St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Holstein, IA November 15, 2026 9:00 a.m.

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.

GATHER

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

silence for reflection

Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

Inherit the riches of God's grace.
☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven. Blessed are you.
Amen.

Opening Hymn ***Christ, Be Our Light*** *st. 1, 2, 6* #715

Greeting

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.

Prayer of the Day

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.

WORD

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

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 90:1-12

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 children 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.

9 When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

10 The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.

11 Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?

12 So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

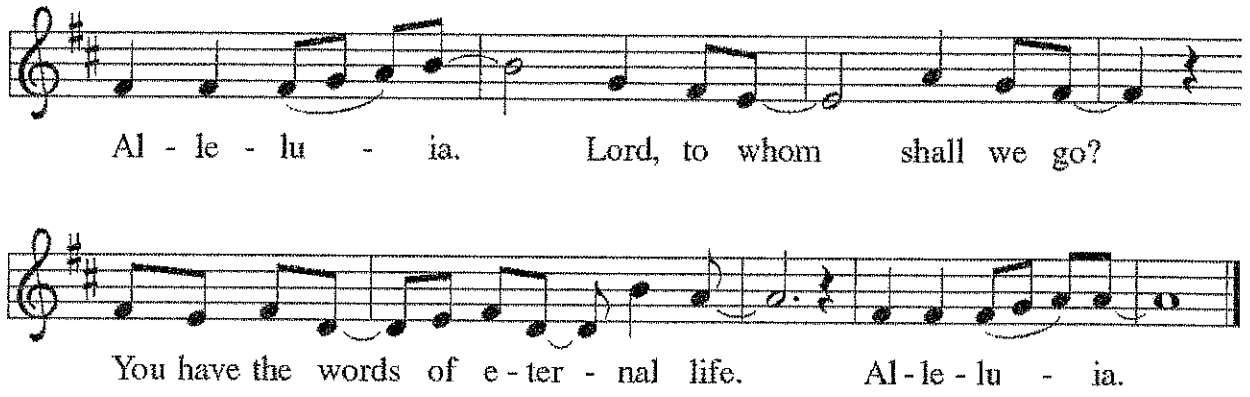
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

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.**

Children's Message

Gospel Acclamation



Matthew 25:14-30

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[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.**

Message Vicar Millie Anderson

Hymn of the Day ***Lord of Light*** #688

Apostles' Creed

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.

Prayers of the People

Sharing the Peace

The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.
And also with you.

MEAL

Children's Offering / Offering

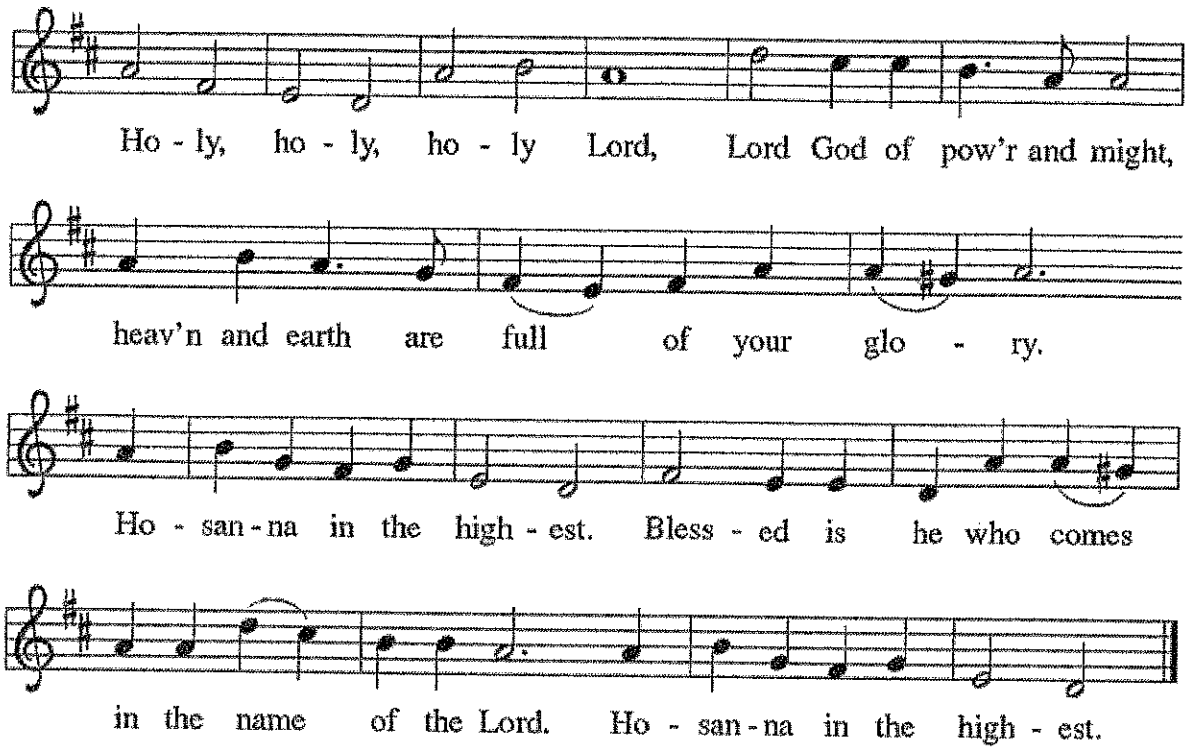
Offering Prayer

Eternal God, our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
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.

Preface *It is indeed... we join in their unending praise:*



Word of Institution

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Invitation to Communion

In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

Distribution

****Distribution of the Sacrament****

All who trust in Christ's word are welcome to the table of this holy supper,
where our Lord is truly present, offering his gifts of forgiveness and eternal life.
Please tell the server if you desire grape juice as an alternative to wine,
or if you require a gluten-free wafer.

Please join in singing –

Come to the Table *#481*

God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending *#678*

Prayer After Communion

Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

The holy Trinity,
Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,
today and always.
Amen.

Closing Song ***Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ*** #674

Dismissal

Go in peace. Encourage one another.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Worship Participants

Ministers:	All the members
Vicar:	Emily Anderson
DYME:	Jim & Kris Kistenmacher
Organist:	Sharen Borchers
Pianist:	Kris Kistenmacher
Lector:	Mary Ruffridge
Deacons:	Justin Georg and Mitch Trost
Greeters:	Leo & Terri Schimmer
Acolytes:	Emmett Modrell and Kaleb VanHouten
Sound & Video:	Kelby & Joy Wulf
Coffee Hosts:	Lori & Lane Volkert
	Jan Grell

St. Paul Church Calendar

SUNDAY, November 15 ~ 25th Sunday After Pentecost

9:00 AM	Worship with Holy Communion
10:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Coffee & Fellowship

TUESDAY, November 17

9:00 AM	Sewing Day
7:00 PM	Trustees Meeting

WEDNESDAY, November 18

5:00 PM	LOGOS ~ *"Give Thanks"*

THURSDAY, November 19

7:00 PM	Congregation Council Meeting

SUNDAY, November 22 ~ Christ the King Sunday

9:00 AM	Worship
10:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Coffee & Fellowship

JOIN US AT ST. PAUL FOR

Thanksgiving

ALL ARE WELCOME!

JOIN US ON THANKSGIVING FOR FOOD & FELLOWSHIP!
RSVP TO THE CHURCH OFFICE BY PHONE OR EMAIL
*RSVP NOT REQUIRED, BUT APPRECIATED

NOVEMBER 26 • 12:30 PM

HOLSTEIN ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH
310 EAST 2ND STREET ~ HOLSTEIN

