Last Sunday of the Church Year



November 22, 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 "How Great Thou Art" 801

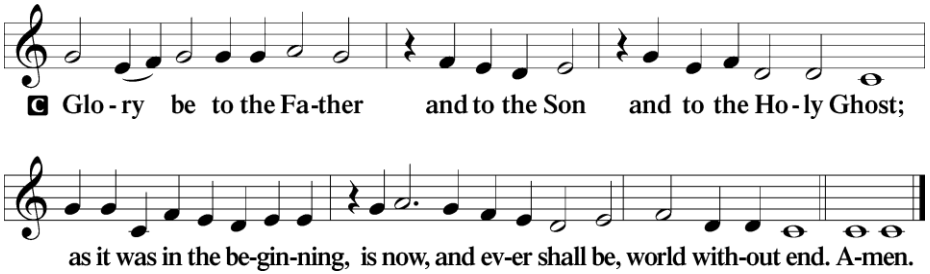
✢ Confession and Absolution ✢ p. 184-185

✢ The Service of the Word ✢

Introit Psalm 39:4-5a, 7-8, 12; antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13 NIV

In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,
the home of righteousness.
O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days;
let me know how fleeting I am!
Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths,
and my lifetime is as nothing before you.
And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?
My hope is in you.
Deliver me from all my transgressions.
Do not make me the scorn of the fool!
Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears!
For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers.

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.
Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT — EZEKIEL 34:11-16, 20-24

11"For thus says the Lord God: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep
and will seek them out. 12As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is
among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out my sheep,
and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a
day of clouds and thick darkness. 13And I will bring them out from the
peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their
own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines,
and in all the inhabited places of the country. 14I will feed them with good
pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land.
There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they
shall feed on the mountains of Israel. 15I myself will be the shepherd of my
sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord God. 16I will
seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the
injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will
destroy. I will feed them in justice. . . .20"Therefore, thus says the Lord God
to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean
sheep. 21Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the
weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, 22I will rescue
my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep
and sheep. 23And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David,
and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24And I,
the Lord, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among
them. I am the Lord; I have spoken."

A 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 CORINTHIANS 15:20-28

[20]But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. [21]For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. [22]For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. [23]But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. [24]Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. [25]For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. [26]The last enemy to be destroyed is death. [27]For "God has put all things in subjection under his feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that he is excepted who put all things in subjection under him. [28]When all things are subjected to him, then the Son himself will also be subjected to him who put all things in subjection under him, that God may be all in all.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA AND VERSE — P. 190

HOLY GOSPEL — MATTHEW 25:31-46

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

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

[31][Jesus said:] "When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. [32]Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. [33]And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. [34]Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. [35]For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, [36]I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' [37]Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? [38]And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? [39]And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' [40]And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.' [41]"Then he will say to those on his left, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. [42]For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, [43]I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.' [44]Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?' [45]Then

he will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me.' [46]And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

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

NICENE CREED **P. 191**

HYMN OF THE DAY "THE HEAD THAT ONCE WAS CROWNED WITH THORNS" 532 (T: 526)

SERMON

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

In Our Prayers:

+ Charlotte Ehrke
+ Mark Schwartz
+ Dave Wroge
+ Associate Pastor
+ Atticus Aldrich
+ Hillard Klaustermeier
+ 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

"HAVE NO FEAR, LITTLE FLOCK"	**735**
"LORD OF GLORY, YOU HAVE BOUGHT US"	**851**
"THANKS TO THEE, O CHRIST, VICTORIOUS"	**548**

NUNC DIMITTIS **P. 199**

COLLECT/SALUTATION **P. 201**

BENEDICTION **P. 202**

CLOSING HYMN "THINE FOREVER, GOD OF LOVE" **687**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Attendance Last Week
Sunday: 146
Bible Study: 19
Sunday School: 56

Organist:
Jane Holasek

CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. VACCINE CLINIC TODAY – 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 TODAY.

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

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 –A table will be in the upper narthex to hand out directories. 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. (Darlene Schmidt (320)583-3022; Julie Dial (952) 484-4436; Brittany Litzau (612) 203-7003)

6. WINDOWS OF FAITH – We are very happy and thankful to inform you that we have reached our goal of $78,000. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this project to achieve our initial goal. We have had a few cost overruns. After we know the total cost of the completed project, we will inform the congregation. In the meantime, we will continue to accept donations to this project.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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.

10. ADVENT SCHEDULE – Our Advent Services will take place on Wednesdays, December 2nd and 9th at 7:00 PM. (December 16th will be at St. Peter). A meal will be held prior to the services, beginning at 6:00 PM. Meal on December 2nd will be hosted by ACT to help raise fund for future mission trips. Meal on December 9th will be a soup supper cook-off. Bring your favorite soup, sample and vote! Prizes will be awarded to top 3 finishers. See sheet on desk in the Upper Narthex for more information and to sign-up.

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

12. TOY COLLECTION – We are collecting UNWRAPPED toys for kids ages 2-12 who get help from the Marie Sandvik Center in Minneapolis. Please place your toys in the marked area of the upper

narthex. We will deliver your donations with our sandwiches on December 17th.

13. UPDATE – On Monday, November 16, 2026, the St. Peter and St. Paul partnership committee met to begin exploring new worship and fellowship opportunities. Several opportunities were brought forward and discussed, which will be further refined at the next committee meeting in December. At that time, a letter will be crafted and sent to every household within both congregations. This letter will raise awareness among all members about the current partnership between the two churches. Additionally, this letter will share newly developed opportunities for partnership to be considered for approval by each voters' assembly in January.

14. THANK YOU for your generous donations to the Thanksgiving Baskets of Blessings for the McLeod Food Shelf! With your gifts and a Thrivent card we were able to supply 15 complete turkey dinner kits in laundry baskets to people in need.

15. SCHEDULE – *November 29* ~ Ushers: 1st Service: Larry Hoof, Stewart Ruwersma, Jr., Derek Zebell; 2nd Service: Paul Seefeldt, Adam Barlau, Brett Schmidt; Acolytes: 1st Service: B. Thompson, J. Barlau; 2nd Service: A. Ostlie, J. Ostlie; Greeters- 1st Service: Gaylen Schoenfeld, 2nd Service: John & Julie Lange; Flowers: LaJean Hoof; Altar Guild: Jen Schauer and Mandy Lyons; Worship Bags: Elaine Peterson

Calendar of Events

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
Mon. Nov 23		4th Grade Release Time Class
Tues. Nov 24	Noon	Early Deadline for Bulletin
Wed. Nov 25	**7:00 P.M.**	**THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE WITH COMMUNION**
Thurs. Nov 26		Church Offices Closed
Fri. Nov 27		Church Offices Closed
Sun. Nov 29	**8:00 a.m.** 9:15 a.m. **10:30 a.m.**	**WORSHIP SERVICE** Sunday School/ Adult Bible Study **WORSHIP SERVICE**