THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 8, 2026 | 8:00 AND 10:30 AM
ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH; CONCORDIA, MO

ABOUT TODAY'S WORSHIP

We live today in light of eternity. That is what Matthew 25 is about. Some anticipate the end times with fear and foreboding; others try to guess its timing. Instead, we hear God's Word, receive His gifts, go about the work He has given us to do and live as His forgiven, redeemed, eternal people. *This is the conclusion of a year-long series, "A Year in Matthew."*

P Pastor C **Congregation/All**
✢ All may make the sign of the cross to remember their baptism.

✝

Led by the Holy Spirit, we gather for worship.
We are prepared for worship through Confession and Absolution.

PRELUDE & WELCOME

OPENING HYMN 663 *"Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray"*

CONFESSION OF SINS & FORGIVENESS *1 John 1:8–9*

P In the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**
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.**
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.**
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.**

EASTER GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

INTROIT | Entrance *Psalm 84:1, 9–12; antiphon: v. 3*

P Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,

C **at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.**

P How lovely is your dwelling place,

C **O LORD of hosts!**

P Behold our shield, O God;

C **look on the face of your anointed!**

P For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

C **I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.**

P For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor.

C **No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.**

P O LORD of hosts,

C **blessèd is the one who trusts in you.**

C **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;**
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

P Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,

C **at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.**

HYMN OF PRAISE *"This Is the Feast"*

Revelation 5:12–13; 19:5–9; for text and tune, see page 155.

Refrain: (sing) **This is the feast of victory for our God.**
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

C **Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,**
Whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
And honor, blessing and glory are His. *Refrain*

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. *Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign.
Alleluia. *Refrain*

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.



P 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.



VERSE OF THE MONTH *2 Corinthians 9:10*

C **He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness.**

✝

We hear God's Word read and proclaimed,
and we respond with our prayers and praise, tithes and offerings.

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Amos 5:18–24*

As God's people await His vindication, the prophet announces that God does not approve of the people's religious rituals as long as they are not connected to a right relationship with God. He tells the people to let justice roll and righteousness flow in their relationships and communities.

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,
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."

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 4:13–18*

Saint Paul tells God's people that we do not grieve in the same way as those who do not know about our eternal future in Christ. We grieve, yes, but we grieve with a sense of hope for the future.

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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA AND VERSE *John 6:68; for text and tune, see page 156.*

C (sung) **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 25:1–13*

In the parable (story) of the wise and foolish virgins, Jesus highlights how some wisely live in anticipation and preparation for the Lord's return in glory, while others foolishly disregard His immanent return.

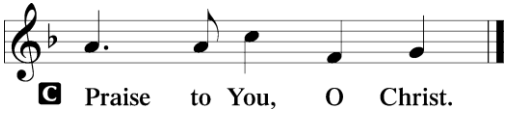
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.



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.' 10And 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. 11Afterward

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.



SERMON HYMN 516 *"Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"*

SERMON *A Matthew 25 People: "Keep Watch"*

CONFESSION OF FAITH

Martin Luther's explanation of the Second Article of the Apostle's Creed

C **I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death, that I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness, just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true.**

GATHERING OUR TITHES & OFFERINGS

All may sign the friendship register found in each pew.

Music during the offering:
VOLUNTARY *"Meditation" by Cécile Chaminade (8:00 am)*
SOLO *"When the Darkness Claims the Moon" (10:30 am)*

KINDERGARTEN BIBLE MILESTONE

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:
P Lord, in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

The 8:00 am service concludes with the Lord's Prayer, Benediction, Easter Greeting, and Closing Hymn 515, "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers."

✝

We receive God's gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation
as we share the Sacrament of the Altar.

The 10:30 am service continues with the Preface on page 160 in the hymnal.

We believe that in the Lord's Supper our Lord gives to us His true body and blood with the bread and the wine for the forgiveness of our sins. We recognize the charge that St. Paul offers in 1 Corinthians 11:27–28 that those who come to receive the Lord's Supper ought to examine themselves so that they do not eat and drink in an unworthy manner. Therefore, out of concern for those who have not been instructed in the faith or who hold to a different confession, we ask that only members of Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod congregations receive the Sacrament. If you would like to learn more about what our congregation teaches, to inquire about becoming a member or have questions about our practice, please speak to one of the pastors. Adults and children who have not yet been baptized or instructed in the Christian faith are invited to come forward and receive a spoken blessing at the altar rail; please indicate this by crossing your arms across your chest.

For those who require it, diluted wine is found in the purple glasses in the center of the tray of individual cups; gluten free wafers are available upon request.

Music during distribution:
HYMN 509 *"Christ Is Surely Coming"*
HYMN 631 *"Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face"*
HYMN 641 *"You Satisfy the Hungry Heart"*

✝

Even as this time of worship ends, we go out of the church into the worship of our everyday lives, ready to be God's witnesses and do His will.

The service concludes with the Post-Communion Canticle ("Thank the Lord"), Post-Communion Collect, and Benediction on pages 164–166.

EASTER GREETING

P Alleluia! Christ is risen!

C **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

CLOSING HYMN 515 *"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"*

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SENDING & POSTLUDE

P Go in peace; serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God!**

This week's takeaway: Jesus' parable gives a harsh dose of reality. He is coming back, and no one knows when that will be. And the moment of His return will mark the end of the opportunity to believe. This is a stark warning for a church that focuses on the abundance of opportunity...the day is coming when it ends. Jesus teaches this out of love because He wants as many as possible to receive His coming with faithful joy! For those of us who believe, we are encouraged to keep watch in joy, for the realization of our hope is at hand!

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Liturgist*
Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Preacher*
Katie Drefs, *Organist*
Dr. Jerrode Marsh, *Pianist (8:00 am)*
Elaina Rankin, *Vocalist (10:30 am)*
Karsyn Steinkuehler, Penelope Virus, *Acolytes (8:00 am)*
Eli Boehmer, Lane Brackman, *Acolytes (10:30 am)*
Gerald & Wendy Dittmer, *Greeters (8:00 am)*
Bruce & Alice Strobel, *Greeters (10:30 am)*
John Beerman, Jeff Bingham, Chris Gerdts, Andy Jones, *Elders on Duty*

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS

Please contact the church office to keep our prayer list up-to-date.
Our pastor "on call" number in case of emergency is (660) 580-5483.

New: Rick Heimsoth, Sandy Hinck, Christopher Hess, Daniel Schwiegert, Chet Fiene, Gloria Driver, Brenda Frerking, Rebecca Camp, Wilmer Ziegelbein, Arleen Fiene, Annette Kirchhoff, Sarah McDaniel, Royce Herndon, Hudson Kloos, Lisa Arnett, Joyce Kroll, Rev. Dr. Les Mitkos

Ongoing: Kevin Crawford, Nicole Maxwell, Ann Wolters, Susan Reeves, Diane Stumpenhaus, Les Bruns, Wilmer Bredehoeft, Melba Poese, Paul Brackman, Baby Felix, Gene Virus, Harry Rehkop, Jon Spells, Roger Kammeyer, Ledrue Brandt, Alyssa Pfannkuch, Alice Hildebrand, Rev. Perry Copus, Darla Wolters, Vickie Greene, Amy Gerdts, Tim Bergman, Amy Backus, David Rehmsmeyer, Lari Huntze, Kelly Meyer, Shirley Kimball

Wedding: Audrey Seider and Caleb Rodewald who were married on November 7

Nation and World: the people of Albania; those affected by earthquakes, wildfires, storms, and flooding

Partners in Mission: Faith Lutheran Church; Richmond, MO; Lutheran Church Charities

Birthdays: (11/8) Roger Bell, Natalie Frerking, Vicki Kirchhoff, Milo Kueck, Sean Oetting, Christopher Visentin; (11/10) Barbara Knapp, Paul Pennington, Matilda Virus, Alan Vogelsmeier; (11/11) Norma Evert, Bradley Jenkins, Phillip Lange, Marvin Moss, Easton Sheets, Kaseyn Stein, Benjamin Stuenkel; (11/12) Amanda Strobel; (11/13) Kathryn Hass, Jody Heimsoth; (11/14) Jeremiah Brown, Calvin Faris, Maya Fiene, William Kirchhoff, Shawn Lockney, Kelsie Rehkop, Jacob Stegmann, Rebekah Stegmann

Anniversaries: (11/8) Elton & Shirley Rolf; (11/13) Eric & Teresa Ritzma

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP

Zephaniah 1:7–16; 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11; Matthew 25:14–30
Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 411 (*My First Hymnal* 56), 730, 743, 842, 809, 788

ST. PAUL'S
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"Making a Christ-centered difference in our community and world today and for eternity."

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