

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 15 & 18, 2026

As We Gather

What do we do while we wait for Jesus to return? Today He pictures servants entrusted with their master's possessions. His gifts are generous, and our responsibility is real. His warning exposes the excuses we use to avoid loving the people beside us. Our hope rests in the Savior who died and rose for us, forgives our sins, and strengthens us through His Word and Sacraments. Receiving His mercy, we are free to serve with trust and joy until He comes.

✠ WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP ✠

Hymn Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now (LSB 902)
sts. 1, 3–4

Invocation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Psalm 143:1

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

Silent reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we have not lived as children of the light. We have fallen into complacency, forgetting who You are and who we are. We have grown comfortable in habits that do not honor You. We have buried what You have given us rather than loving our neighbor with**

those gifts. We have become complacent in our thoughts, our words, and our actions. 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. God has not destined you for wrath but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

WORD

Introit

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!**

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!**

Kyrie *LSB 204*

C **Lord, have mercy;**
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

Gloria in Excelsis *LSB 204*

C **1 To God on high be glory**
And peace to all the earth;
Goodwill from God in heaven
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father;
Your holy name, we sing—
Our thanks for Your great glory,
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

2 To You, O sole-begotten,
The Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior,
You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus;
Receive our heartfelt cry,
Where You in pow'r are seated
At God's right hand on high—

3 For You alone are holy;
You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever,
Be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit
Alone are Lord Most High,
In God the Father's glory.
"Amen!" our glad reply.
Text: Stephen P. Starke

Salutation

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.
Almighty and ever-living God, You have destined us to obtain salvation through Your Son, delivering us from the darkness of sin and claiming us as children of light. Ready our hearts for Your return, that we may be defended from complacency; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Old Testament Reading *Zephaniah 1:7–16*

Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is near;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice
and consecrated his guests.
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.
On that day I will punish
everyone who leaps over the threshold,
and those who fill their master's house
with violence and fraud.
"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.
Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!
For all the traders are no more;
all who weigh out silver are cut off.
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.'
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."
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.
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,
    a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
    and against the lofty battlements.

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

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 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. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. 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. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

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

Alleluia *LSB 205*

C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Verse *Matthew 25:29a*

C **These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

Alleluia *LSB 205*

C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Holy Gospel *Matthew 25:14–30*

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

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] "For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. 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.' 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.' 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.' 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.' 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, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

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? 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. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 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. 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.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn Salvation unto Us Has Come (LSB 555) *sts. 1, 9*

Series: Faithful to the Last

Sermon: Faithful at His Coming *Matthew 25:14–30*

Nicene Creed *Nicene Creed*

C **I believe in one God,**
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life T of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church (Hear our prayer)

P ... Lord in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

Offering

Take My Life and Let It Be (LSB 783) *sts. 1, 3–4, 6*

1 Take my life and let it be
Consecrated, Lord, to Thee;
Take my moments and my days,
Let them flow in ceaseless praise.

3 Take my voice and let me sing
Always, only for my King;
Take my lips and let them be
Filled with messages from Thee.

4 Take my silver and my gold,
Not a mite would I withhold;
Take my intellect and use
Ev'ry pow'r as Thou shalt choose.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
At Thy feet its treasure store;
Take myself, and I will be
Ever, only, all for Thee.



✠ THE LORD'S SUPPER ✠

We follow the liturgy on Pages 208-212 in the hymnal.

Preface *LSB 208*

Proper Preface

Sanctus *LSB 208*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

The Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini

Agnus Dei *LSB 210*

Distribution Hymns

May We Thy Precepts, Lord, Fulfill (LSB 698)
Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us (LSB 851)
My Faith Looks Up to Thee (LSB 702)
Chief of Sinners Though I Be (LSB 611)

Sit

Lord's Supper Dismissal

P Now may this eating and drinking, of our Savior's precious body and blood, Strengthen you, preserve you, and keep you in the one true Christian faith that leads you to eternal life. Know in peace, and joy, that your sins are T forgiven you.

C **Amen.**

Stand

Nunc Dimittis *LSB 211*

Post-Communion Thanksgiving

Benediction

Closing Hymn

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing (LSB 924)

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