

The Divine Service

Twenty-Fourth Sunday of Pentecost
November 12, 2023

AS WE GATHER

It's not a big surprise that no one has accurately predicted the end of the world—not that it hasn't been attempted. From religious sects to cult leaders to apocalyptic predictions made when we entered a new millennium, a fascination grows around those who claim they have it all figured out. We are wise though to take the Lord at His word concerning the Last Day. From Amos in the Old Testament proclaiming the day of the Lord, to Paul writing the Thessalonians about Christ's return, to Jesus' parable of the ten virgins, the Lord does not give us a date or a time of the end of this world as we know it. What He continues to give us, though, are promises of His faithfulness, His continued care and providence, and His assurance that when that day comes, it will usher in a glorious blessedness in His perfect presence that will last forever.

Prelude

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the (✙) Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

People: **Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Pastor: Most merciful God,

People: **have mercy on us. We confess to you that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not trusted you with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and our truth. Amen.**

Pastor: With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in (✙) Jesus Christ.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Processional Hymn "Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise" LSB 802, verses 1&4



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,



In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
All laud we would ren - der: O help us to see



Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.
'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light that hides Thee.

Greeting

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Kyrie

Cantor: *In peace, in peace...*

Refrain

Assistant: Congregation:

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord, have mer-cy,
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

to Verses

Cantor: *For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the ... Refrain*

Cantor: *For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word, let us pray to the ... Refrain*

Assistant:

Help, save and de - fend us, O

Congregation:

God. A - men.

Hymn of Praise: "Now the Feast"

Refrain

Congregation:

Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion,
all of cre - a - tion sings for joy
to the God of life and love and
free-dom: praise and glo - ry for ev -
er - more!

Verse 1

Congregation or Congregation 1:

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once
slain, whose blood has freed and u -
nit - ed us to be one great peo - ple of
God.

to Refrain

Verse 2
Congregation or Congregation 2:

2. Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and
might, all hon - or and glo - ry to Christ
for ev - er. *to Refrain*

Verse 3
Congregation:

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to
make us peo - ple of God; to make
all things new. *to Refrain*

Salutation

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His Bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

The Old Testament

Amos 5:18–24

¹⁸Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why would you have the day of the Lord? It is darkness, and not light,¹⁹ as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him.²⁰ Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? ²¹"I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.²² Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them.²³ Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen.²⁴ But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Thessalonians 4:13–18

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Alleluia and Verse

The musical score is written on three staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 6/8 time signature. The first staff is labeled "Congregation:" and contains the lyrics "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we". The second staff continues with "go? You have the words of e - ter - nal". The third staff concludes with "life. Al - le - lu - ia!" and is marked "Optional Repeat" at the end.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:1–13

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the twenty-fifth chapter.

People: **Glory be to thee, O Lord.**

¹[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹²But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' ¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise be to thee, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day **“When Peace, like a River”** *LSB 763, verses 1&4*



1 When peace, like a riv - er, at - tend - eth my way; When
4 And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight, The



sor - rows, like sea bil - lows, roll; What - ev - er my lot, Thou hast
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, The trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, It is well, it is well with my soul.
Lord shall de-scend; E - ven so it is well with my soul.

Sermon

Frank Ahrens

Apostles' Creed

People: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

Prayer of the Church

*Petitions end, “Lord, in your mercy...” Congregation responds, “**Hear our prayer.**”*

Offering

In Remembrance

Choir, 8:30 a.m.

Offertory Prayer

Pastor: God of mercy and grace, the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Receive now these gifts you have first given us and fill us with good things at your table, that we might joyfully and generously share all you have given us, through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord. Amen.

A word about Holy Communion: *We are about to receive the Lord's Supper. Before you receive, you might consider the following questions: Do you believe you are a sinner? Do you believe Jesus Christ died for you and shed his blood for you on the cross for the forgiveness of your sins? Do you believe that in the Lord's Supper he gives you his true body and blood for the forgiveness of all your sins and strengthens your faith in him and your love for others? If you are a baptized Christian and share these Biblical truths, please come! Those who have not yet received instruction may come forward for a blessing, crossing their arms over their chest to indicate they are not receiving the elements.*

Service of the Sacrament

Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.



Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Proper Preface

The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold to pray:

People: 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

The Peace of the Lord

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you.**

(The congregation and minister may greet each other with the peace of the Lord).


Agnus Dei

(Congregation may be seated following the Agnus Dei)



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
you are the way of mer - cy and
world: have mer - cy on us, mer - cy on us,
love.
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sins of the world: grant us peace,
grant us peace, grant us peace.

Hymns during Distribution "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart" LSB 708



1 Lord, Thee I love with all my heart; I pray Thee, ne'er from
2 Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich boun - ty gave My bod - y, soul, and
3 Lord, let at last Thine an - gels come, To A - br'ham's bos - om



me de - part, With ten - der mer - cy cheer me. Earth
all I have In this poor life of la - bor. Lord,
bear me home, That I may die un - fear - ing; And



has no plea - sure I would share. Yea, heav'n it - self were
grant that I in ev - 'ry place May glo - ri - fy Thy
in its nar - row cham - ber keep My bod - y safe in



void and bare If Thou, Lord, wert not near me. And should my
lav - ish grace And help and serve my neigh - bor. Let no false
peace - ful sleep Un - til Thy re - ap - pear - ing. And then from



heart for sor - row break, My trust in Thee can noth - ing shake.
doc - trine me be - guile; Let Sa - tan not my soul de - file.
death a - wak - en me, That these mine eyes with joy may see,



Thou art the por - tion I have sought; Thy pre - cious
Give strength and pa - tience un - to me To bear my
O Son of God, Thy glo - rious face, My Sav - ior



blood my soul has bought. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and
cross and fol - low Thee. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and
and my fount of grace. Lord Je - sus Christ, my prayer at -



Lord, my God and Lord, For - sake me not! I trust Thy Word.
Lord, my God and Lord, In death Thy com - fort still af - ford.
tend, my prayer at - tend, And I will praise Thee with - out end.

"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"

LSB 621



1 Let all mor - tal flesh keep si - lence And with fear and
2 King of kings yet born of Mar - y, As of old on
3 Rank on rank the host of heav - en Spreads its van - guard
4 At His feet the six - winged ser - aph, Cher - u - bim with



trem - bling stand; Pon - der noth - ing earth - ly - mind - ed,
earth He stood, Lord of lords in hu - man ves - ture,
on the way As the Light of Light, de - scend - ing
sleep - less eye, Veil their fac - es to the pres - ence



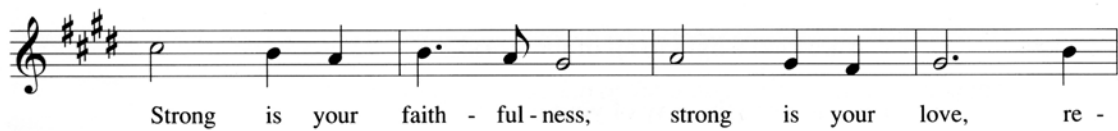
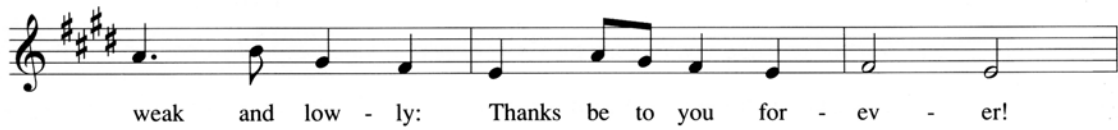
For with bless - ing in His hand Christ our God to earth de -
In the bod - y and the blood, He will give to all the
From the realms of end - less day, Comes the pow'rs of hell to
As with cease - less voice they cry: "Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



scend - ing Comes our hom - age to de - mand.
faith - ful His own self for heav'n - ly food.
van - quish As the dark - ness clears a - way.
lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia, Lord Most High!"

Closing of the Table

Post-Communion Canticle:



Post-Communion Prayer

Pastor: Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements

Benediction

Recessional Hymn "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer" LSB 918 verses 1,2,3



1 Guide me, O Thou great Re - deem - er, Pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain Whence the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, Bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but Thou art might - y;
stream doth flow; Let the fi - ery, cloud - y pil - lar
fears sub - side; Death of death and hell's de - struc - tion,



Hold me with Thy pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en,
Lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer,
Land me safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs of prais - es,



bread of heav - en, Feed me till I want no
strong de - liv - 'rer, Be Thou still my strength and
songs of prais - es I will ev - er give to



more; Feed me till I want no more.
shield; Be Thou still my strength and shield.
Thee; I will ev - er give to Thee.

Dismissal

Pastor: Lord Jesus you lead us! Now we go as....

People: Disciples making disciples.

Pastor: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Mark your calendars!

November 18th, Trivia Night Join and support the Senior Youth as they raise money to serve others. Play in person and online. Gather a team to play!

November 22nd, Thanksgiving Eve Worship Gather together to give thanks at 7:30pm

Midweek Advent Evening Worship Services Wednesdays, December 6, 13 & 20th at 7:30 PM

December 1st Middle School Youth Group Christmas Party 7:00 PM-
All Middle School students are invited!

December 2nd Drive Thru Live Nativity 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM Mark your calendars for this special presentation of the Christmas story. Live animals, music and more. Invite your friends and neighbors!

December 6th Holiday Bazaar 8:30 AM – 11:30 AM

December 10th A Quiet Christmas Service 7:00 PM-All are invited for an evening of inspirational readings and music in preparation of the Birth of Christ. A holiday reception will follow service.

December 17th Kids Choir Christmas Musical At both services. The children will lead us in worship.

December 20th Senior Youth Group Christmas Party 7:30 PM-All High School Students & friends 9th through 12th grade are invited.

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Go to www.stpaulweston.org for all the latest information.



STEPHEN MINISTRY

Stephen Ministers provide high-quality, one-to-one, Christ-centered care to people in the congregation and the community experiencing life difficulties.

Call the church office at 954-384-9096 if you or someone you know would like to speak with a Stephen Minister.

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH & PRESCHOOL

Rev. Scott Henze, Pastor

Mr. Jeremy Becker, DCE, Director of Youth and Family Ministry

Mrs. Kathy Henze, Preschool Director

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Church Office (954) 384-9096 † office@stpaulweston.org

www.stpaulweston.org

Sunday Worship Services: 8:30 AM and 11:00 AM

Sunday School for children and youth : 9:45 AM

Adult Bible Study: 10:00 AM



Website and online giving

St. Paul
LUTHERAN CHURCH
& PRE-SCHOOL