

Family of Christ Lutheran Church
25th Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2026

Welcome, Announcements and Prayer Requests

Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked
at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.

Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn: ELW 870 We Praise You, O God

We Praise You, O God

1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;
 2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and mo - thers;
 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
 through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
 and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
 When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
 With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.

we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
 and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
 To you, our great re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Text: Julia C. Cory, 1882–1963
 Music: KREMSER, A. Valerius, *Nederlandsch Gedenckclanck*, 1626

Please be seated

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Righteous and merciful God, **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.**

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 90:1-8, 12

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.**

¹² **So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

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.

Please rise as you are able.

Halle, Halle, Hallelujah



Gospel: Matthew 25: 14-30

The Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

[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.’ ”

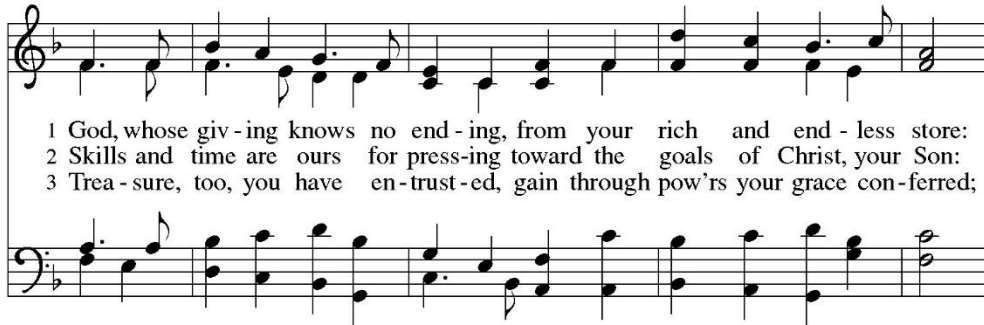
This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

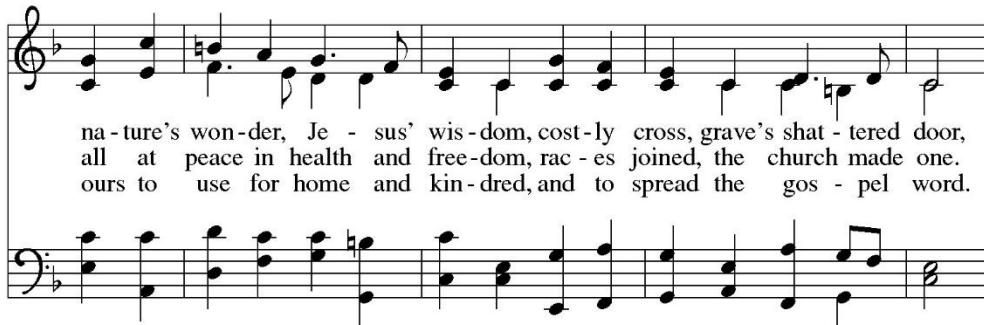
Sermon

Hymn of the Day: ELW 678 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending

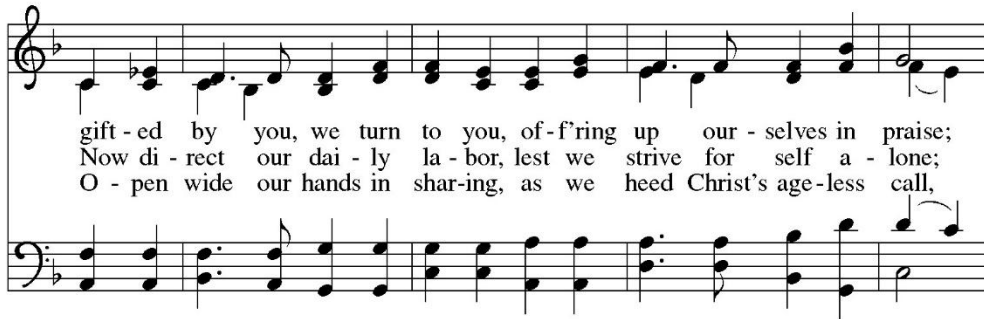
God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending



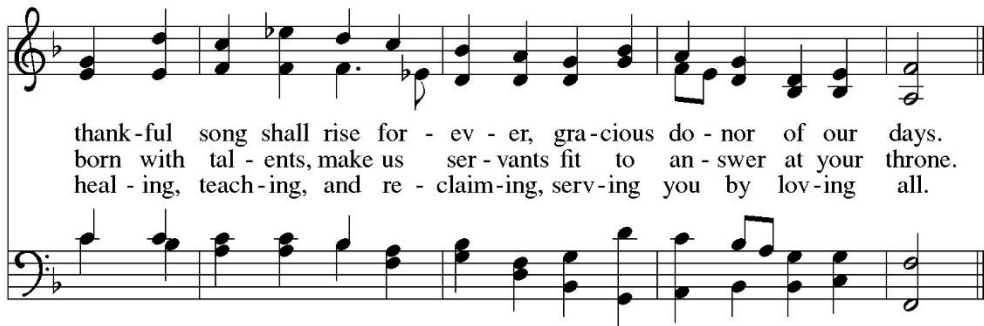
1 God, whose giv-ing knows no end-ing, from your rich and end-less store:
2 Skills and time are ours for press-ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
3 Trea-sure, too, you have en-trust-ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con-ferred;



na-ture's won-der, Je-sus' wis-dom, cost-ly cross, grave's shat-tered door,
all at peace in health and free-dom, rac-es joined, the church made one.
ours to use for home and kin-dred, and to spread the gos-pel word.



gift-ed by you, we turn to you, of-f'ring up our-selves in praise;
Now di-rect our dai-ly la-bor, lest we strive for self a-lone;
O-pen wide our hands in shar-ing, as we heed Christ's age-less call,



thank-ful song shall rise for-ev-er, gra-cious do-nor of our days.
born with tal-ents, make us ser-vants fit to an-swer at your throne.
heal-ing, teach-ing, and re-claim-ing, serv-ing you by lov-ing all.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006

Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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Apostles' Creed

**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 power of 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.**

Please be seated

Prayers of the People

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations. Enliven the worship, outreach, and

service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine. Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing. We pray especially for those on our prayer list and those we name before you now (*brief pause*). God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property teams. Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before

us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you. God, in your mercy,

hear our prayer.

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

Please share a sign of Christ's peace with those around you. *(Please share a sign of peace however you're comfortable today: fist bump, handshake, high five, peace sign, or gentle wave.)*

Offering Is Collected

Offering and Elements Are Brought to the Table

Offering Song:

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*

Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
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Offering Prayer

Eternal God, **our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

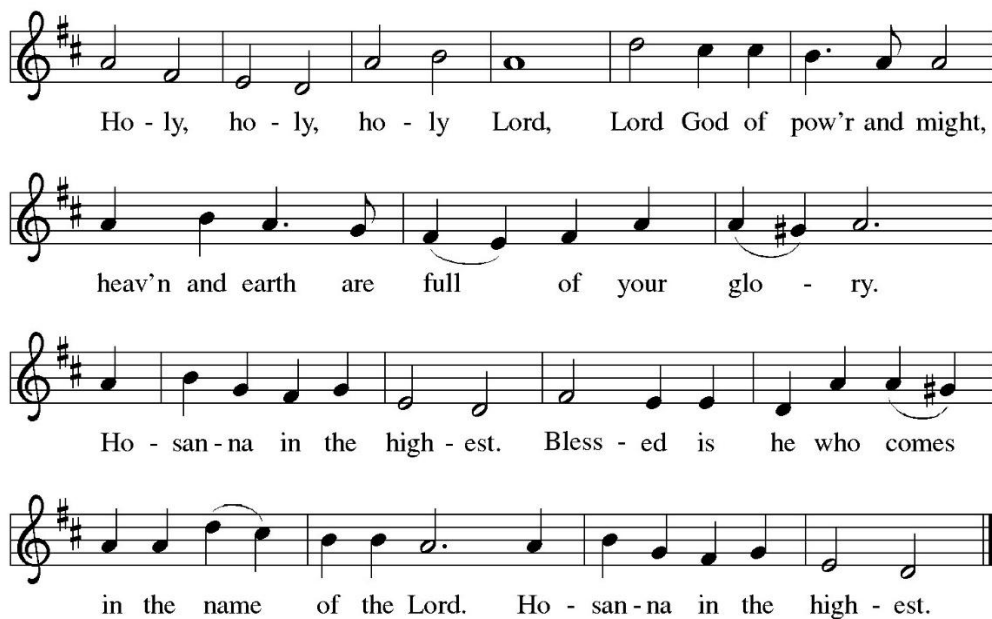
Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

Communion Hymn: ELW 726 Light Dawns on a Weary World

Light Dawns on a Weary World



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea-tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom-ised day of jus - tice comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom-ised feast of plen - ty comes.
 wea - ry world: the prom-ised green of E - den comes.



Refrain

The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun-tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won-der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

Prayer after Communion

Holy God, **we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. Amen.**

Blessing

The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn: ELW 674 Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



- 1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a shout of joy:
- 2 Christ is a - ble to make us one, at the ta - ble he sets the tone,
- 3 Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a world of doubt,



bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless, love in word and in deed ex - press.
gives us love to tell, bread to share: God (Im - man - u - el) ev - 'ry - where!

Refrain



Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: LINSTED, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980

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Dismissal

Go in peace. Encourage one another.

Thanks be to God.

Announcements:

- **Getting Crafty:** Nov. 18, 6:30 p.m. Bring your current work-in-progress and craft and visit for a while.
- **Book Club:** Nov. 19, 7 p.m. (This is changed from the fourth Thursday because of Thanksgiving.)

- **Charlie Brown Thanksgiving Potluck and Silent Auction:** Nov. 22. Bring a dish to share and stay to bid on silent auction items! Donations of items are being accepted now.
- **Hanging of the Greens:** Dec. 6, right after worship. Plan to stay and help decorate for the Advent/Christmas season and enjoy some refreshments.

focelca.com
foclutheran@gmail.com
Pastor Jane Brda, SAM
Ellen Mueller — Music

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