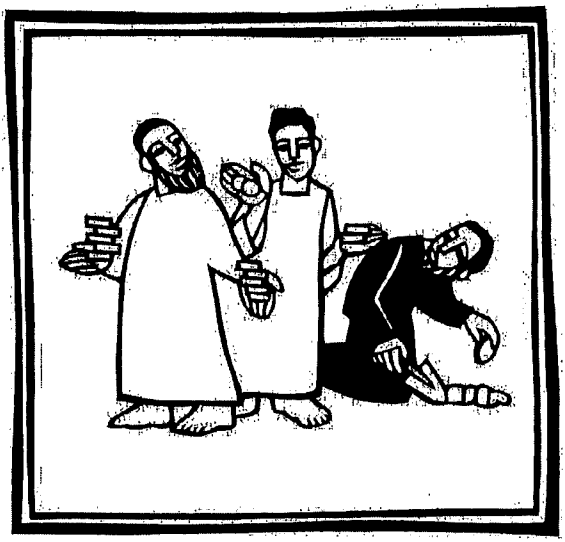
23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 15th, 2026 ~ 8:30 am



Friedens Evangelical Lutheran Church +

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The Rev. Patti Hoyt, Pastor ~ 484-268-2527

Quinette Brucker, Dir. of Music/Organist ~ 610-428-3838

WELCOME

(*) Please stand as you are comfortable and able

Prelude Music

Welcome & Announcements

*Confession and forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. --- Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God ...

C: **Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. Amen.

*Hymn #625 "Come, We That Love the Lord"

*The Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.

P: Let us pray. ~ Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The First Reading ~ **Zephaniah 1: 7, 12-18**

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.

7 Be silent before the Lord God, for the day of the Lord is at hand!
The Lord has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated his guests.
12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who settle like dregs in wine, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." 13 Their wealth 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 warrior cries aloud there. 15 That day will be a day of wrath, 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.
17 I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust and their flesh like dung. 18 Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in

the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed, for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 90: (selected verses, read responsively)

1 Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.
3 You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth."
4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;

5 you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:
6 in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.
7 For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.
8 Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
9 When you are angry, all our days are gone; we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
10 The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.

11 Who regards the power of your wrath? Who rightly fears your indignation?
12 So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

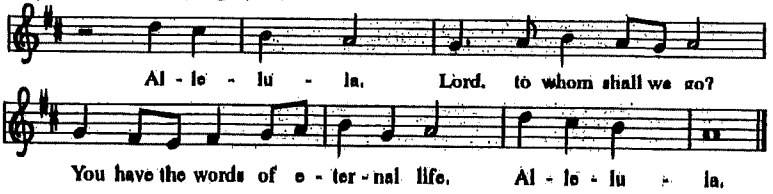
The Second Reading ~ 1 Thessalonians 5: 1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*The Gospel Acclamation (sung by all)



*The Holy Gospel ~ Matthew 25: 1-13

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

The Holy Gospel according to the 25th chapter of St. Matthew.

Glory to You, O Lord.

Jesus said to the disciples: 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a
journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to
them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another
one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At
once 16 the one who had received the five talents went off and
traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same
way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents.
18 But the one who had received the one talent went off and
dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a
long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts
with them. 20 Then the one who had received the five talents
came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you
handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more
talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and
trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I
will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of
your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came
forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents;
see, I have made two more talents.' 23 His master said to him,
'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been
trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many
things; enter into the joy of your master.' 24 Then the one who
had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master,
I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not
sow and gathering where you did not scatter, 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 replied, 'You wicked and lazy
slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow and
gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have
invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I
would have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take
the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.
29 For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will
have an abundance, but from those who have nothing, even

what they have will be taken away. [30] As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

*Hymn #674 "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ"

*The Apostles' Creed (professed together)

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

*The Prayers of Intercession

God, in your mercy ... **Hear our prayer.**

Anthem Was I Faithful"

Blessing of the Communion Elements

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

The Lord's Prayer (traditional — prayed by all)

+ Communal Reception of the Sacrament +

This morning, the sacrament will be distributed by method of intinction; that is, the Pastor will dip the wafer into the chalice, hand it to the recipient so that they may place it in their own mouth.

Post-Communion Blessing, Prayer, and Benediction

P: O God, we give you thanks that you have set before us this feast, the body and blood of your Son. By your Spirit strengthen us to serve all in need and to give ourselves away as bread for the hungry, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

*Closing Hymn 645"Christ is Made the Sure Foundation"

*Dismissal

Go in peace and serve the Lord.' **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude Music

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No formal offering is taken during the worship service. Two plates are located out in the narthex to receive your financial gifts to Friedens. Thank you.

.. to Alicia Baird for serving as our lector this morning
.. to Drew Wagner for serving as our live stream tech

To remember in prayer: Ronald Black, Bob Brown, Shauna & Dan Brucker, Caitlin Carfagno, Richard Eisenhart, Faye, Harlan, Bill Hechler, Jeanne Logan, Lori Remaly, Barb Shaneberger, Andrew Trump, Kathleen Tuomela May, Darrell Tuomela, Joe Ulmer, Leon Warmkessel, people living in war-torn countries, victims of oppression, injustice, violence, and natural disasters, and other dear ones we name before God.

*Announcements

Today's altar flowers have been sponsored by Diane & Bob Ernst in memory of Mahlon Ernst.

Today is the last day to order shoo-fly pies. Pies are $12 for a 9" pie. Order forms are in the narthex. Pick-up is on the 22nd after church unless other arrangements have been made. Proceeds benefit Friedens.

Thank you to everyone who donated coats to Betty Lou's Pantry coat drive.

A cookie sale will be held at Friedens on Saturday Dec. 12th from 9-11 AM. Cookies must be at the church by Thursday 12/10 between 5:00 and 6:30 PM or Friday 12/11 from 12:00-2:00 PM.

POINSETTIA
Order Form

It's time to order beautiful poinsettia plants which will adorn our sanctuary on Christman Eve.

The cost is $8.00/per plant.

Please fill out the order form and place it,
along with your payment, in the offering plate in the Narthex
or give it to Nancy. Thanks!
(payment may be made in cash or check made out to Nancy Filler)

Name_____

Tel. # _____

Number of plants _____ Total Amount $ _____

Dedication for bulletin (in honor of/in loving memory of):
