The Twenty Fifth Sunday After Pentecost

November 15, 2026

Altar flowers are given today by Frank & Bettina Puckett in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

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.

PRELUDE **"Be Still My Soul"**

WELCOME AND INVOCATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of – or as invitation to – their baptism.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we will live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

OPENING HYMN "We Praise You, O God" **#870**

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C: And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

This prayer is prayed in Christian churches throughout the world today. We pray it as a sign of unity and hope, shared with all God's children.

MUSICAL MEDITATION "Savior Like a Shepherd Lead Us" **Bells of Grace**
Mitchell Eithun, Ring Out Press RO3390

FIRST READING **Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18** (p. 765)

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.

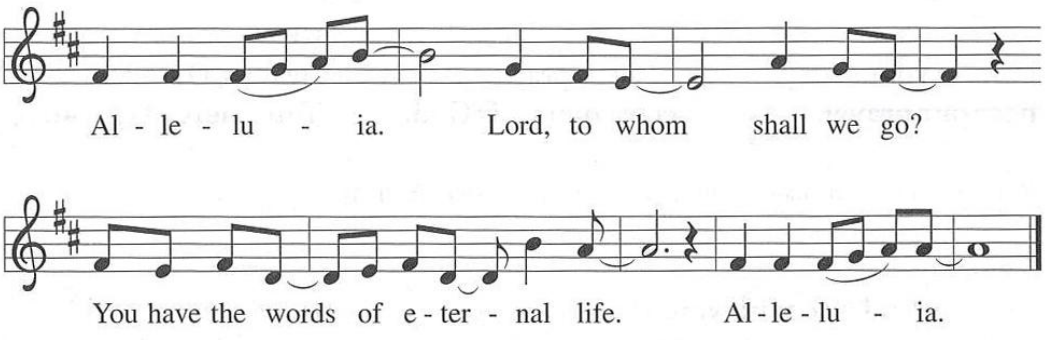
SECOND READING **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11** (p. 960)

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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON "The Grab Bag"

"The Grab Bag" is one way of welcoming children – and the Spirit of God through kids – in worship. Each week, a child pulls a surprise from the bag for us to share. We never know what we'll find, but trust God always has something to teach us. ***The child who pulls from the Grab Bag is invited to hold the basket for empty cups during communion, so please send them forward after the Lord's Prayer.***

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL READING **Matthew 25:14-30** (p. 807)

P: The Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th Chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

"'For it is as if a man, going on a journey …'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON **Pastor Mark**

HYMN OF THE DAY "God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending" **#678**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE (P: Lord, in your mercy **C: Hear our prayer.)**

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE
P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND INVITATIONS

OFFERING
Sharing our gifts is a significant act of worship for Christians. At Cross of Grace our offering is a practice in gratitude, sacrifice and joy. If you choose to share an offering, we thank you for your generosity and trust you'll be blessed by your giving. Use the QR code here if you'd like to give via our website.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Most gracious God,
C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us – our selves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

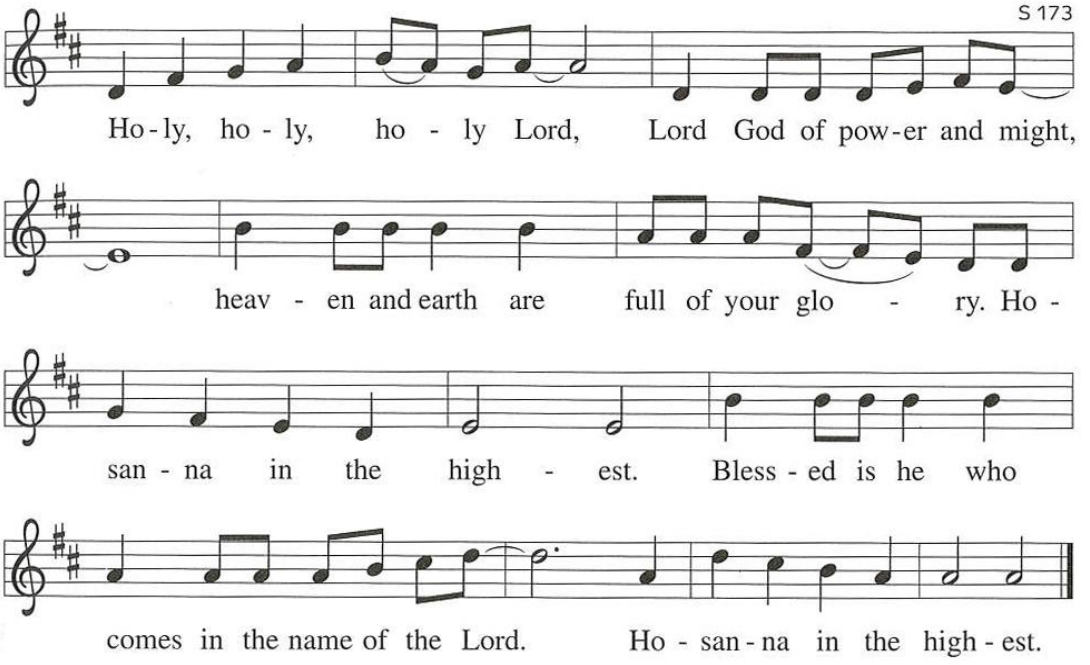
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

P: Lift up your hearts.
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is right that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We give thanks for the meal and hear the "Words of Institution" – the same words Jesus shared with his disciples when he prayed at the Last Supper.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

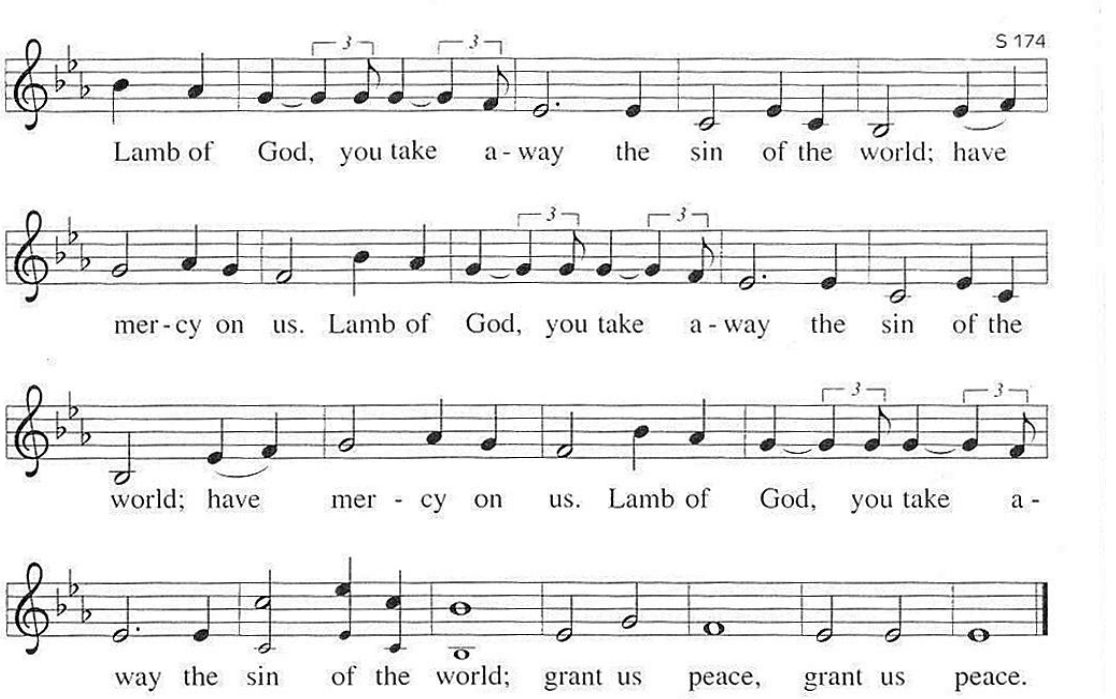
C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.

SHARING OF THE MEAL

Holy Communion – like God's abundant grace – is a gift to be shared with all who will receive it. If you are a guest with us, please accept an invitation to the meal we share. It's an invitation that comes from us because it comes first from the God we worship. Welcome to the table.

LAMB OF GOD

We sing this to connect our meal of Holy Communion to the Passover meal shared by the Jews of the Old Testament. At that time, God saved the Jewish people from death by 'passing over' homes marked with the blood of a sacrificed lamb. Similarly Jesus, the Lamb of God, is the sign of salvation for the world.



COMMUNION HYMN "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" **#674**

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

P: Now may the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Father, +Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

CLOSING HYMN "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past" **#632**

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God!



Please recycle your bulletin using the bins near the main entrance.

SERVING IN WORSHIP TODAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2026

Greeter: Lois Dalton
Ushers: Miles & Denise Hercamp
Acolyte: Reagan Greene
Lay Reader: Linda Elkins
Comm. Assistants: Laurel Hensel & Ingrid Mielke
Children's Church: Rick Elkins & Elaine Prickel
Altar Setup: Connie Mitchell
Altar Clean Up: Jordan Reid
Bread Baker: Paula McCain
Counters: Sandy Havel & Kevin Minnick
Cleaning Crew: Prickel, R. Graham, Stoeffler
Refreshments: Wenning, Hall, Conarroe, Gakpo

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THIS WEEK AT CROSS OF GRACE

Sunday, November 15

- Bells of Grace – 5:30 p.m.
- HS Youth Group – 6:00 p.m.
- Alleluia Ringers – 7:00 p.m.

Monday, November 16

- Men's Sermon Talk – 12:00 p.m.
- Boy Scouts – 5:30 p.m.
- Agape – 6:00 p.m.
- Giving the Sense – 7:00 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anon. – 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 17

- Breakfast with Pastor Mark – 6:30 a.m.
- Choir Rehearsal – 7:00 p.m.
- Church Council – 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, November 18

- Groceries of Grace – 4:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 19

- Bethel Bible Study – 7:00 p.m.
- Praise Band – 7:00 p.m.
- Alcoholics Anon. – 7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 20

- Craft Fellowship – 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, November 21

- Prayer Vigil – 8:00 a.m.

Attendance Last Week: 188

GENERAL FUND

Avg. Weekly Expenses:		$11,012.71
Offering Last Week:		$18,466.48
November Total:		$32,589.80
Fiscal YTD Income	(10/31/26)	$198,558.16
Fiscal YTD Expense	(10/31/26)	$199,210.30

Our General Fund supports our ministry. We tithe 10% of it to the ELCA and its mission to start new congregations, fund worldwide missionaries, administrate disaster relief, and more.

(Our fiscal year runs July 1 – June 30)

BUILDING AND OUTREACH FUND

Three Year Commitment:	$1,379,966.39
Offering Last Week:	$10,903.31
Given To Date:	$852,527.16

Our Building and Outreach Fund commitments began anew in January. 10% of these offerings help Project Rouj build homes in Fondwa, Haiti, even as we grow our own home at Cross of Grace.

(Please be praying about the building project and for our Sweat Equity Team as things progress!)

Mark Havel, *Lead Pastor* ● Cogan Blackmon, *Pastor*
Sheri Bradley, *Music Minister* ● Amanda Terrell, *Administrative Assistant*
www.crossofgrace.org ● *Find us on Facebook and Instagram* ● *churchoffice@crossofgrace.org*



GATHER TOGETHER IN PRAYER THIS WEEK FOR:

Denzil Hammel – brother-in-law of the Elkins'
The family of David Smith – as they grieve his loss and celebrate his life.
Jason Elkins – son of Rick & Linda Elkins.
Logan Uhle – friend of the Elkins.
Ryan Gross – nephew of Sharon Wasson
Mike Frye and his family – friend of the Terrell's, as he recovers from brain surgery.
Barbie Turner – sister of Vicki Clem, who is preparing for spine surgery.
Peggy Hannegan – sister of Vicki Clem, who has stomach cancer.
Mike Brumback – brother-in-law of Vicki Clem who has prostate cancer.
Kurt Schlicht – brother-in-law of Fred & Linda Parish who is facing health concerns.
Jim Davidson – brother-in-law of Rebecca Graham, who has stage 4 cancer.
Theresa Mendez - friend of Ingrid Mielke, who recently suffered a fall and recovering from a broken hip and ribs.
Sarah Lodwick - who is very ill.
Friends and family of Susan Bardes – a friend of the congregation; as they grieve her loss and celebrate her life
Drew McDonald – neighbor of Kathy Uhrick's son, who is undergoing cancer treatments, prayers for relief of pain and healing.
Friends and family of Doug Tucker – former Partner in Mission, as they mourn his loss and celebrate his life.
Kathy Thein – friend of the Julians, who is dealing with heart and lung health concerns.
Friends and family of Beverly Rekeweg – sister-in-law of Darlene Seifert and Ruth Boyer, as they grieve her loss and celebrate her life.
Robbi Crain – friend of Monica Amundson, who is battling breast cancer.
Meredith Raben – daughter of Ingrid Mielke, as she begins chemo treatments.
Sandy Alexander – friend on Linda Parish, who is dealing with heart problems and health issues.
Camden Weymouth – Don & Kenene's granddaughter.

In an effort to keep our growing list of prayer concerns as timely and as relevant as possible, we remove petitions from the list after one month, unless we're made aware of a continued need. Thanks for helping us keep things up to date.