Twenty Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15th, 2026

Service Music: ELW, Setting 8 (ELW, page 184)
Year A, Lectionary 33 (ELW, page 52)



Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

WELCOME!

Guests, we are glad you have joined us today! If you would like to receive contact from the pastor or welcoming committee following this worship service, please fill out a card from the pew slot and put it in the offering plate.

Children's Church takes place during our worship service. The children are dismissed after *Blessing the Children* and brought back to their families after the *Prayers of Intercession*.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP – 8:55 a.m.

PRELUDE

The assembly stands at the invitation of the presiding minister.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,
C: 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.

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

GREETING

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.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: Setting 8, Page 187 (not hymn number)

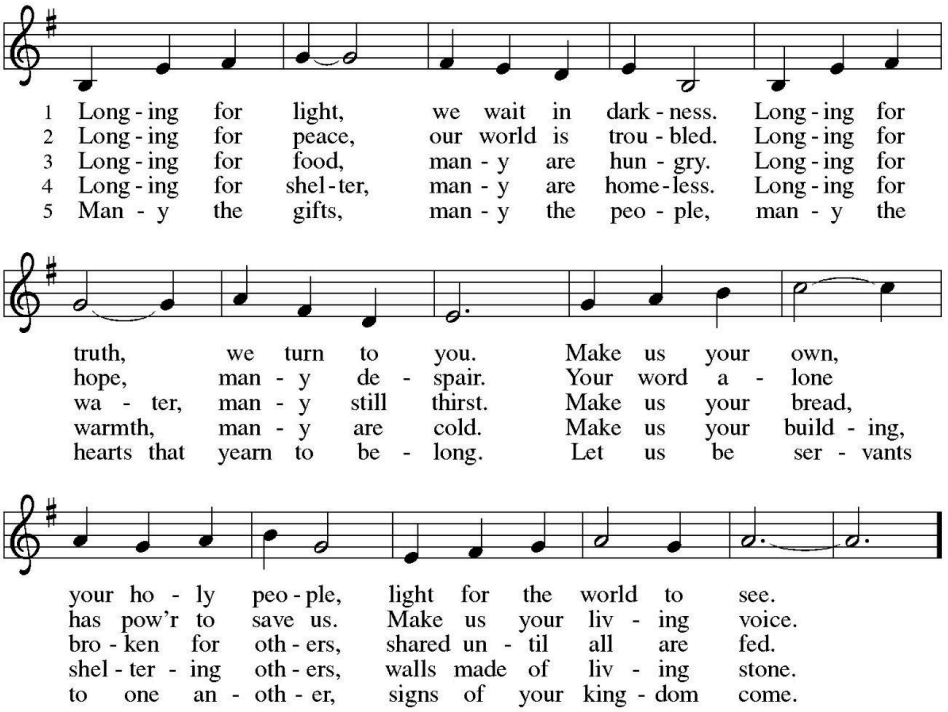


PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: 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.

GATHERING HYMN: ELW 715 *Christ Be Our Light*





The assembly is seated.

BLESSING THE CHILDREN

This Little Light of Mine

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

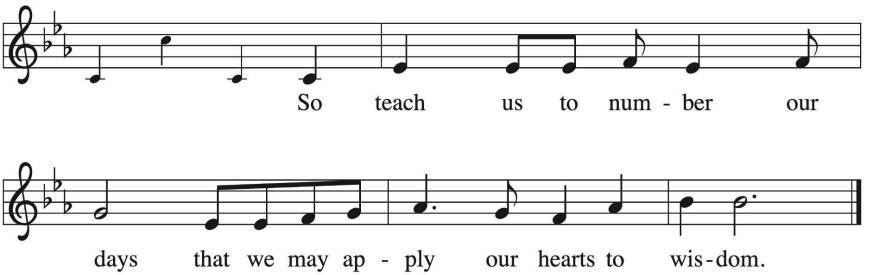
FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

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.

A: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY: Psalm 90:1-12 *(read responsively)*



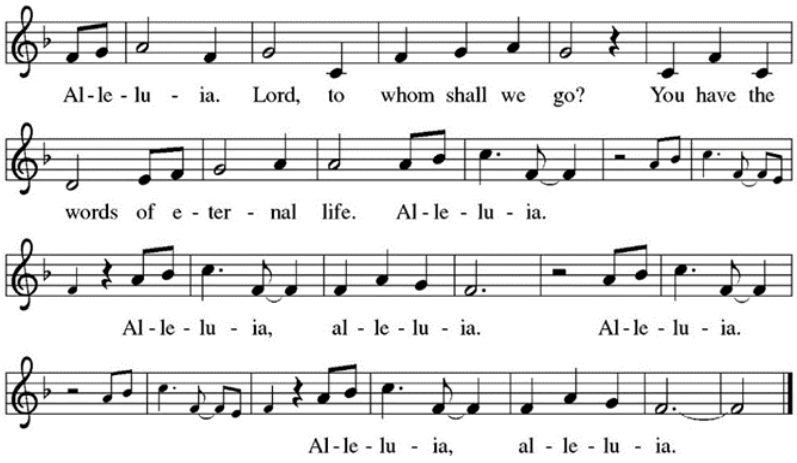
1 Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
2 **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.**
3 You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."
4 **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday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

<u>SECOND READING</u>: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

[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. A: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

The assembly rises in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

P: The holy gospel according to **St. Matthew 25:14-30**

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his servants and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to their 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 servants 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 servant; 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 servant; 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 servant! 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 servant, throw him into the outer
darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”
P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The assembly rises in body or spirit to sing the Hymn of the Day.

HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW 707 *Lord of Glory, you have brought us*




as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -
of your own. With the sun - shine of your good - ness melt our
char - i - ty in your own mys - te - rious sen - tence, "You have
as the price, nev - er grudg - ing for the lost ones that tre -
men - dous sac - ri - fice; and with that have free - ly giv - en
thank - less hearts of stone till our cold and self - ish na - tures,
done it all to me." Na - ked, sick, in pris - on, hun - gry—
men - dous sac - ri - fice. Give us faith to trust you bold - ly,
bless - ings count - less as the sand to the un - thank - ful
warmed by you, at length be - lieve that more hap - py
in the least, your face we view, say - ing by your
hope, to stay our souls on you: but, oh, best of
and the e - vil with your own un - spar - ing hand.
and more bless - ed 'tis to give than to re - ceive.
poor and need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you."
all your grac - es, with your love our love re - new.

APOSTLES' CREED

A: In prayer and devotion, we confess our faith with the whole church.
C: 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.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.
C: And also with you.

Share the peace of Christ with one another by shaking hands or with a word or sign of Christ's peace.

The assembly is seated.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

A: 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, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: 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, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: 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 into those that empower and unite. Keep safe those whose duty it is to protect others, especially, **Anthony, Chris, Eli, Nathan, and Tyler.** God, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: 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, especially **Bev, Ed, Frieda, Jeryl, Kaylee, LaVonne, Sandy, and Shirley**. We also pray for friends and family of our congregation*. God, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: 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, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: 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, especially **Elizabeth**, whom we commemorate** this week.
God, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

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

**See page 23 for friends and family of our congregation.*
***See page 22 for commemorations.*

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

Your offering may be placed in the plate as it is passed. We thank all who support God's ministry here and in the world.

Stand as the offering is presented at the rail.

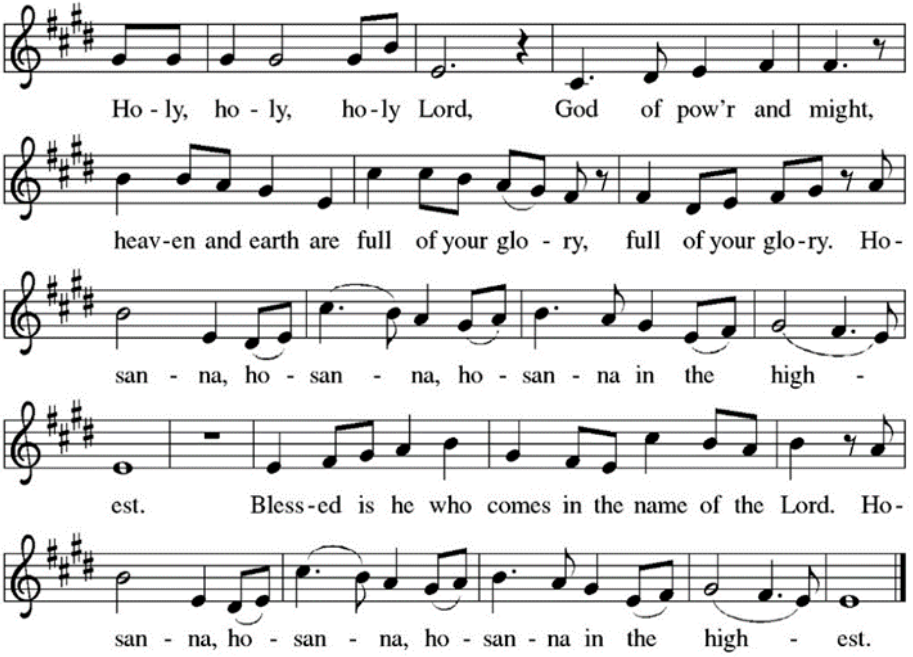
PRESENTATION OF GIFTS: ELW 465 As the Grains of Wheat



GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**
P: 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 our thanks and praise.

P: 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:



P: O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we praise, call us to your table, grant us your life.

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.

P: Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we await the day when Jesus shall return to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death. Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.
C: Amen.

P: Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate, to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say, Amen.
C: Amen.

P: Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **C: Amen.**

P. Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

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. Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. 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.

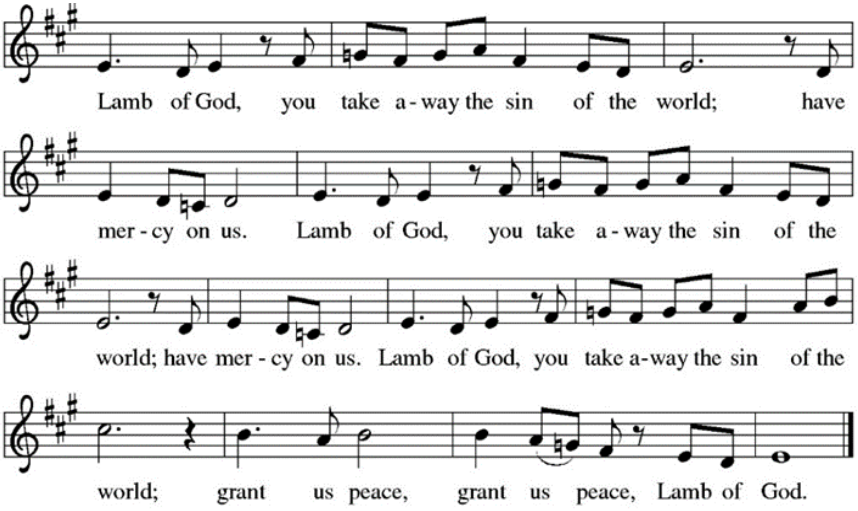
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared. **C: Thanks be to God.**

The assembly is seated.

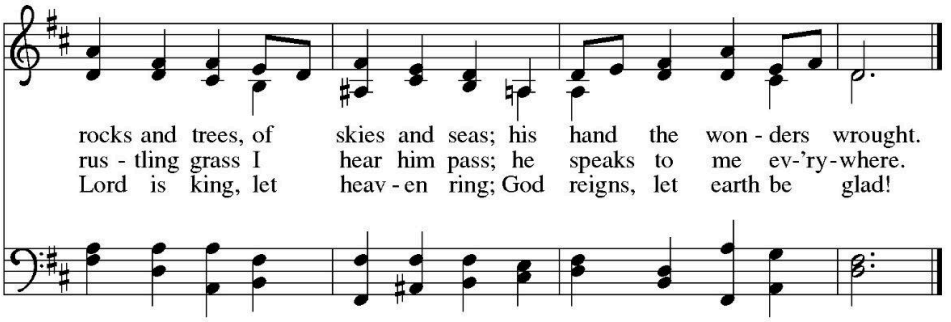
Come, for Christ invites you. Communion today will be distributed at the altar rail (please stand or kneel, as you are comfortable), the ushers will direct you forward to receive the bread (which is gluten-free) and cup either wine (red) or grape juice (white).

Lamb of God

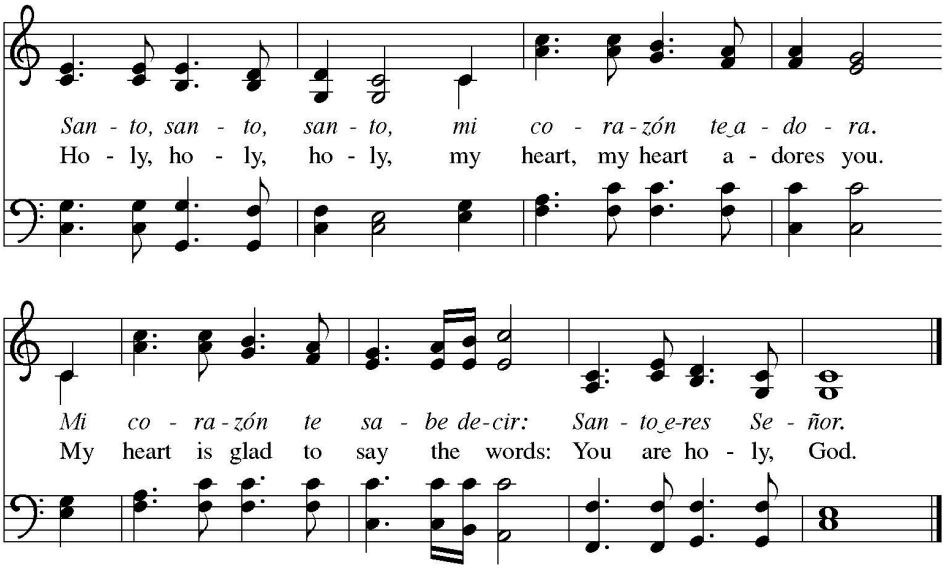


COMMUNION HYMN: ELW 824 *This is My Father's World*





COMMUNION HYMN: ELW 473 *Holy, Holy, Holy (sing 3 times)*



The assembly rises in body or spirit at the invitation of the presiding minister.

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in eternal life. **C: Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: 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.
C: Amen

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

SENDING BLESSING:

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **C: Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: ELW 632 *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*



5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

P: Go in peace. Encourage one another!
C: Thanks be to God!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

11/21 No Saturday Service - Join us Sunday for the Feast of Christ the King!

11/24 6:00 p.m. Pie Fest & Thanksgiving Service! Sign-up sheet and additional information located in the Connections Corner of the Narthex.

12/9 Bonfire Church - For anyone in the 2nd Quarter of life. Meet at Devils Glenn Park, Bettendorf. Contact the church office for details at (563) 355-4161.

12/12 Annual Nativity: A Night in Bethlehem - There is a pink binder in the Narthex to sign up to volunteer for our annual Nativity. We are also looking for some cardboard boxes to use for decorations - if you have any, please drop them off to the church office!

12/21 7PM Longest Night Service - 12/21 7PM Longest Night Service - Longest Night (or Blue Christmas) is a special service held on the longest night of the year. It is a service of prayer and song especially intended for individuals who are faced with loss, loneliness, and broken relationships during the holiday season. This is a collaborative service with area Lutheran churches hosted at St. James.

Advent Readers: The Advent Readings Sign-Up sheet is in the Narthex. There are 2 Sundays left to sign up if you'd like to be a Reader!

Christmas Poinsettias - Poinsettias are available to order today through Sunday, November 29th! See insert for more details.

Attendance last week:
Saturday: 26 Sunday: 62 YouTube: 7 Total: 95

Year to Date Financial Summary:
Contributions: $140,525.78 Spending: $137,150.40 Balance: $3,375.38

Birthdays this week: 11/15 Glenn Boyles 11/16 Everett Manthe
11/18 Shirley Richlen 11/19 Jay Brooks

Anniversaries this week: 11/20 Jerry & Yvonne Nichols

Flowers this week: The flowers today are given by Jerry & Yvonne Nichols for Yvonne's birthday and their anniversary.

We livestream our services on YouTube each week to help us worship together and stay connected even when we are not at full health or out of town!

YouTube Link:
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzjnqGF4g_QWtn_I2SqpL5Q

COMMEMORATIONS:
Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society, died 1231
Tuesday, November 17, 2026
Born in Hungary, Elizabeth was betrothed to the son of the Landgrave of Thuringia, and at age four was taken to be raised with him at the Wartburg Castle. Ten years later they were married. She was very generous to the poor, and after her husband's death she lived in cruel hardship until her own death at age twenty-four.

Worship Assistants

November 15	**9:00 AM Worship**
Presider	Vicar Bryce Hewlett, SAM
Assisting Minister	Pat Larson
Reader	Amanda Southwell
Acolyte	Edi Southwell
Music Minister	Steve Abel
Ushers	Jerry & Yvonne Nichols
Altar Guild	Ellen Hogbin & Audrey Lovell

Prayers for Healing and Support

Congregational Members

Ed Arp, **Bev** Chappen, **Sandy** Henry,
Frieda Houldsworth, **Jeryl** Krumbholz,
LaVonne Mienke, **Shirley** Niewald, **Kaylee** Pessein

Family and Friends

Amanda (friend of Melissa), **Annette & Rick** (Steve & Sue Miller & Pat Sorenson's sister & brother-in-law), **Brenda** (Friend of Janene Anderson), **Carol** (friend of Joleen Bakken), **Darryl** (friend of Deb Crooks), **Donna** (Ed Arp's sister), **Drew** (Pat Larson's friend), **Elliot** (Gary and Eunice Grell's great grandson), **Emmett** (friend of Diana Worley), **Hattie** (Frieda's sister), **Heather** (Jason Forari's Sister-in-Law), **Jack** (family of Martens/Schmidts), **Jane** (friend of Deb Crooks), **Jason** (Sherry Germanio's son), **Jim** (Pat Larson's nephew), **John** (Pat Larson's brother), **John** (Frieda's nephew), **Karen** (Shirley's Aunt), **Larry** (family of Doug Larson), **Mark** (friend of Jason Forari), **Pat** (Judy Larson's Sister-in-Law), **Phil** (Steve Miller and Pat Sorensen's brother), **Stacy** (Fritz' son's cousin), **Steve** (friend of Sue Miller), **Wally** (Frieda's nephew)

Those Whose Duty it is to Protect Others

Anthony Karasek (Judy Larson's great nephew)
LCDR Chris Tribble USN (Erik & Joleen Bakken's friend).
CPT Eli Smith (Jerry and Myrna Mattly's grandson)
Nathan Pearson USAF (Jenna & Kane Schmidt's friend)
Tyler McLaughlin, First Responder (Family of Pat Larson)

November / December 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
9AM Worship 10AM Council Mtg.		1PM Sarah Circle 4:PM Property Mtg.	4:30PM Confirmation Class at St. James 6-8PM Food Pantry 6PM Choir Practice	9-11AM Food Pantry 11:30AM GANG		No 5PM Saturday worship due to Christ the King
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
9AM Worship 11AM Dixon service *Christ the King Sunday*		3PM BHCC Service 6PM Pie Fest 7PM Thanksgiving Service *No Quilting*	6-8PM Food Pantry	Food Pantry Closed *Office Closed Thanksgiving*		5PM Worship
29	30	12/1	12/2	12/3	12/4	12/5
9AM Worship			6-8PM Food Pantry 6PM Choir Practice	9-11AM Food Pantry 11AM BHCC Service		5PM Worship
12/6	12/7	12/8	12/9	12/10	12/11	12/12
9AM Worship 12PM Confirmation @ Zion Lutheran	4:30PM Social Ministry Mtg.	4:30PM Property Mtg.	6PM Bonfire Church 6-8PM Food Pantry	9-11AM Food Pantry		4:30PM Annual Nativity