Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost



November 8, 2026

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS)
124 Maple Street North
Lester Prairie, Minnesota
(320) 395-2573
Pastor Barlau: Cell (612) 394-6224
Pastor email: pastorbarlau@gmail.com
www.stpaullp.org

As We Gather – The Gospel Prepares Us for Our Heavenly Bridegroom's Coming –The Day of the Lord is "darkness, and not light" (Amos 5:18, 20) for all who trust in their own righteousness and piety. The Lord will not accept their "burnt offerings and grain offerings," nor will He look upon their "peace offerings" (Amos 5:22). Instead, He desires a heart of faith that trusts in Him, which lets "justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream" (Amos 5:24) in love for the neighbor. In order for the "lamps" of our lives to burn brightly with such love, we must be filled with the "oil" of forgiveness through faith in our Bridegroom, Jesus Christ (Matt. 25:1–4). Therefore, as we await His coming, wisdom directs us "to the dealers" (Matt. 25:9), that is, to the ministers of His Gospel. Thus we wait upon the Lord, and we "encourage one another with these words" (1 Thess. 4:18). Waking or sleeping, we are prepared to meet Him when He comes "with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God," and "we will always be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:16, 17).

Divine Service Setting III p. 184-202

Opening Hymn "The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us" 514

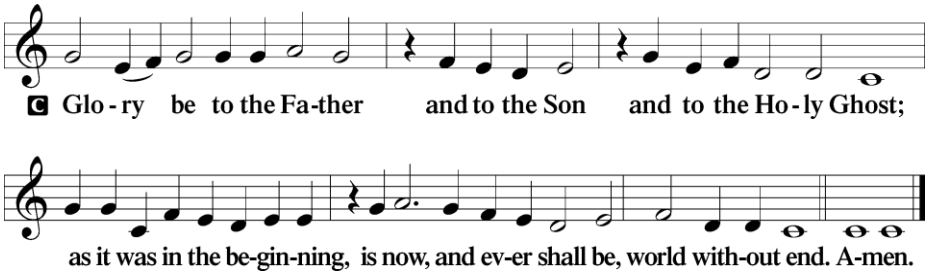
✢ Confession and Absolution ✢ p. 184-185

✢ The Service of the Word ✢

Introit **Psalm 84:1, 9-12; antiphon: v. 3**

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.
How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts!
Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed!
For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.
O Lord of hosts,
blessèd is the one who trusts in you!

Gloria Patri p. 186



Kyrie p. 186

Gloria in Excelsis p. 187-189

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.
C And with thy spirit.

P 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 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."

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. Blessed are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

EPISTLE **1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18**

13But 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. 14For since we believe that Jesus died and rose
again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who
have fallen asleep. 15For 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. 16For 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. 17Then 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. 18Therefore encourage one another with these words.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA AND VERSE **P. 190**

HOLY GOSPEL **MATTHEW 25:1-13**

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

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

1[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who
took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2Five of them
were foolish, and five were wise. 3For when the foolish took their
lamps, they took no oil with them, 4but the wise took flasks of
oil with their lamps. 5As the bridegroom was delayed, they all
became drowsy and slept. 6But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here
is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7Then all those
virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. 8And the foolish said to
the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.'
9But 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."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ**

NICENE CREED **P. 191**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "WAKE, AWAKE, FOR NIGHT IS FLYING" 516

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH
P Lord, in your Mercy, C **Hear our Prayer.**

In Our Prayers:

+ Les Parpart
+ Mark Schwartz
+ Dave Wroge
+ Associate Pastor
+ Atticus Aldrich
+ Pastor Arndt
+ Bonnie Mueller
+ Sonya Clausen
+ Scott Christenson
+ Maya Radtke
+ Elva Kjenstad
+ Andy Birkholz

OFFERING

OFFERTORY **P. 192**

✢ SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT ✢ P. 194-199

The Sacrament is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that our Lord, as He says, gives not only bread and wine, but His true body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation, to repentant, reconciled believers in Christ. Our Lord Jesus invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us (Matt. 26:26-28; 1Cor. 11:23-29; Matt.6:15).

We practice closed communion. Why? (1 Cor. 10:16-17). Because our Lord says those who eat and drink His body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm. If not yet instructed, in doubt, or holding a confession differing from that of the LCMS, you are lovingly asked not to commune at this time. Pastor is happy to make an appointment to

discuss adult catechesis or questions you have regarding the Sacrament of the Altar.

Examination Questions: Please prepare by asking yourself — Am I sorry for my sins? Do I believe in Jesus Christ as my Savior from sin? Do I believe that I am receiving the body and blood of Christ along with the bread and wine? Will I try, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to live a more God-pleasing life?

Prayers for "Before communing" and "Thanksgiving after receiving the Sacrament" are printed on the front cover of the hymnal.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

"IF CHRIST HAD NOT BEEN RAISED FROM DEATH"	**486**
"SOUL, ADORN YOURSELF WITH GLADNESS"	**636**
"O LORD, HOW SHALL I MEET YOU"	**334 (T: 442)**

NUNC DIMITTIS **P. 199**

COLLECT/SALUTATION **P. 201**

BENEDICTION **P. 202**

CLOSING HYMN **"REJOICE, REJOICE, BELIEVERS"** **515**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Attendance Last Week
Sunday: 134
Bible Study: 28
Sunday School: 48

Organist:
Jane Holasek

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. POINSETTIAS- If you would like to order a poinsettia for the Christmas Season, forms are available on the desk in the Upper Narthex. Forms are also available in the November Lamplighter. Order forms are due November 11th.

2. WINTER GEAR COLLECTION – We will continue collecting new and gently-used KIDS winter gear (coats, hats, mittens) for the Marie Sandvick Center. A box will in the Lower Narthex until November 19th.

3. BASKETS OF BLESSINGS – Through November 15, the LWML is collecting food items for Thanksgiving Dinners to be delivered to the McLeod Food Shelf. Please place your donations into the basket in the lower narthex or in the education wing. *Items to*

Donate: CASH for turkeys, stuffing, cranberry sauce, gravy mix, green beans, canned fried onions, canned pumpkin, pie shells.

4. VETERAN'S DAY HANDOUT – In honor of the service and sacrifice of our Veterans, please take home a toy soldier handout from the Veteran's Day table in the upper narthex as a reminder to pray for the Veterans in our congregation, our families and our community.

5. CRAFT SUPPLIES NEEDED – Sunday School is looking for empty/clean clear plastic bottles with caps (14-16oz) and cardboard paper towel tubes. Collection box is located in the lower narthex. Thank you!

6. WINDOWS OF FAITH – Thank you to everyone that contributed during our matching fund drive. We were able to meet the $5,000.00 goal. Currently we have about $3,000.00 remaining in the total of $78,000 to complete the project.

7. CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM – The children have begun practicing for the Christmas program during the Sunday School hour. Further rehearsals will take place on Nov. 15 and 22, and on December 6th and 13th. This year's program will be on December 13th at 10:30. If your child has NOT been attending Sunday School but would like to participate, contact Amanda Barlau at 812-968-9138 this week so they can be given a part.

8. THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE – Service with communion will be held on Wednesday, November 25th at 7:00 PM.

9. USHERS NEEDED – Ushers are needed for the upcoming Thanksgiving Eve, Advent and Christmas Eve/Day services. Please use the sign-up sheet on the desk in the Upper Narthex if you are able to help. You do NOT need to be a current Usher to help out.

10. DECORATING the church, lower narthex and basement for Christmas will take place Saturday, Nov. 28, at 8:30 a.m. The LWML would kindly appreciate your help. Everyone is invited to join us! We are usually done by 10:30 a.m.

11. FREE CHRISTMAS DINNER – Everyone is invited to join us for a free Christmas Dinner on December 6th at 5:00 pm in the church basement. A time to gather in fellowship and celebrate Jesus' birth. Guests are welcome! RSVP by Nov. 30th on the desk in the upper narthex or online at https://forms.gle/5QTbznmGWou8JVTp7 Questions, please email: alakelee@gmail.com

12. VACCINE CLINIC – Keaveny Drug has offered to do a Flu and Covid Clinic here at the church. We have scheduled it to take place after the 10:30 am service on Sunday, November 22nd.

13. THANK YOU to all the congregation members for their support and encouragement during this past month. Your kind words, prayers, cards, and gifts were greatly appreciated! Pastor Barlau and Administrative Assistant Amanda.

14. SCHEDULE – *November 15* ~ Ushers: 1st Service: Larry Hoof, Stewart Ruwersma, Jr., Derek Zebell; 2nd Service: Paul Seefeldt, Adam Barlau, Brett Schmidt; Acolytes: 1st Service: W. Schauer, J. Schauer; 2nd Service: J. Barlau, E. Garfunkel; Greeters- 1st Service: Ron & Shelly Trettin, 2nd Service: Jerome Herrmann; Flowers: LaJean Hoof; Altar Guild: Jen Schauer and Mandy Lyons; Worship Bags: Elaine Peterson

Calendar of Events

Sun. Nov 8	**8:00 a.m.** 9:15 a.m. **10:30 a.m.**	**WORSHIP W/ CONT LINE COMM** Sunday School/ Adult Bible Study **WORSHIP W/ CONT LINE COMM**
Mon. Nov 9	 6:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.	4th Grade Release Time Class Board Meeting Council Meeting
Wed. Nov 11	 Noon 2:55 p.m.	Poinsettia Orders Due Deadline for Bulletin 5th/6th Grade Release Time Class Confirmation Class
Thurs. Nov 12	7:00 p.m.	Bible Study
Sun. Nov 15	**8:00 a.m.** 9:15 a.m. **10:30 a.m.**	**WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION** Sunday School/ Adult Bible Study **WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION**

Acknowledgement:

The following memorials were received this past week:
+ **Larry Ide** ~ $ 100.00 to Windows of Faith
+ **Larry Ide** ~ $10.00 to Bahr/Strei Scholarship
+ **Dan Gueningsman** ~$10.00 to Bahr/Strei Scholarship
+ **Dan Gueningsman** ~ $ 6,000.00 to Windows of Faith