crowds of people gathered,
He began to teach and say:
"Blessèd are the poor in spirit,
Heaven's kingdom they will share.
Blessèd are the sad and mourning,
Joy and comfort will be theirs.

"Blessèd are the meek and humble,
All the earth to them is willed.
Those who hunger to be holy,
They are bless'd and will be filled.
Yes, the merciful are blessèd,
Mercy will to them be shown.
And the pure in heart are blessèd,
They have eyes for God alone.

"Blessèd are God's sons and daughters,
Making peace where there is strife.
Blessèd are the persecuted,
Who for righteousness lose life;
Their reward is great in heaven,
In the kingdom up above—
So be glad to share My suff'ring
And rejoice to know My love."

Text: Stephen P. Starke, 1955

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Sermon "Blessings in Disguise" Matthew 5:1-11

Prayer of the Church

A Let us pray for the people of God in Christ Jesus, for His church, and for all people according to their needs. God of continued mercy, Your power is made perfect in weakness and Your grace is sufficient for us. As You called people of the past to proclaim the way of salvation, so also use us as Your instruments to proclaim the Gospel and to live as lights even among scorn and despising from a sinful world. Sustain Your church to remain strong in faith until the day You make all things new. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A For this congregation, during this Pastoral call process and granting Your wisdom to our Call Committee and Staff during this vacancy. Knowing God is God and that we have been raised with Christ, our lives be transformed from the old self with its selfish practices to life abundant with the new self, filled with generosity toward God and others. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Lord, we pray for Your presence and provision within our families and in the lives of our children. Be with each member of St. Paul, especially those we lift to You this day, Tim & Tracy Maher, Paula McCarty, Diane Michal, Rick & Mary Miller. Bless the children of our CLC Mylah, Leah, Easton, Luna, along with their parents and our staff. Guide families to be places where Your love is demonstrated to strangers as well as to friends. Grant that we share with them our faith in Christ and live together as God's sanctified and thankful people. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Compassionate Father, we face daily the trials of this world, the devil, and our own sinful flesh. Remind us Your grace is sufficient and Your power is made perfect in weakness. For those who are weak in body, mind, and spirit, grant Your continued presence. Heal according to Your will, and use us as Your church to encourage, support, and reflect Your grace to all who are in need, *Jamie Phillips*, *Marcene Tennyson*, *Jimmy Smith, Tim Fields, Sumshot Khular, Sandra Keith, Lennie Sprayberry, Rick Miller, John Haubold, Jan Peterson, Carla Weikert, Robert Wood, Kerstin, Krueger, Joseph Davis*. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Sustaining Father, You gather us together as Your people to hear Your Word and to receive Your means of grace. As Your church, strengthen our fellowship as we receive the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Fed, nourished, and strengthened in faith, enable us to faithfully uphold Your calling to us as we are sent by You. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

Passing of the Peace

(Having received the Gospel's grace, let us joyfully share "Peace of Christ" with one another.)

Offering

School Kit Blessing

Service of the Sacrament

Prepare our Hearts for Communion

1. Do I believe that I am sinful, without hope of eternal life except for God's mercy in Christ Jesus?
2. Do I harbor resentment for another or refuse to forgive another's sin?
3. Do I believe that Jesus is God's Son and my personal Savior?
4. Do I believe that He is personally present with His Body and Blood?
5. Do I desire by the Holy Spirit's power to live a Godly life?

If this is what you believe, we invite you to come forward to share Communion with us. If this is not what you understand or believe you are welcome to come forward for a blessing; simply cross your arms for the Pastor to bless you.

Communion Instructions

(For those who are intolerant to alcohol, grape juice is available in the center of each communion tray marked by purple cups. Gluten free wafers are available upon request.)

C **Thank you, Lord, for blessing us that we might be a blessing to others.**

Preface

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

A Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

A 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

C **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;**
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

Text: Stephen P. Starke

Prayer of Thanksgiving

A 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 judgment You condemned the sin of Adam and Eve, who ate the forbidden fruit, and You justly barred them and all 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:

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;
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

P 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

A The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **Amen.**

Agnus Dei (sing)

C **O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,**
You take the sin of the world away;
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,
You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

Text: Stephen P. Starke

I Know That My Redeemer Lives LSB 461

I know that my Redeemer lives;
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
He lives, my ever-living head.

He lives triumphant from the grave;
He lives eternally to save;
He lives all-glorious in the sky;
He lives exalted there on high.

He lives to bless me with His love;
He lives to plead for me above;
He lives my hungry soul to feed;
He lives to help in time of need.

He lives to grant me rich supply;
He lives to guide me with His eye;
He lives to comfort me when faint;
He lives to hear my soul's complaint.

He lives to silence all my fears;
He lives to wipe away my tears;
He lives to calm my troubled heart;
He lives all blessings to impart.

He lives, my kind, wise, heav'nly friend;
He lives and loves me to the end;
He lives, and while He lives, I'll sing;
He lives, my Prophet, Priest, and King.

He lives and grants me daily breath;
He lives, and I shall conquer death;
He lives my mansion to prepare;
He lives to bring me safely there.

He lives, all glory to His name!
He lives, my Jesus, still the same;
Oh, the sweet joy this sentence gives:
I know that my Redeemer lives!
Text: Samuel Medley, 1738–99, abr.
Text: Public domain

Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won LSB 490

Jesus lives! The vict'ry's won!
Death no longer can appall me;
Jesus lives! Death's reign is done!
From the grave will Christ recall me.
Brighter scenes will then commence;
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! To Him the throne
High above all things is given.
I shall go where He is gone,
Live and reign with Him in heaven.
God is faithful; doubtings, hence!
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! For me He died,
Hence will I, to Jesus living,
Pure in heart and act abide,
Praise to Him and glory giving.
All I need God will dispense;
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! I know full well
Nothing me from Him shall sever.
Neither death nor pow'rs of hell
Part me now from Christ forever.
God will be my sure defense;
This shall be my confidence.

Jesus lives! And now is death
But the gate of life immortal;
This shall calm my trembling breath
When I pass its gloomy portal.
Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:
Jesus is my confidence!
Text: Christian Fürchtegott Gellert, 1715–69; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1812–97, alt.
Text: Public domain

Nunc Dimittis (sing)

C **O Lord, now let Your servant**
Depart in heav'nly peace,
For I have seen the glory
Of Your redeeming grace:
A light to lead the Gentiles
Unto Your holy hill,
The glory of Your people,
Your chosen Israel.

All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning,
Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding
Through all eternity.

Post-Communion Collect

P Let us pray.
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 in 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.

C **Amen.**

Benedicamus

A Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

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

C **Amen.**

Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise LSB 680

Thine the amen Thine the praise
Alleluias angels raise
Thine the everlasting head
Thine the breaking of the bread
Thine the glory Thine the story
Thine the harvest then the cup
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.

Thine the life eternally
Thine the promise let there be
Thine the vision Thine the tree
All the earth on bended knee
Gone the nailing gone the railing
Gone the pleading gone the cry
Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.

Thine the truly Thine the yes
Thine the table we the guest
Thine the mercy all from Thee
Thine the glory yet to be
Then the ringing and the singing
Then the end of all the war
Thine the living Thine the loving evermore evermore.

Thine the kingdom Thine the prize
Thine the wonder full surprise
Thine the banquet then the praise
Then the justice of Thy ways
Thine the glory Thine the story
Then the welcome to the least
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast at Thy feast.

Thine the glory in the night
No more dying only light
Thine the river Thine the tree
Then the Lamb eternally
Then the holy holy holy
Celebration jubilee
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only Thee.

Text: Herbert F. Brokering, 1926–2009
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Dismissal

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

Acknowledgments

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