

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

Holstein, IA

November 19, 2023

9:00 A.M.

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Our readings during November speak of the end times. 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 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 and Announcements

Call to Worship

In the name of God, the Creator, Christ, the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, we come to worship.

We are blessed by your presence among us, God, and we look to you for help and comfort.

We gather as the believing community called the Church, the body of Christ.

We come in response to your call. Gift us with wisdom and love in this hour.

Confession and Forgiveness

We desire the presence of heaven.

But our spirits are not ready for it.

We want to find comfort and healing.

But we are afraid of the pain we must go through.

We want the riches of the earth to be our own.

But we don't know how to handle the little that we have.

We want to be satisfied in every way.

But we are not willing to be happy with the gifts that God gives.

We want others to show us mercy.

But we find it so hard to be merciful.

We want to see God.

But our eyes are clouded with other visions.

We want to be part of God's loving family.

But we find it hard to be peacemaker in a world filled with hate.

We want to live forever.

But we crumble when our faith is tested.

God, you know our hearts. Forgive our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Just at the right time - when we were helpless in our sin - Christ died for us. God shows this love for us: while we were still sinners - Christ died for us. We are made right by Christ's death on the cross - our sin is forgiven and we have peace with God through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Sharing the Peace of Christ

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

And also with you.

Opening Song

ALL ARE WELCOME

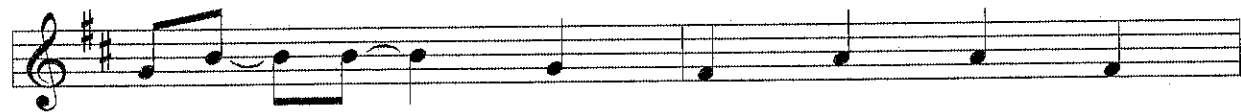
Hans Peterson
Larry Olson



All are wel - come, friend and stran - ger at the ban - quet of the Sav - ior.



All are wel - come. All are wel - come here.



From the wo - man who comes cry - ing,
From the ones who feel for and got - ten,
Go in - to the streets and cit - ies,



leav - ing tears at Je - sus' feet, to the man who
those who sense their place is gone, to the ones who
to the farms and fam - i - lies, tell a - bout the



knows the right way but can - not see.
live in hun - ger, here you be - long.
splen - did ta - ble, God's mer - cy.

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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.

Opening 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.

WORD

Psalm 90:1-12 (read responsively)

- 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

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When 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! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But 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. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore 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 Alleluia

Celtic Alleluia

#174

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; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then 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.' ²¹His 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.' ²²And 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.' ²³His 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.'

²⁴Then 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 seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But 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? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For 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. ³⁰As 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 Bishop Lorna Halaas

Hymn of the Day *God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending* #678

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 Intercession

Children's Offering/Offering

MEAL

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.

Words of Institution

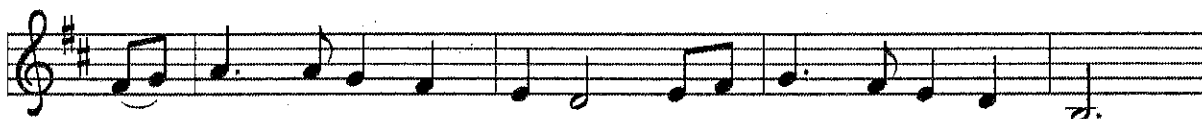
Lord's Prayer

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

There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

Distribution



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



Be known to us, Lord Je - sus, in the break - ing of the bread.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

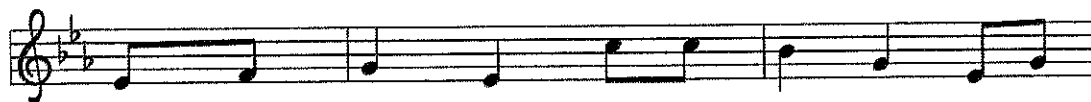
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Live Christ

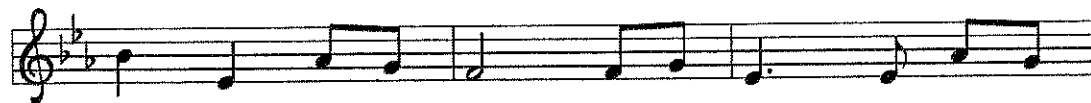
Live Christ, love Christ, share Christ, be Christ.
All these things do today. All these things along your way.

Peace Hope Love

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken



1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



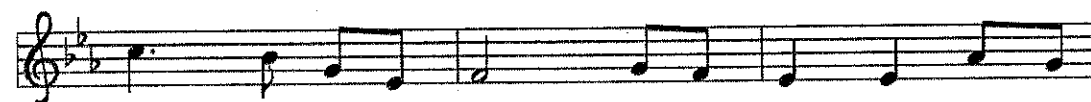
Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions



heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923-2007

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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Table Blessing

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always.

Amen.

Closing Song

Send Us Out

We have been called by the Lord. We have been saved by the Word.

Now let the Word be restored. Now let the Gospel be heard.

Send us out to teach what God has done. Send us out to reach ev'ry single one.

Send us out. Send us out.

We who were bound by our shame, ruled by our fears within,

Stand and declare by the name, freedom from all of our sin.

Send us out to teach what God has done. Send us out to reach ev'ry single one.

Send us out. Send us out.

Teach what God has done. Reach ev'ry single one.

Teach what God has done. Reach ev'ry single one.

Send us out to teach what God has done. Send us out to reach ev'ry single one.

Send us out. Send us out.

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Dismissal

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Worship Participants

Ministers:	All the members
Guest Pastor:	Bishop Lorna Halaas
DYME:	Jim & Kris Kistenmacher
Organist:	Sharen Borchers
Pianist:	Kris Kistenmacher
Lector:	Sandy Jensen
Deacons:	Craig Fox and Braden Else
Greeters:	Jim and Karen Breyfogle
Acolytes:	Laney Georg and Wyatt Modrell
Sound and Video:	Doug Wessling and Kathy Vollmar
Coffee Hosts:	Jim and Karen Breyfogle Thad and Deb Bagenstos

St. Paul Church Calendar

SUNDAY, November 19 - The Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost

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

TUESDAY, November 21

9:00 AM	Sewing Day
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THURSDAY, November 23

Happy Thanksgiving! Office closed

FRIDAY, November 24

Office closed

SUNDAY, November 26 - Christ the King Sunday

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

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