

LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

November 22, 2026

As We Gather

Seasons change, blessings come and go, and even the strongest among us face days when we need someone to help. At the close of the Church Year, we hear the promise of our Faithful Shepherd. Jesus seeks the lost, forgives sinners, and has passed through death to open the way to resurrection life. The One who cares for us today will gather His people when He comes in glory. Resting in His mercy, we give thanks for His gifts and care for the neighbors He places beside us.

✠ WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP ✠

Hymn Praise to the Lord, the Almighty (LSB 790)
sts. 1, 3, 5

Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution *Ezekiel 34:11–12, adapt.*

P The Lord Himself will search for His sheep and will seek them out.
C **He will rescue them from all the places where they have been scattered.**

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

P Let us then confess our sins to God, who seeks us out.
C **Most merciful God, we cry out to You from the places that our sin has scattered us. We have sinned against You in ways that we know and in ways that only You know. There are strangers we have not welcomed, the hungry we have not fed, the naked we have not clothed, the sick and imprisoned we have not visited. Deliver us from all our transgressions.**

Forgive us, bind up our injuries, and strengthen our weaknesses, 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 T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

WORD

Introit

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.**

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.**

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.
Eternal God, merciful Father, by His death and resurrection, Jesus Christ has won for us the final and eternal victory and now sits on the throne to judge the living and the dead. Enable us always to take comfort in Christ's victory over Satan and all evil; through the same 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 *Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24*

"For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I myself will search for my sheep and will seek them out. 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 rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 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. 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. I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. 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. . . .

"Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, I will rescue my flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. And I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed them: he shall feed them and be their shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and my servant David shall be prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken."

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

Epistle *1 Corinthians 15:20–28*

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he

must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For "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. When 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.

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

Alleluia *LSB 205*

C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Verse *Revelation 22:13*

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 25:31–46*

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

[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. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And he will place the sheep on his right, but the goats on the left. Then 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. For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you,

or thirsty and give you drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?' And 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.'

"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. For I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I 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.' Then 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?' Then 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.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn

The King of Love My Shepherd Is (LSB 709) *sts. 1, 3–4*

Series: Faithful to the Last

Sermon: Faithful in Every Season *Matthew 25:31-46*

Apostles' Creed (found on back cover of hymnal)

C **I believe in God, the Father Almighty,**
maker of heaven…

Prayer of the Church (Hear our prayer)

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

Offering

Gracious God, You Send Great Blessings (LSB 782)

sts. 1, ref, 3–4

1 Gracious God, You send great blessings
New each morning all our days.
For Your mercies never ending,
For Your love we offer praise. Refrain

ref Lord, we pray that we, Your people
Who Your gifts unnumbered claim,
Through the sharing of Your blessings
May bring glory to Your name.

3 In His earthly life, our Savior
Knew the care of faithful friends;
May our deeds of dedication
Offer love that never ends. Refrain

D 4 Heav'nly Father, may our caring
Bear the imprint of Your grace;
With the Son and Holy Spirit,
Praise be Yours in ev'ry place! Refrain

✠ 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

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want (LSB 710)
Children of the Heavenly Father (LSB 725)
Be Still, My Soul (LSB 752)
O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee (LSB 632)

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

Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise (LSB 917)
sts. 1, 4

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