TWENTY - FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 15, 2026

Please respect the sanctity of worship and turn off all cell phones. Thank you.

For the Gathered

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

Processional – What Is This Place – ELW 524

Greeting – ELW 147

(Pastor) - 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.

(All who are able may stand.)

Gathering Song – O God, Our Help in Ages Past – ELW 632 *(vs. 1, 4, 5, & 6)*

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

A thousand ages in your sight
are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night
before the rising sun.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt.

Confession and Forgiveness – ELW 94

(Pastor)
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Gracious God,
have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
Amen.

Kyrie - ELW 147

(Liturgist) 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.

Canticle of Praise – ELW 149

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

(Assembly may be seated.)

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.
A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

First 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;
he has consecrated his 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 he 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 his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 90: 1-8, 12

1 Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.
2 Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,
from age to age | you are God.

3 You turn us back to the | dust and say,
"Turn back, O child- | ren of earth."
4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past
and like a watch | in the night;

5 you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:
6 in the morning it is | green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.

7 For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.
8 Our iniquities you have | set before you,
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.

12 So teach us to num- | ber our days
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.

Epistle 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, brothers and sisters, 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, brothers and sisters, 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.

Message for the Young at Heart

Passing of the Peace

Special Music – You Are Mine – ELW 581

Gospel Announcement – Matthew 25: 14-30

(All who are able may stand.)

Acclamation – ELW 151

(ALL SING) - Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

[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 the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

(Assembly may be seated.)

Message

(*All who are able may stand.*)

Hymn of the Day – My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less – ELW 596

My hope is built on nothing less
than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
no merit of my own I claim,
but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

Refrain

On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;
all other ground is sinking sand,
all other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils his lovely face,
I rest on his unchanging grace;
in ev'ry high and stormy gale
my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

His oath, his covenant, his blood
sustain me in the raging flood;
when all supports are washed away,
he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

When he shall come with trumpet sound,
oh, may I then in him be found,
clothed in his righteousness alone,
redeemed to stand before the throne! *Refrain*

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.

Apostles' Creed – ELW 105

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 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.

(Assembly may be seated.)

Prayers of Intercession

Response
(Liturgist) – God, in your mercy,
(All) –Hear our prayer.

Offering

Offertory - We Are An Offering – W&P 146

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands,
Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering.
We are an offering.

Prayer

Let us pray.
God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving – ELW 152

(PASTOR) - The Lord be with you.
(ALL) - 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.

Pastor's Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ;
who on this day overcame death and the grave,
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Our Response – ELW 153

(ALL SING) - Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer – ELW 154

(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.

Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Confession Song – Lamb of God – ELW 154

(ALL SING) –
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. Grant us peace.

Distribution

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.
Gracious God, in this meal you have drawn us to your heart, and nourished us at your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth to be your people in the world, and to proclaim your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

Blessing

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

(All who are able may stand.)

Sending Song – Be Thou My Vision – WOV 776

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
thou my best thought both by day and by night,
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word;
I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord.
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower,
raise thou me heav'nward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always:
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Light of my soul, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

(Assembly may be seated.)

Announcements

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.
(ALL) - Thanks be to God.

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Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost – Sunday, November 15

PASTOR	John Russell-Curry
GREETERS	Chris Boyenga
READER/ASSISTING MINISTER	Mary Jo Knudsen
USHERS	Hunter Price
ORGANIST/PIANIST	Martin Hansen

This Week

TODAY	**10 AM** Worship
	After Service Donald Gumm Study Group
FRIDAY	**2 PM** Knitting Group

Readings for Sunday, November 22
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a;
Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46

Attendance for last week 34 and via Zoom 5

Upcoming Events – *Mark your Calendar*

November 22 Worship Service - Thankfest
November 26 Thanksgiving Day - Office Closed
November 27 Office Closed
November 29 Worship Service
November 29 Advent Bible Study

Prayers for healing:

Family of Edith Panes; Family of Todd Harris; Ken & Rosie Sullivan; Jan Collins; David Bettis, Brad Branstad; Gleneda Muralt; Dorothy Woody; Eric Smith; Gleneda Muralt's niece, Shereida; Nan Dailey; Kimberly Castillo's daughter Jillian and mother-in-law Lupe; Pam Andersen; Pastor John Russell-Curry and his family; Warren Westerberg; Sylvia Poupard; Jeane & David Hetland; Annie Sofranek; David Cherf; and people who are ill around the world.

We lift prayers for our Benevolence of the Month**, Senior Brown Bag Program** and for our Sierra Pacific Synod Bishop, **Jeff Johnson;** and for missionaries spreading God's Word.