CHRIST THE KING SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 22, 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 735 *"Have No Fear, Little Flock"*

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 39:4–5a, 7–8, 12; antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13 NIV*

P In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,

C **the home of righteousness.**

P O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days;

C **let me know how fleeting I am!**

P Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths,

C **and my lifetime is as nothing before you.**

P And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?

C **My hope is in you.**

P Deliver me from all my transgressions.

C **Do not make me the scorn of the fool!**

P Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears!

C **For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers.**

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 In keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth,

C **the home of 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*
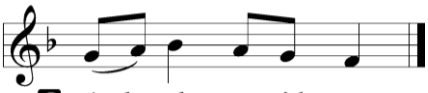
Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
And honor, blessing and glory are His. *Refrain*

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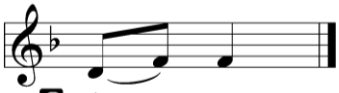
For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign.
Alleluia. *Refrain*

SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.



P 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.



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.

ANTHEM *"Abide with Me" arr Molly Ijames (Joyful Sounds)*

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24*

The Shepherd King goes in search of His sheep to gather them into His flock where there is safety from predators, good nourishment, healing, and rest.

11 "For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold,
I, I myself will search for my sheep and
will seek them out. 12 As 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 res-
cue them from all places where they
have been scattered on a day of clouds
and thick darkness. 13 And 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. 14 I 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.
15 I myself will be the shepherd of my
sheep, and I myself will make them lie
down, declares the Lord GOD. 16 I 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."

℗ This is the Word of the Lord.
℃ **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE *1 Corinthians 15:20–28*
Saint Paul teaches Christ's resurrection assures our own resurrection from death to eternal life. God has given Christ the King authority over all things.

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

℗ This is the Word of the Lord.
℃ **Thanks be to God.**

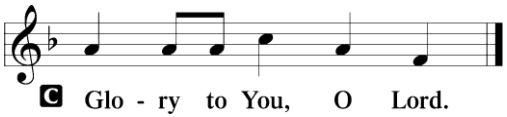
ALLELUIA AND VERSE
John 6:68; for text and tune, see page 156.
℃ (sung) **Alleluia.**
Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia.



HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 25:31–46*
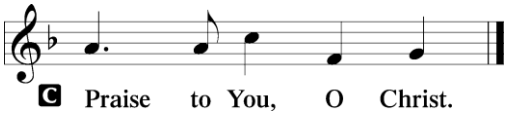
Jesus tells the parable (story) of the sheep and the goats, teaching how Christ the King will render His ultimate judgment on the last day, separating the "goats" from the "sheep." The goats are those who did not live in their Savior's faith and love and so receive God's punishment. The sheep are those who lived under the righteous rule of King Jesus and so receive eternal life.

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



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. 32Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. 33And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. 34Then 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. 35For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, 36I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' 37Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? 38And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? 39And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' 40And 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. 42For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, 43I 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.' 44Then 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?' 45Then 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.' 46And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



SERMON HYMN 851 *"Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"*

SERMON *A Matthew 25 People: "Welcome to the Kingdom"*

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:
SOLO *"Consecration" by John Ness Beck*

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 680, "Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise."

✝

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 508 *"The Day Is Surely Drawing Near"*
HYMN 512 *"At the Name of Jesus" (You may remain seated for v. 7.)*
HYMN 642 *"O Living Bread from Heaven"*

†

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 680 *"Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise"*

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

This week's takeaway: Matthew 25's description of Judgment Day can stir the same fears as its preceding parables: Do I have enough oil? Am I using my talents well? Am I a sheep or a goat? Am I showing enough love to the least of these? Yet throughout, the focus is not on us, but on Jesus. Today, we see Him seated on His throne in all power, glory, and authority. And there we see something wonderful: the almighty King identifies Himself with those He sends to carry His Word, giving us a beautiful glimpse of what it means to be citizens of His Kingdom and servants of His Gospel.

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SERVING IN THIS SERVICE

Rev. Michael Pottschmidt, *Liturgist*
Rev. Andrew Lehenbauer, *Preacher*
Katie Drefs, *Organist*
Myka Sullivan, *Vocalist (8:00 am)*
Evelyn Pottschmidt, *Vocalist (10:30 am)*
Elaina Rankin, *Accompanist*
Ethan Boehmer, Monty Montrey, *Acolytes (8:00 am)*
Emma Cooper, Madelyn Oswald, *Acolytes (10:30 am)*
Eddie & Linda Kammeyer, *Greeters (8:00 am)*
Tim & Karen Bauer, *Greeters (10:30 am)*
John Beerman, Jeff Bingham, Chris Gerdts, Andy Jones, *Elders on Duty*

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK'S WORSHIP

Isaiah 64:1–9; 1 Corinthians 1:3–9; Mark 11:1–10
Hymns (*Lutheran Service Book*): 334, 343, 442 (*My First Hymnal* 62)

St. PAUL'S
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