st. John's

Serving Christ & Community! Serving you!



Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

November 7/8, 2026

As We Gather

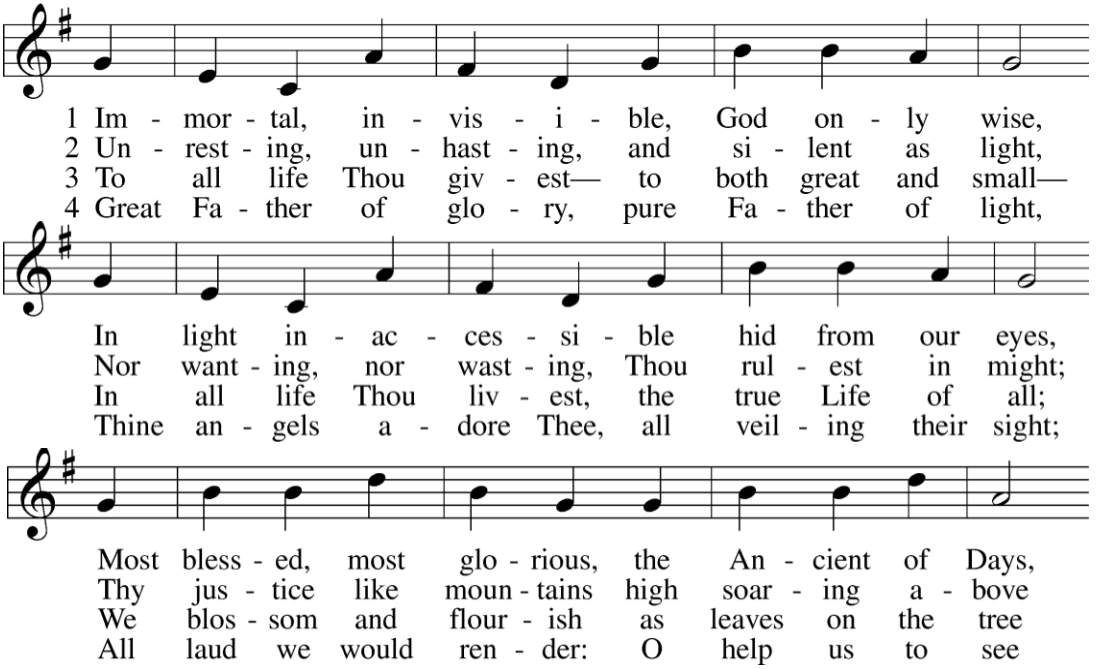
It is easy to assume that tomorrow will be little or no different from today. However, the day is coming when life as we know it will end. The final Sundays of the Church Year remind us that our comfortable routines will be interrupted by the God who cares enough to interrupt them. His justice will grab our attention like a lion (Amos 5:19). He will silence all false and empty worship with justice that rolls in like roaring waters (Amos 5:24). Jesus also calls for our attention as we wait for that day: "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour" (Matthew 25:13). As we wait for that day, Paul reminds us that our waiting is filled with hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13–14). Jesus died and rose again, and that forever changes our waiting.

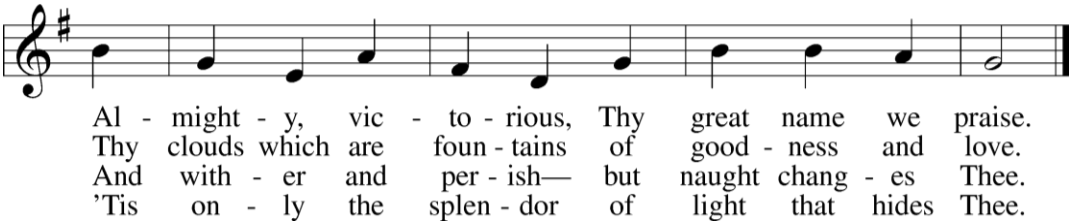
5:30- Bell Choir **"Humbly, I Adore You"** **arr. Shawn Gingrich**

Chimes and Prelude

Please Stand

Opening Hymn **"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"** **LSB 802 (sts 1-4)**





Text: W. Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt. Tune: Welsh Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation and Call to Worship

P In the Name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen**

Confession and Absolution

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me!
C **O LORD, make haste to help me!**

P Let us then confess our sins to God, who is our help and our deliverer.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We confess the ways that our worship has fallen into empty words, disconnected from the life to which You have called us. We confess that we have been inattentive in our waiting for Christ's return. Forgive us, renew us, and call us back to You, that we may wait with hope and joy, 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. He does not delay! His righteousness flows like an ever-flowing stream. 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 ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Please be Seated

Old Testament Reading ***Amos 5:18-24***

18 Woe 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.

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

Epistle ***1 Thessalonians 4:13-18***

13 But 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.

℗ This is the Word of the Lord.
℃ **Thanks be to God**

5:30- Bell Choir "Our Hymn of Grateful Praise" arr. Michael Helman

Please Stand

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

Holy Gospel ***Matthew 25:1-13***

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

℗ This is the Gospel of the Lord
℃ **Praise to You, O Christ**

The Apostles Creed

C **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.

Please Be Seated

Sermon Hymn **"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"**

Verse 1
Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
And let your lights appear!
The evening is advancing,
And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising,
And soon He draweth nigh;
Up, pray and watch and wrestle!
At midnight comes the cry.

Verse 2
The watchers on the mountain
Proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go meet Him as He cometh,
With hallelujahs clear.
The marriage-feast is waiting,
The gates wide open stand;
Up, up, ye heirs of glory;
The Bridegroom is at hand!

Verse 3
Ye saints, who here in patience
Your cross and sufferings bore,
Shall live and reign forever,
When sorrow is no more.

Around the throne of glory
The Lamb ye shall behold;
In triumph cast before Him
Your diadems of gold!

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon **"A Shocking Reality!"** **(Matthew 25:1-13)**

I. Horror! The end to life as you know it!
II. Being faithful means listening to Jesus even when He says some of the most horrifying things.
III. Counter point and the violence of grace.
IV. The world's god verses the GOD.
V. The God who judges must truly is the God who loves most fully.

Responsive Hymn **"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"**

Verse 4
Our Hope and Expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, Desire of nations,
O'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption,
That brings us unto Thee!

Offering (Please place in the Box located in the Narthex)

Kid's Church

Prayer of the Church

℗ As the Bride of Christ, waiting for our Bridegroom to return, let us pray for the whole church of God and for all people according to their needs.

Lord of Light, in Your Son You brought light into this world that no darkness could overcome and no one could extinguish. Bless all pastors and church workers in their work of tending to the church's lamp through the ministry of Word and Sacrament, that they be faithful in calling us to attention and pointing us to the One for whom we wait with hope. You are our help and our deliverer.

℃ **O Lord, do not delay.**

℗ Loving Father, in Holy Baptism You have given us the gift of faith, making us wise to the salvation You have brought in Jesus. Keep us from falling into foolish ways and embolden us to share the blessing of all that Jesus has done with those who have no hope. You are our help and our deliverer.

℃ **O Lord, do not delay.**

℗ Vigilant Lord, we know neither the day nor the hour that Jesus will return, but You do. Keep us mindful of the ways we have fallen asleep in our waiting, that we remain alert to the ways You are active and ruling in our world, especially through the ones You have given authority to watch and protect us: our president and Congress; all law enforcement, fire protection, and medical personnel; and all who serve in the military. Guide their work of shielding Your people with mercy and justice. You are our help and our deliverer.

℃ **O Lord, do not delay.**

℗ Merciful Lord, even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest at Your altars. Look upon the faces of Your anointed and all those whose needs we bring to Your altar: all who are suffering and hurting and all who are waiting and longing, **[*especially* . . .].** Be their sun and shield, withholding no good thing from those who walk uprightly. You are our help and our deliverer.

℃ **O Lord, do not delay.**

℗ Lord of Life, since Jesus died and rose again, You have transformed the ways that we grieve, filling those moments with hope. Be with all who are in mourning, that they be comforted with the sure and certain hope of the resurrection and of the reunion with those who have died in the faith. You are our help and our deliverer.

℃ **O Lord, do not delay.**

℗ Though we know neither the day nor the hour, we wait in hope, O Lord, trusting that You hear our prayers and will preserve Your people. This we pray through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

℃ **Amen.**

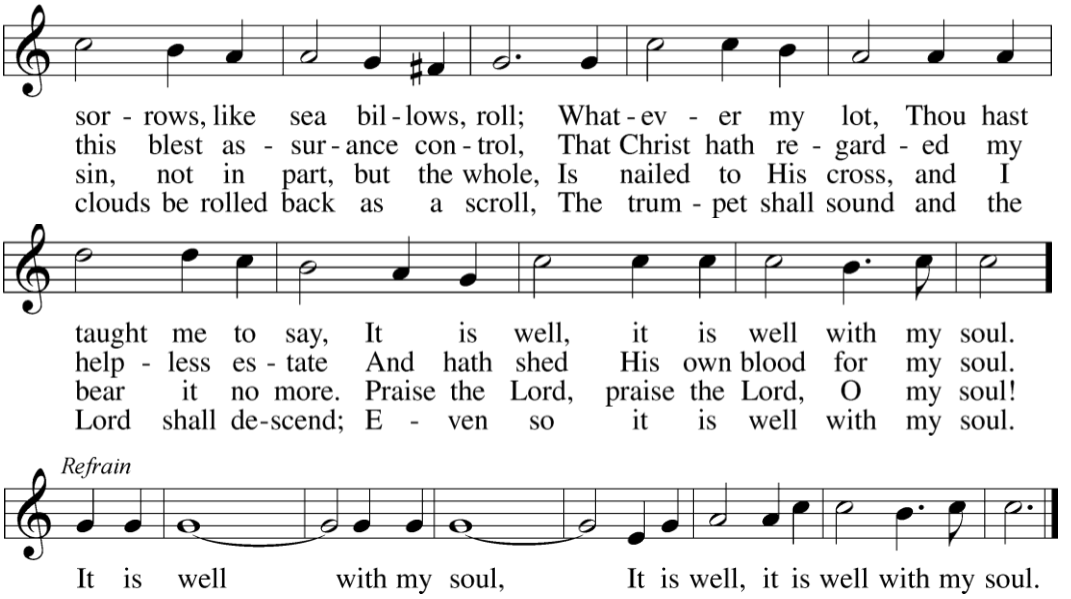
Lord's Prayer ***LSB 179***

℗ Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

℃ **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.

Closing Hymn **"When Peace, Like a River"** **LSB 763 (sts1-4)**





Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–88, alt. Tune: Philip P. Bliss, 1838–76 Text and tune: Public domain

Benediction

℗ The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

℃ **Amen**

Silent Prayer: Lord, the shocking reality of Your judgement drives me toward fear and wisdom. How comforting to know that the One who will judge me most truly is the very One who loves me most fully! Amen.

Announcements

Postlude

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SERVING THE LORD THIS WEEK –November 7/8

	Saturday – 5:30 pm	Sunday – 8:00 am	Sunday – 10:30 am
ELDERS	Tom Bannon	Jon Werkheiser	Brett Richardson
GREETERS	Jim/ Lee Cox	Kory/ Lindsey Gerbick	Dean/ Arlene Holmes
USHERS	Neal Wagner	Rich Jogerst	Kevin Keltner
ACOLYTES	Usher	Ella Korte	Kenzie Hahne
AUDIO/VIDEO	Dave/ Judy Zier	Kory Gerbick/ Denny Potter	Anita Mau/ Michelle Rothschadl
ALTAR GUILD	Marquita Bannon/ Kathy Heinkel	Marquita Bannon/ Kathy Heinkel	Marquita Bannon/ Kathy Heinkel

SERVING THE LORD NEXT WEEK –November 14/15

	Saturday – 5:30 pm	Sunday – 8:00 am	Sunday – 10:30 am
ELDERS	Donny Fox/ Don Bamberg	Dave Thompson/ Jeff Jones/ Kory Gerbick	Rob Cobine/ Brett Richardson/ Steve Lotz
GREETERS	Bill/ Jean Engel	Barb Harbach/ Glenda Potter	Kevin/Sandy Keltner
USHERS	Gary Erickson	Heath Harbach	Korbin Winter
ACOLYTES	Usher	Charlie Kent/ Liesl Jones	Max Winter/ Carter Falk
AUDIO/VIDEO	Dave/ Judy Zier	Lee Ann Brinkmeier/ Jaren Jones	Sam Cobine/ Hudson Winter
ALTAR GUILD	Marquita Bannon/ Kathy Heinkel	Marquita Bannon/ Kathy Heinkel	Marquita Bannon/ Kathy Heinkel