St. John LUTHERAN CHURCH

JOYFULLY TAKING GOD'S LOVE INTO THE WORLD

Lectionary 33, Year A
November 15, 2026 - 8:00AM
25th Sunday after Pentecost

PRELUDE "Beautiful Savior" Proud Image Chorus

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Matthew 25:14-30)
The time for harvest is close at hand. What have you done with the gifts God has given you?
We have brought our gifts to the house of the Lord.
Praise God for the gifts and for opportunities for service that they represent.
We praise God for all the ways in which our lives have been blessed.
Generous God, accept our gifts and our lives this day.
Loving God, accept our praise and gratitude. Amen. — written by Nancy C. Townley

RECONCILING IN CHRIST (RIC) STATEMENT
Wherever you are on your journey, you are welcome here in the name of Jesus Christ. We celebrate that each person is loved by God. We affirm the gifts of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, and are committed to working for racial equity. Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church!

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS
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.**

(stand) GATHERING HYMN "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning" ACS #949 (insert)

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.

KYRIE *ELW page 138; setting 3*
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *ELW page 140; setting 3*

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Sing with all the people of God,
and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.
Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. **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.**

(sit) 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; the LORD
has consecrated the Lord's 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 the LORD 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 the LORD's passion the
whole earth shall be consumed, for a full, a terrible end the LORD will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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, siblings, 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, siblings, 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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *page 142; setting 3*



Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

(stand) GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30
The holy Gospel according to Matthew
Glory to you, O Lord

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.' "

The Gospel of our Lord. . . **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(sit) SERMON Pastor Denny Hanson

(stand) HYMN OF THE DAY "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us" ELW 707

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

(sit) PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE
The peace of the Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING
Your gift continues our purpose of "Joyfully taking God's love into the world!"

SCAN to Give

OFFERING MUSIC "Sweet Hour of Prayer" Proud Image Chorus

GREAT THANKSGIVING *ELW Page 144; setting 3*

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 … we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORDS PRAYER

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; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and 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

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

LAMB OF GOD *ELW Page 146; setting 3*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION SONG "What Feast of Love" ELW #487

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray**. 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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION "Irish Blessing" Proud Image Chorus

(Stand) SENDING HYMN "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" ELW #632

BLESSING

Go in peace. Encourage one another. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE "Hyfrodol" – setting, J. Bert Carlson

Presiding: Pastor Denny Hanson
Cantor: Sandy Gardner
Communion Servers: Sue O'B, John O'B, Carolyn J.
Greeter:
Musician: Steve Peters
Reader: Sue O'Brien
Ushers: Dave Fischer, Pam Richter, Roger Burjes
Sound/Video: Jim Glaspie
Welcome Center Host:

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