November 15, 2026
25th Sunday after Pentecost



Together we are:

~Called to Worship~
~Committed to Serve~
~Connected in Faith~

Worship with us Sunday mornings at 8:00 & 9:30

St. John Lutheran Church
148 S Chestnut St
Belle Plaine MN 56011

Church office: 952-873-6492
Office hours: 9:00am - 3:00pm M-F
Email: office@stjohnbelleplaine.org

Everyone is welcome to Worship

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. 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 a 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.

Welcome and Announcements
Opening Hymn "Come, Ye Thankful People Come" ELW 693

Confession and Forgiveness
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
our dwelling place for all generations,
whose compassion never slumbers.
Amen.
Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
and of one another.

Holy God,
we confess that we have trusted in our preparation
instead of your invitation.
We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved.
We trust the voice of our shame and fear,
which keeps us from entering fully
into relationship with you and others.
We are not awake to the coming of your reign.
Rouse us and rescue us,
that we may enter into your joy.
Amen.
Inherit the riches of God's grace.
✠ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy.
You are forgiven. Blessed are you.
Amen.

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.

Kyrie (setting 5, WOV #28)
Kyrie eleison, Lord have mercy
Christe eleison, Christ have mercy
Kyrie eleison, Lord have mercy

Prayer of the day
Let us pray.
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.

Psalm: Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12
So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)
[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.

Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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

Gospel Acclamation (setting 5 WOV #31):

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
Alleluia. You have the words of eternal life.
Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[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; [15] to one he gave five talents, to
another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At
once [16] the one who had received the five talents went off and traded with them and
made five more talents. [17] In the same way, the one who had the two talents made
two more talents. [18] But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a
hole in the ground and hid his master's money. [19] After a long time the master of
those slaves came and settled accounts with them. [20] Then 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.' [21] His
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.’ [22] And 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.’ [23] His 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.’ [24] Then 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, [25] so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ [26] But 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? [27] Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. [28] So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. [29] For 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. [30] As 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.**

Sermon

Hymn of the Day “Lord of the Light” ELW 688

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, he
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
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.

Sharing of the peace

Offering Hymn “Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart”

Prayer:
Merciful God,
accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus, Amen

Communion Prayer
Words of Institution

The 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.

Hymns During Distribution

ELW 701 – "Once We Sang and Danced"
ELW 465 – "As the Grains of Wheat"
ELW 787 - "On Eagle's Wings"

Post Communion Blessing
Prayers of Intercession
Benediction
Closing Hymn "Let All Things Now Living" ELW 881