TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 15, 2026

IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Missouri Synod

703 W. Third St.
Mercedes, TX 78570
956-565-1518

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Rev. Ed Weber
eweber10@aol.com
956-463-1305

Sunday 9:00 AM
Worship Service

10:30 am
Adult Bible Class
Sunday School

Holy Communion:
Every Sunday

Website:
lutheranmercedes.com

Office Hrs, M-F
8am to noon



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 15, 2026

Welcome to Immanuel Lutheran Church

"We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors this morning. It is our hope that you will benefit by your worship here with us, and that you will return again soon. We would greatly appreciate it if everyone would fill out an Attendance/Communion card so that we can keep track of our attendance. They are located in the pew racks in front of you.

The Lord's Supper is celebrated every Sunday at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as Christ our Lord says, He 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 (Matthew 26:26-29). And through this sacrament, He strengthens us for new life in Him (Romans 8:10;1 Peter 2:4). Jesus personally invites weak sinners (Mark 9:24) who trust His words, "This is My body which is given for you… this cup is the new covenant in My blood which is shed for you" (Luke 22:19-20), to receive His blessings of forgiveness, life and salvation. (Romans 8:31-32).

Because "he who eats and drinks our Lord's body and blood in an unworthy manner drinks judgement to oneself" (1 Corinthians 11:29), and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith by those gathered at this altar (1 Cor.10:17;11:26), any who have not been instructed, or who hold a confession and church fellowship differing from that of this congregation, and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and desire to receive the Sacrament, should first arrange to speak with the pastor. For further study, see Matthew 10:32f.; 18:15–35; 26:26–29; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-20; Acts 2:42; 20:7; 1 Cor. 10:14-21;11:17–34.

A PRAYER UPON ENTERING CHURCH - Almighty and ever-living God, You have destined me to obtain salvation through Your Son, delivering me from the darkness of sin and claiming me as a child of light. Ready my heart for Your return, that I may be defended from complacency; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

AS WE GATHER -The prophet Zephaniah calls for silence as the day of the Lord draws near. The Lord has prepared the sacrifice and invited His guests to witness what happens next (Zephaniah 1:7). The people believe that the Lord is apathetic and indifferent (v. 12), which has given them license to do as they please. The day is coming when the people will realize how wrong they are. Paul has a similar warning for the Thessalonians and anyone who believes that everything is fine just the way it is, especially those who act in the darkness (1 Thessalonians 5:2–4). Finally, Jesus describes the day of the Lord with the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14–30). In the end, the Lord will reveal the ways we have misjudged His character. Until then, He points us to the place where His most crucial character trait is revealed. It is the sacrifice of the only One worthy of hearing those words, "Well done, good and faithful servant," so that you might be invited to enter into the joy of your Master.

DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING THREE **PAGE 184**

PRELUDE

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN From God Can Nothing Move Me **LSB 713 vs. 1,3-5,7**



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INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)

P O almighty God, merciful Father,

C I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE WORD +

INTROIT *Psalm 143:2, 5–6, 10–11; antiphon: v. 1*

P Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, and in Your righteousness.

C Do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no one living is righteous.

P I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands.

C I spread out my hands to You; my soul longs for You like a thirsty land.

P Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; Your Spirit is good. Lead me in the land of uprightness.

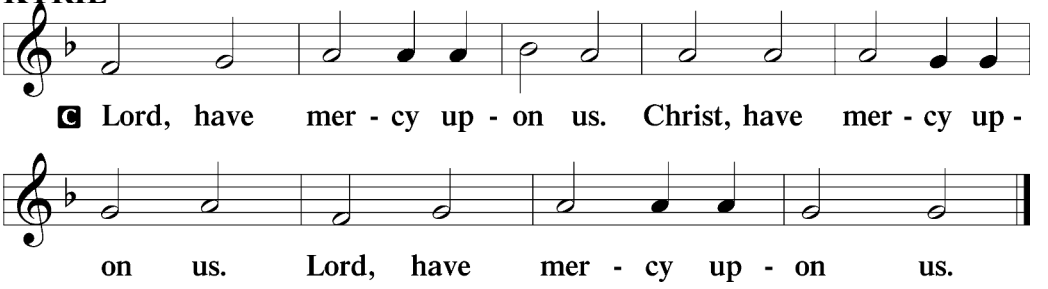
C Revive me, O Lord, for Your name's sake! For Your righteousness' sake bring my soul out of trouble.

P Hear my prayer, O Lord, give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, and in Your righteousness.

GLORIA PATRI

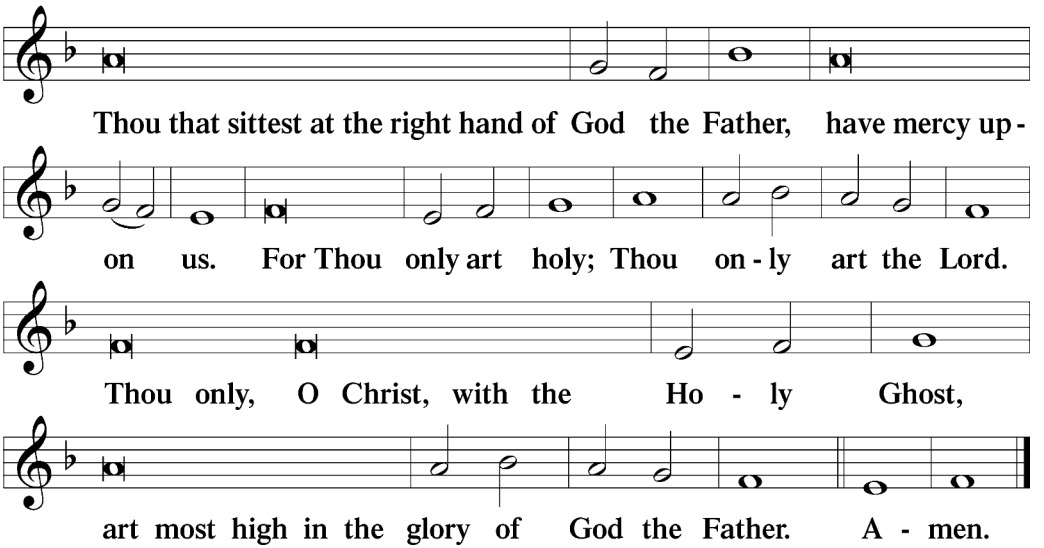


KYRIE



GLORIA IN EXCELSIS





SALUTATION and PRAYER OF THE DAY



P 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.



Please sit

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Zephaniah 1:7–16*

(The day of the Lord is near and coming quickly.)

7 Be silent in the presence of the Lord God; for the day of the Lord is at hand, for the Lord has prepared a sacrifice; He has invited His guests.
8 "And it shall be, in the day of the Lord's sacrifice, that I will punish the princes and the king's children, and all such as are clothed with foreign apparel.
9 In the same day I will punish all those who leap over the threshold, who fill their masters' houses with violence and deceit.
10 "And there shall be on that day," says the Lord, "The sound of a mournful cry from the Fish Gate, a wailing from the Second Quarter, and a loud crashing from the hills.
11 Wail, you inhabitants of Maktesh! For all the merchant people are cut down; all those who handle money are cut off.
12 "And it shall come to pass at that time that I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and punish the men who are settled in complacency, who say in their heart, 'The Lord will not do good, nor will He do evil.'
13 Therefore their goods shall become booty, and their houses a desolation; they shall build houses, but not inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards, but not drink their wine."
14 The great day of the Lord is near; it is near and hastens quickly. The noise of the day of the Lord is bitter; there the mighty men shall cry out.
15 That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress, a day of devastation and desolation, a day of darkness and gloominess, a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 A day of trumpet and alarm against the fortified cities and against the high towers.
P This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 90:1–12; antiphon: v. 17*

P And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; yes, establish the work of our hands.
C 0 Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.
P Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever You had formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.
C You turn man to destruction, and say, "Return, O children of men."
P For a thousand years in Your sight are like yesterday when it is past, and like a watch in the night.
C You carry them away like a flood; they are like a sleep. In the morning they are like grass which grows up:
P In the morning it flourishes and grows up; in the evening it is cut down and withers.
C For we have been consumed by Your anger, and by Your wrath we are terrified.

P You have set our iniquities before You, our secret sins in the light of Your countenance.
C For all our days have passed away in Your wrath; we finish our years like a sigh.
P The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.
C Who knows the power of Your anger? For as the fear of You, so is Your wrath.
P So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.
C And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our hands for us; yes, establish the work of our hands.

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 5:1–11*

(The Lord has not destined us for wrath but to obtain salvation through Jesus Christ.)

1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. 2 For you yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night. 3 For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labor pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. 4 But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. 5 You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. 6 Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. 8 But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.
11 Therefore comfort each other and edify one another, just as you also are doing.
P This is the Word of the Lord.
C Thanks be to God.

Please stand

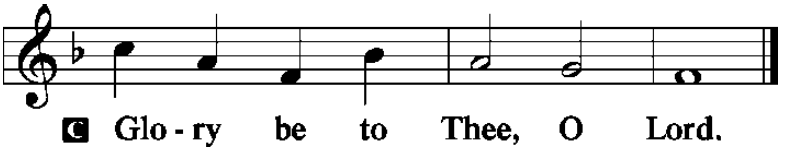
ALLELUIA



HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 25:14–30*

(The day of the Lord will be like a man who entrusts his servants with his property.)

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter,



14 “For the kingdom of heaven is like a man traveling to a far country, who called his own servants and delivered his goods to them. 15 And to one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one, to each according to his own ability; and immediately he went on a journey. 16 Then he who had received the five talents went and traded with them, and made another five talents. 17 And likewise he who had received two gained two more also. 18 But he who had received one went and dug in the ground, and hid his lord’s money. 19 After a long time the lord of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 20 “So he who had received five talents came and brought five other talents, saying, ‘Lord, you delivered to me five talents; look, I have gained five more talents besides them.’ 21 His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’ 22 He also who had received two talents came and said, ‘Lord, you delivered to me two talents; look, I have gained two more talents besides them.’ 23 His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.’
24 “Then he who had received the one talent came and said, ‘Lord, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you have not sown, and gathering where you have not scattered seed. 25 And I was afraid, and went and hid your talent in the ground. Look, there you have what is yours.’26 “But his lord answered and said to him, ‘You wicked and lazy servant, you knew that I reap where I have not sown, and gather where I have not scattered seed. 27 So you ought to have deposited my money with the bankers, and at my coming I would have received back my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to him who has ten talents.29 ‘For to everyone who has, more will be given, and he will have abundance; but from him who does not have, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the unprofitable servant into the outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

P This is the Gospel of the Lord



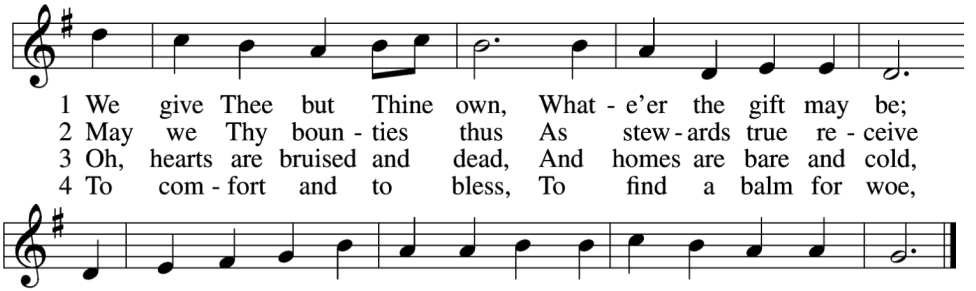
NICENE CREED

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.

HYMN OF THE DAY We Give Thee But Thine Own **LSB 781**



5 The captive to release,
To God the lost to bring,
To teach the way of life and peace,
It is a Christ-like thing.

6 And we believe Thy Word,
Though dim our faith may be:
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,
We do it unto Thee.

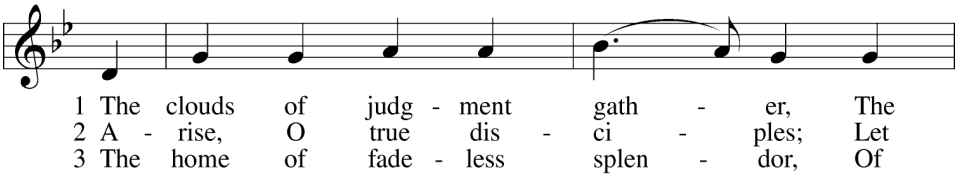
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SERMON ***"The final accounting of the faithful and the faithless"*** Matthew 25:14-19

OFFERING

Please stand

OFFERTORY *The Clouds of Judgment Gather* **LSB 513 vs.1-3**





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SHARING OF THE PEACE "Peace be with you"
[through use of American Sign Language]

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P As children of light, we cry out to the Lord who sees and hears us and deals bountifully with us in our time of need.
O Lord, our God, our dwelling place from generation to generation, You gather us around Your gifts of Word and Sacrament as we await the return of Christ. Thank You for entrusting us with these gifts, and help us to remain faithful in our waiting as we proclaim the Gospel to the world. Hear our prayer, O Lord,

C give ear to our pleas for mercy.

P Loving Father, You claimed us as children in Holy Baptism, bringing us out of darkness and into Your marvelous light. Help us to walk as children of light, encouraging and building one another up, that Your works may be displayed in us while it is still day. Hear our prayer, O Lord,

C give ear to our pleas for mercy.

P Sovereign Lord, as You have called us to keep watch and to not grow weary, You have also given us leaders to watch over us. Strengthen all who are in authority over us, that they may see and care for the needs of Your people and Your creation. Hear our prayer, O Lord,

C give ear to our pleas for mercy.

P Merciful Lord, a thousand years in Your sight are but as yesterday when it is past. Be with those who are in long or difficult seasons of life, those who are sick, those who are grieving, and those who are in distress and anguish, [especially . . .]. Give them peace in their waiting that they be comforted in knowing that their strength is in You. Hear our prayer, O Lord,

C give ear to our pleas for mercy.

P Ever-present Lord, You have prepared the Table and consecrated Your guests. Bring us to receive the gift of Christ's body and blood with repentant and thankful hearts that we be strengthened in our waiting for Your return. Hear our prayer, O Lord,

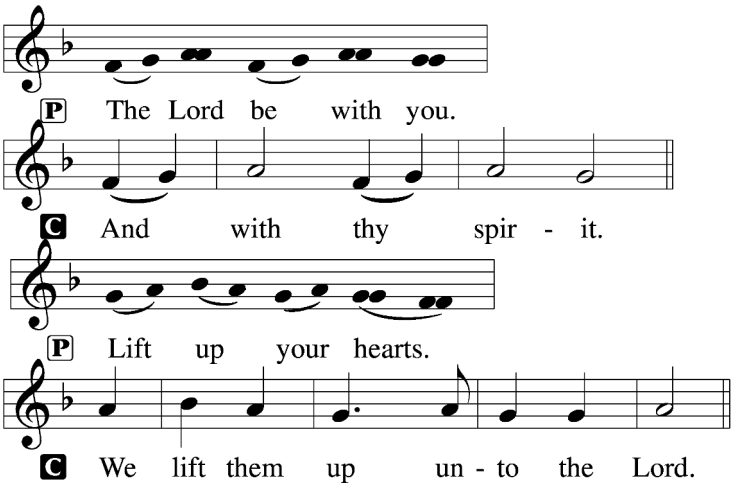
C give ear to our pleas for mercy.

P Believing that You have not destined us for wrath but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, we trust that You hear and answer us according to Your good and gracious will. We pray this through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

+ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT +

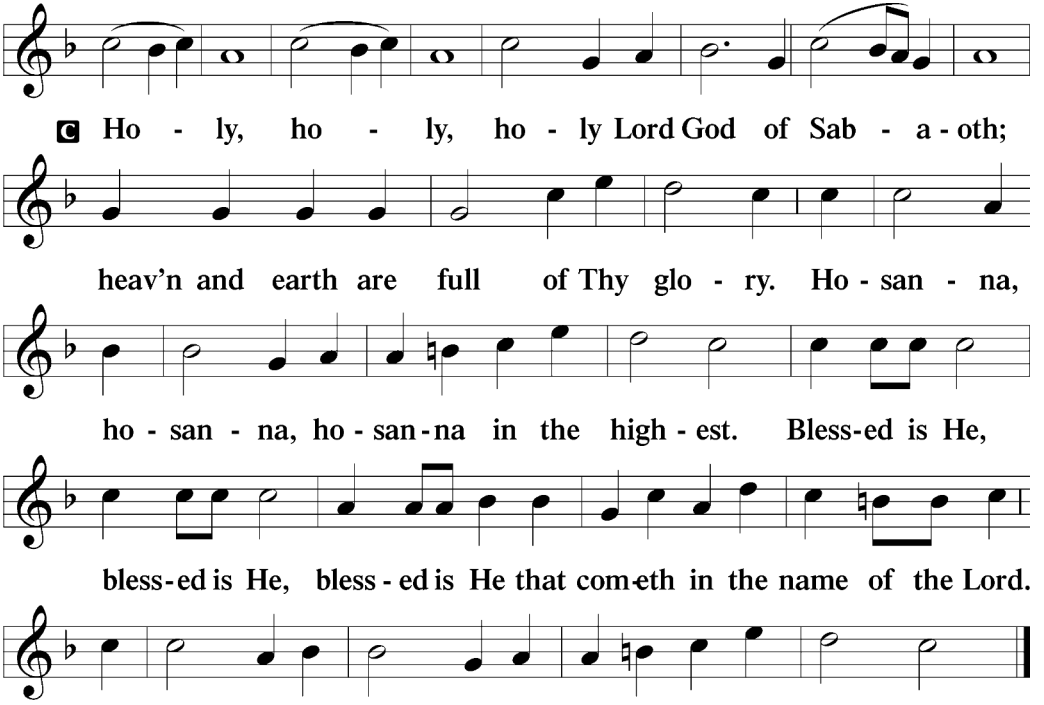
PREFACE





P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining for You a holy people. 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



LORD'S PRAYER (Matthew 6:9-13)

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.

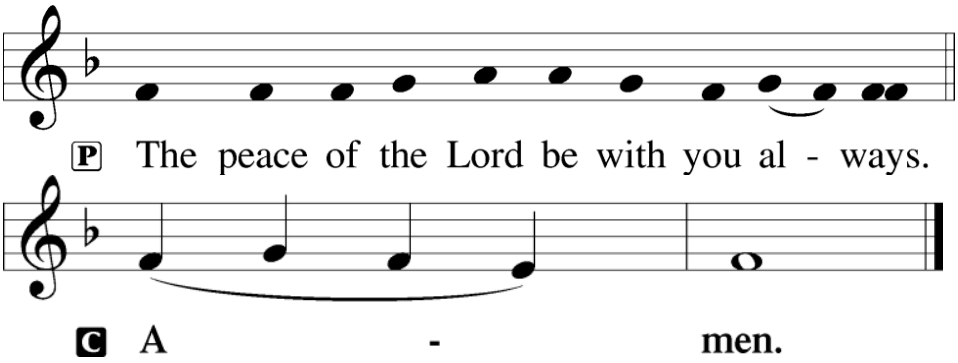


THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

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."

P 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



AGNUS DEI





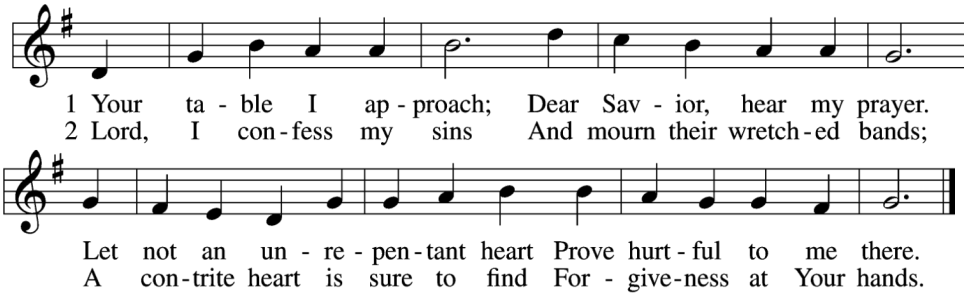
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DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

SILENT PRAYER before COMMUNING

Heavenly Father, in my Holy Baptism you have called me to be Your own possession. Prepare my heart to receive the most holy body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of all my sins. Strengthen my faith, increase my love and hope, and assure me a place at Your heavenly table, where I will eat eternal manna and drink of the river of the water of life freely, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, my Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever. Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN *Your Table I Approach* **LSB 628**



3 Your body and Your blood, Once slain and shed for me,
Are taken at Your table, Lord, In blest reality.

4 Search not how this takes place, This wondrous mystery;
God can accomplish vastly more Than what we think could be.

5 O grant, most blessèd Lord, That earth and hell combined
May not about this sacrament Raise doubt within my mind.

6 Oh, may I never fail To thank You day and night
For Your true body and true blood, O God, my peace and light.

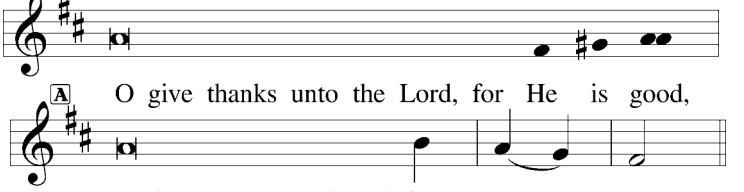
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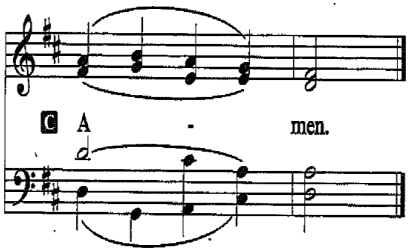
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THANKSGIVING



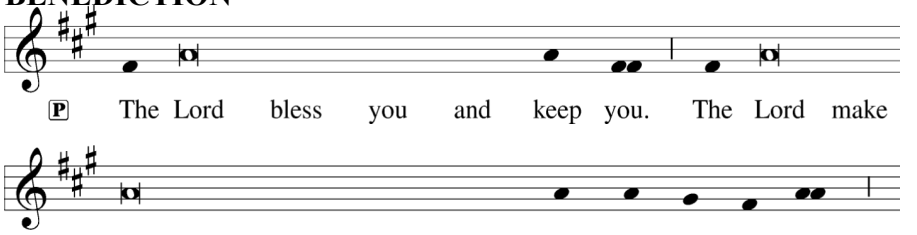
P: Let us pray. We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and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

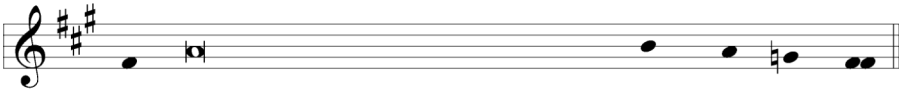


SALUTATION and BENEDICAMUS



BENEDICTION

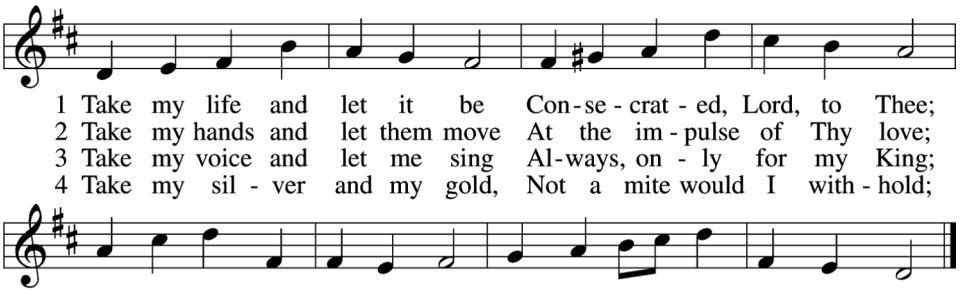






Please sit

SENDING HYMN *Take My Life and Let It Be* **LSB 783**



5 Take my will and make it Thine,
It shall be no longer mine;
Take my heart, it is Thine own,
It shall be Thy royal throne.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.

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DISMISSAL

P Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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NOVEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

> Portals of Prayer for October to December 2026 are available in the Narthex or office.
>Join us for Sunday School and Bible Study at 10:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Pastor Weber is leading the class.
> Plastic bottle caps and can tabs are still being collected.
> Confirmation Class - Thursdays, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.
> Donations for turkey distribution for needy on Nov. 24th are welcome!
> Men's Dinner/Bible Study - Tuesday, Nov. 24th at 6:00 pm
> THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE - Nov. 25th at 6:00 p.m. Pie Social to follow

SERMON NOTES

November 8, 2026	
Sunday Worship:	**5**
Plate:	$ 25.00
Envelopes:	$ 1,208.00
Online/Tithely:	
Other: Lutheran Witness	$ 32.00
Memorial:	
Other: Bible Class: **21**	$ 14.00
Total	$ 1,279.00

Budgeted need YTD:	$206,099
Actual Giving YTD:	$146,109
Overall/(shortfall):YTD	($59,989)
Budgeted Need Weekly:	$4,480
For church balances, see treasurers reports	

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. 1:9, 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).

Bible Memory Verse Challenge

Proverbs 18:10

The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

(PROPER 29)

November 22, 2026

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24
Psalm 95:1-7a
1 Corinthians 15:20–28
Matthew 25:31–46

Biweekly Church Activity Schedule

	November Sunday Servants
Elder:	Don Vogel
Altar Guild:	Laurie Brown/ Maggie Weber
Music:	Doris Pickering
This week:	***Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost***
Usher:	Don Vogel
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service 9:00am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am
Next week:	***Last Sunday in the Church Year***
Usher:	Jerry Frese
Sunday:	Holy Communion Worship Service 9:00am
	Sunday School & Adult Bible Study 10:30am