THE TWENTY–FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
NOVEMBER 15, 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 411 *"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"*

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 143:2, 5–6, 10–11; antiphon: v. 1*

P Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

C **In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!**

P Enter not into judgment with your servant,

C **for no one living is righteous before you.**

P I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done;

C **I ponder the work of your hands.**

P I stretch out my hands to you;

C **my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.**

P Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!

C **Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!**

P For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!

C **In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!**

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 Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

C **In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!**

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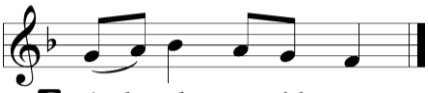
Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
And honor, blessing and glory are His. *Refrain*

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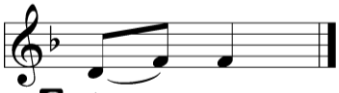
For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign.
Alleluia. *Refrain*

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.



P 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.



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 *Zephaniah 1:7–16*

The prophet Zephaniah depicts the day of our Lord's return as a day of judgment for those who stand in stubborn opposition to His will. Those who "sit complacent in their sins" and think God will "do nothing to them, either good or bad" will experience God's eternal punishment.

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.

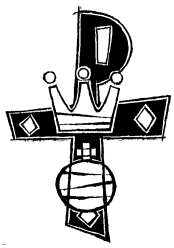
P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 5:1–11*
Saint Paul teaches the Thessalonian Christians to "keep awake and be sober." God's people are to "encourage one other and build one another up" so that we might use the time before our Lord's return living in the light of faith, hope, and love.

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.

P This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**
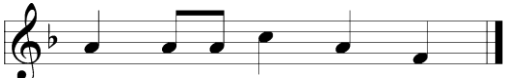
ALLELUIA AND VERSE *John 6:68; for text and tune, see page 156.*
C (sung) **Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.



HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 25:14–30*
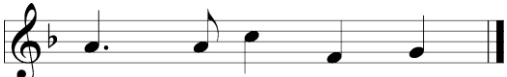
Jesus tells the parable (story) of the talents to illustrate how we are to waste no time, energy, and resource; instead, we are to use wisely the time we have to accomplish God's purposes.

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



[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.



SERMON HYMN 730 *"What Is the World to Me"*

SERMON *A Matthew 25 People: "Faithful Stewards"*

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 (8:00 am):

VOLUNTARY *"Carillon Celebration" by Douglas E. Wagner (Handbells)*

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

After each petition:

P Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

The 10:30 am service concludes with the Lord's Prayer, Benediction, Easter Greeting, and Closing Hymn 788, "Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness."

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

The 8:00 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:
VOLUNTARY *"Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word"*
setting by Lauran Delancy (Handbells)
HYMN 743 *"Jesus, Priceless Treasure"*
HYMN 842 *"Son of God, Eternal Savior"*
HYMN 809 *"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"*

✝

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 788 *"Forgive Us, Lord, for Shallow Thankfulness"*

ANNOUNCEMENTS, SENDING & POSTLUDE
P Go in peace; serve the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God!**

This week's takeaway: Jesus' parable reminds us that a distorted view of God as an angry, demanding Master can leave us paralyzed by fear, unwilling to use the gifts He has entrusted to us. Rather than burying our gifts or sitting on the sidelines, we are called to faithfully serve God and our neighbor, trusting that our Master is gracious—the One who took our punishment upon Himself, promises His presence and Spirit, and welcomes us into His eternal joy.

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Liturgist*
Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Preacher*
Katie Drefs, *Organist*
Ben Nuelle, *Pianist (8:00 am)*
Lane Brackman, Truman Eckhoff, *Acolytes (8:00 am)*
Liam Clayton, Chris Nienhiser, *Acolytes (10:30 am)*
Susan Flandermeyer, *Greeter (8:00 am)*
Mary Schlueter, *Greeter (10:30 am)*
John Beerman, Jeff Bingham, Chris Gerdts, Andy Jones, *Elders on Duty*

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24; 1 Corinthians 15:20–28; Matthew 25:31–46
Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 735 (*My First Hymnal* 96), 851, 508, 512, 642, 680

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