Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost



November 15, 2026

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church (LCMS)
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Lester Prairie, Minnesota
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Divine Service Setting III p. 184-202

Opening Hymn "Light of Light, O Sole-Begotten" 914

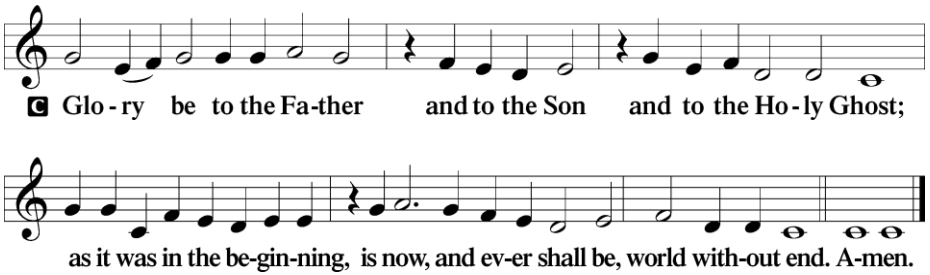
✢ Confession and Absolution ✢ p. 184-185

✢ The Service of the Word ✢

Introit Psalm 143:2, 5-6, 10-11; antiphon: v. 1

Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy!
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!
Enter not into judgment with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.
I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done;
I ponder the work of your hands.
I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.
Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!
Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!
For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life!
In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!

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.

℗ Let us pray.
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.

ℂ **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT — ZEPHANIAH 1:7-16

7 Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is near; the Lord
has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. 8 And on the day
of the Lord's sacrifice— "I will punish the officials and the king's sons
and all who array themselves in foreign attire. 9 On that day I will punish
everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their
master's house with violence and fraud. 10 "On that day," declares the
Lord, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second
Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. 11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!
For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. 12 At
that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men
who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The Lord will not
do good, nor will he do ill.' 13 Their goods 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 mighty man cries aloud there.
15 A day of wrath is that day, 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.

℀ This is the Word of the Lord.

ℂ **Thanks be to God.**

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 5:1-11

1 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no
need to have anything written to you. 2 For you yourselves are fully

aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3]While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. [4]But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. [5]For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. [6]So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. [7]For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. [8]But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. [9]For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, [10]who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. [11]Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA AND VERSE **P. 190**

HOLY GOSPEL **MATTHEW 25:14-30**

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

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

[14][Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. [15]To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. [16]He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. [17]So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. [18]But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. [19]Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. [20]And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' [21]His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' [22]And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' [23]His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' [24]He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, [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 answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? [27]Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. [28]So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. [29]For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. [30]And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ

APOSTLES' CREED **P. 192**

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY "THE DAY IS SURELY DRAWING NEAR" 508

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

"TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE"	**783**
"RISE, MY SOUL, TO WATCH AND PRAY"	**663**
"I COME, O SAVIOR, TO THY TABLE"	**618**
"O WORSHIP THE KING"	**804**

NUNC DIMITTIS **P. 199**

COLLECT/SALUTATION **P. 201**

BENEDICTION **P. 202**

CLOSING HYMN "CREATOR OF THE STARS OF NIGHT" 351 (T: 805)

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Attendance Last Week
Sunday: 131
Bible Study: 19
Sunday School: 32

Organist:
Lynn Mueller

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. 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.

2. 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!

3. 2027 CALENDARS FOR SALE – All proceeds support our youth mission trip. Thank you for your support!

4. YOUTH EVENTS SURVEY – The Board of Education is seeking input from youth and families in planning 2027 youth events. Please fill out the survey located on the youth bulletin board in the education wing.

5. DIRECTORY DISTRIBUTION – We have received the member copies to distribute to those who had their picture taken (or submitted) for the directory! A table will be in the upper narthex to begin handing these out after worship services today and continue through the end of November and as needed into December. If you are not able to get to church to pick up your copy, please reach out to one of the Stewardship members. If you were not able to get your picture in the directory, but would still like to have a copy, there are a limited number of extra copies that are available to purchase for $10 each. Contact a Stewardship member to purchase one. (Darlene Schmidt (320)583-3022; Julie Dial (952) 484-4436; Brittany Litzau (612) 203-7003)

6. WINDOWS OF FAITH –Currently we have about $1,200.00 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. SUNDAY SCHOOL SHEPHERDS – Christmas program practice has begun. We will need youth helpers each week to sit with younger children in the pews during practices and during the program (second service 12/13). Please report to the preschool room by 9:10am each week. Extra helpers who are not needed for the day may attend youth bible study instead.

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

10. 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.

11. 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.

12. 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. Questions, please email: alakelee@gmail.com. RSVP by Nov. 30th on the desk in the upper narthex or online at https://forms.gle/5QTbznmGWou8JVTp7

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. SCHEDULE – *November 22* ~ Ushers: 1st Service: Shannon Novotny, Jim Klaustermeier, Don Hoof; 2nd Service: Cory Schauer, Lucas Schauer, Jason Lyons; Acolytes: 1st Service: W. Schauer, E. Novotny; 2nd Service: I. Foust, D. Neumann; Greeters- 1st Service: Paul Mohwinkel, 2nd Service: Carolyn Toenies; Flowers: LaJean Hoof; Altar Guild: Jen Schauer and Mandy Lyons; Worship Bags: Elaine Peterson

Calendar of Events

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**
Mon. Nov 16	 Noon 7:00 p.m.	4th Grade Release Time Class Deadline for Lamplighter Council Meeting
Wed. Nov 18	Noon 2:55 p.m.	Deadline for Bulletin 5th/6th Grade Release Time Class Confirmation Class
Thurs. Nov 19	8:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.	Sandwich Ministry Bible Study
Sun. Nov 22	**8:00 a.m.** 9:15 a.m. **10:30 a.m.** 11:30 a.m.	**WORSHIP W/ CONT LINE COMM** Sunday School/ Adult Bible Study **WORSHIP W/ CONT LINE COMM** Vaccine Clinic