

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS
Lutheran Church & Early Learning Center
ShepherdHillsChurch.org

LUTHERAN CHURCH-Missouri Synod

24th Sunday after Pentecost | November 8, 2026 | 8 & 10:45 AM

✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

RINGING OF THE BELL ~ CALL TO WORSHIP

Please quiet voices and prepare to worship.

PRELUDE

P = Pastor **C = Congregation** L = Liturgist/Lector

INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b

Pastor (P): We call on the name of the Triune God—the name into which we have been baptized: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen!

CONFESSION OF SINS

LSB p. 326 "What is Confession?" Small Catechism; John 1:8-9

P: Confession has two parts: First, we confess our sins—both that we are sinful by nature and that we sin daily.

C: Then, we receive Absolution—that is, forgiveness—from the pastor as if from God Himself, not doubting but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Please be seated and bow your heads as we confess our sins.

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

C: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Please raise your heads and be joyful as we receive the assurance that our sins our forgiven!

ABSOLUTION ~ FORGIVENESS OF SINS

John 20:19-23

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 70:4

P: O God, may all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You! May those who love Your salvation say evermore:

ALL: "God is great!"

KYRIE ~ LORD [HAVE MERCY]

Mark 10:47

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation; for the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all; for this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

ALL: Amen!

Connect

CONNECT CARDS

Guests and members, please:

- fill out a Connect card, or
- scan the QR code to connect with us online

Cards are in the racks in front of you. These methods also include a space to share prayer requests with our pastors. We look forward to praying for and connecting personally with you!

A **CRY ROOM** is located off the Welcome Center

ACTIVITY BAGS for children to borrow are in the Welcome Center.

DEVOTIONS: *Portals of Prayer* booklets are on the credenza in the Welcome Center for you, and for sharing!

SERVING TODAY…

Message:
Pastor Ben Oesch

Lector:
10:45 David Renner

Organist:
Gail Black

TOGETHER

We are nearing the end of the Church Year's Season of Pentecost and the Church Year itself. The season ends with Christ the King Sunday. The new Church Year begins with the 1st Sunday of Advent on November 29.

In the final weeks of this season, the Scripture lessons speak of the coming of God's Kingdom. This is an eschatological theme (what happens in the End Times) and one of the major themes of the Advent season that began the Church Year.

In ALL times, we remember Christ, who testifies to this truth:
Surely I AM coming soon. Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!
Revelation 22:20

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The words of **This is the Feast**, from the Revelation given to the apostle John, celebrate the heavenly feast awaiting us when Jesus returns on the Last Day. When we have the service of Holy Communion, we receive a foretaste of that feast to come. Joining TOGETHER at the Lord's altar is both a comfort and a joy as we prepare for Christ's return!

SALUTATION (GREETING)

P: The Lord be with you!

C: And also with you!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: We 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!

HYMN OF PRAISE ~ THIS IS THE FEAST *Revelation 5:12, 13; 19:5-9*



GUESTS AND MEMBERS CONNECT

Please fill out the Connect Card, either by hand or with the QR code.
You may also add prayer requests to your information.
The cards may be given to an usher or placed in the offering plate. Thank you!

CHILDREN'S CHAT *Sina Williams*

Children's Bulletins are available on the Usher Stands as you enter the Sanctuary.

OFFERING AND PRAYER

For giving options: ShepherdHillsChurch.org/Give

OLD TESTAMENT READING Amos 5:18-24

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, 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. Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

"I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. 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. Take away from Me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

RESPONSE

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE READING 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep. For 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. For 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. Then 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. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

RESPONSE

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Please stand for the Alleluia and reading of the Gospel.

ALLELUIA AND VERSE *Psalm 70:4*

P: Alleluia! O God, may all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You!

C: May those who love Your salvation say evermore: "God is great!" Alleluia!

ACCLAMATION

L: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13

[Jesus explained:] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'

"Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' 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. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us." But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.'

Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

RESPONSE

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

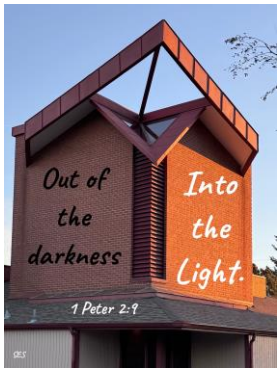
Please be seated.

HYMN # 513:1-3 "The Clouds of Judgment Gather" *tune: "Stand Up…for Jesus"*

The clouds of judgment gather, the time is growing late;
Be sober and be watchful, our judge is at the gate:
The judge who comes in mercy, the judge who comes in might
To put an end to evil and diadem the right.

Arise, O true disciples; let wrong give way to right,
And penitential shadow to Jesus' bless-ed light:
The light that has no evening, that knows no moon or sun,
The light so new and golden, the Light that is but One.

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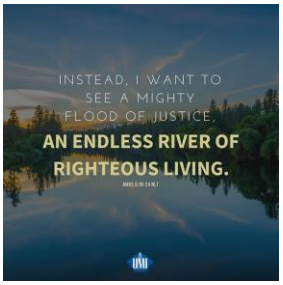


O make Your Church, dear Savior, a lamp of burnished gold to bear before the nations Your true light as of old! O teach Your wandering pilgrims by this their path to trace till, clouds and darkness ended, they see You face to face!

~W.W. How, LSB # 523:3

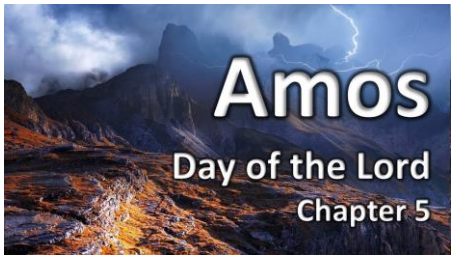
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Holy Gospel: Jesus speaks to His disciples and tells them about the End Days and the Son of Man returning. One way He does this is by using parables to teach them.



The home of fadeless splendor, of blooms that bear no thorn,
Where they shall dwell as children who here as exiles mourn;
The peace of all the faithful, the calm of all the blest,
Inviolate, unfading, divinest, sweetest, best.

MESSAGE **"Amos Is Mean"** text: Amos 5:18-24



The **Nicene Creed** is historically connected with the celebration of the Lord's Supper, because it stresses more fully the Biblical teaching that Jesus Christ is true God, which is intimately connected with Christ's true body and blood being present in Holy Communion. It dates back to the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD. This creed has been in use for 1700 years!

Please stand as TOGETHER we encourage one another in our confess our faith.

STATEMENT OF FAITH ~ THE NICENE CREED

ALL: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end. And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen!

Please be seated for the prayers.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *1 Timothy 2:1-4*

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

One should examine himself before he eats the bread and drinks the cup; one who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself. 1Corinthians 11:28-29

Since those who take Christ's body and blood without understanding His true presence do so to their harm, and since the sacrament of Holy Communion is a faith statement confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or hold a confession differing from that of this church and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and desire to receive the sacrament are asked first to speak with a pastor.

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Please stand.

HOLY COMMUNION ~ PREFACE *2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136*

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 Him thanks and praise!
P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who, having created all things, took on human flesh and was born of the virgin Mary. For our sake, He died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death, thus fulfilling Your will and gaining

for You a holy people. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

ALL:



THE LORD'S PRAYER *Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4*

ALL: 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!

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19,20; 1 Cor 11:23-25*

PAX DOMINI ~ THE PEACE OF THE LORD *John 20:19*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: And also with you!

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION *You will be ushered forward for Communion.*

♦ When receiving the bread, please extend your hand palm up.

♦ If you are not communing but wish to come up and receive a blessing, you may keep your hands folded.

♦ Wine without alcohol is in the center of each tray; you may also request a gluten-free wafer.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

515 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

hymn for meditation: # 516 "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, <u>together</u> with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen!

BENEDICTION ~ GOD'S GOOD-CREATING WORD OF BLESSING *Numbers 6:24-26*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen!

We join our voices with saints on earth and saints in heaven, echoing the unending hymn of praise that swirls around God's heavenly throne. This truly is heaven on earth!

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Come, Lord Jesus, be our Guest, and let these gifts of forgiveness, renewed life, and salvation to us be blessed. Amen!

In this Divine Service, by faith the Holy Spirit has opened our hearts and minds to receive His graces. We now leave this house of worship to share the love of Jesus and HIStory!

Precisely because we cannot predict the moment, we must be ready at all moments.
~C.S. Lewis

Lord, lay some soul upon my heart and love that soul through me; and may I gladly do my part to win that soul for Thee. Amen!

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Every day
God thinks of you.
Psalm 68:19
Every hour
God looks after you.
2 Thessalonians 3:3
Every minute
God cares for you.
1 Peter 5:7
Because every second
He loves you.
Jeremiah 31:3

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HYMN # 533 "Jesus Has Come and Brings Pleasure"
Please use the hymnal for the melody and lyrics.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

✠ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ✠



Please join us for

THANKSGIVING WORSHIP !

Wednesday, November 25, 7pm

We will celebrate the Lord's Supper at this service.

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS SEASON at SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS

TOGETHER: God Is With Us is the theme for our Advent and CHRISTmas season. Immanuel means "God is with us." The prophet Isaiah foretold the Savior's coming when he said: "The Lord Himself will give you a sign. The virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14) After Jesus rose and just before He ascended to heaven, He promised: "I am with you always." (Matthew 28:20)

As we finish the year 2026, we celebrate this eternal truth: we are never alone, because **God Is With Us**!

Sundays in Advent/CHRISTmas
Nov. 29; Dec. 6, 13, 20, 27
8 & 10:45am Traditional | 10:45am Contemporary



CHRISTmas Eve Candlelight
Traditional: 3pm | 7pm, Sanctuary
Contemporary: 5pm, Gym
CHRISTmas Eve Vigil: 10pm (***new time!***), Sanctuary, with Lord's Supper

CHRISTmas Day 10am, Sanctuary, with Lord's Supper

Epiphany January 6, 2027 | 7pm, Sanctuary, with the Lord's Supper

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAMS

Early Learning Center
"A Little Nativity"
Thursday, Dec. 10 | 6pm, Gym
Sweet Treat Reception following the program

Sunday School Students
"TOGETHER at the Manger"
Sunday, Dec. 20 | 10:45am, Gym