

# First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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**Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost**

**November 16, 2025**

**9:30 am**

# FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

## *Mission Statement*

First Lutheran church **strives to inspire hope**  
for a wounded world;

**Gathers in worship**  
that both **uplifts** and **challenges**;

And **builds life-affirming relationships**  
inside and outside the walls of our building.

# SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

## NOVEMBER 16, 2025

*The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right."*

### **First Reading: Malachi 4:1-2a**

Malachi, whose name means "my messenger," warns that "the day is coming." On that day, the evil will be destroyed like stubble in a fire, but the "sun of righteousness" will shine on those who honor God.

### **Second Reading: 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13**

Some members of the Thessalonian community, because of their belief in the nearness of Christ's return, had ceased to work, living off the generosity of other members of the community. The writer of this letter warns them bluntly that if they want to eat, they need to work.

### **Gospel: Luke 21:5-19**

As history moves toward God's fulfillment there will be frightening signs and events. Before the end, believers will draw strength from their relationship to God and will be given the words they need to testify and to endure without fear.

**Prelude**

*Minuet in G Major*

*J.S. Bach*

*Please stand when the (\*) indicates standing. Know the communion of Saints, both living & departed, stand for you if you should choose to remain seated for any reason.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Faithful God,  
**you have shown us the ways of your heart,  
yet we stray from your paths.  
We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression  
and do not embrace the freedom  
of your faithful promises.  
We ignore our neighbors.  
We exploit the earth.  
We reject your abundance,  
trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love.  
Repair our relationships,  
restore what we have broken,  
renew our hearts,  
and bring us to new life.  
Amen.**

Hear the good news:  
God the Faithful One loves you,  
✝ in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven,  
and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.  
**Amen.**

## \*The Gathering Song

*How Firm a Foundation*

ELW 796



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, O saints of the Lord,  
2 "Fear not, I am with you, oh, be not dis - mayed,  
3 "When through fi - 'ry tri - als your path - way shall lie,  
4 "Through - out all their life - time my peo - ple shall prove



is laid for your faith in Christ Je - sus, the Word!  
for I am your God and will still give you aid;  
my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be your sup - ply.  
my sov - 'reign, e - ter - nal, un - change - a - ble love;



What more can he say than to you he has said  
I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,  
The flames shall not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign,  
and then, when gray hairs shall their tem - ples a - dorn,



who un - to the Sav - ior for ref - uge have fled?  
up - held by my righ - teous, om - nip - o - tent hand."  
your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine."  
like lambs they shall still in my bo - som be borne."

Text: J. Rippon, *A Selection of Hymns*, 1787, alt.

Music: FOUNDATION, Early American

## \*The Pastoral Greeting

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

A: **And also with you.**

*Please be seated*  
**Children's Time**

**\*Kyrie**

*ELW Setting 8*



2 That we may live out your im - passioned re - sponse to the

3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for

4 For your Spir - it to guide; that you cen - ter our lives in the



hun - gry and the poor; that

friends and fam - i - ly; for

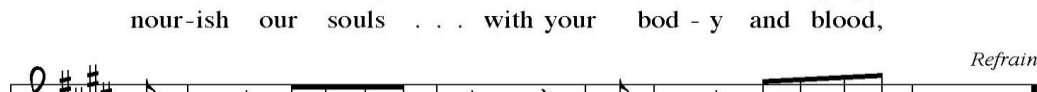
wa - ter and the word; that you



we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,

life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,

nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

## \*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

P: O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

A: Amen.

## The First Reading

## Malachi 4:1-2a

<sup>1</sup> See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. <sup>2a</sup> But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

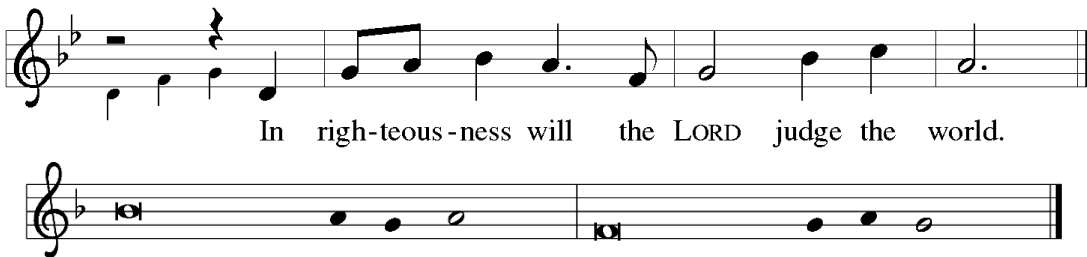
R: Word of God; Word of Life.

A: Thanks be to God.

## Psalm 98

(sung responsively)

*The accompanist will introduce the refrain, followed by the Cantor singing it once. Then the congregation sings it with the Cantor. R indicates repeat the refrain.*



<sup>1</sup> Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done | marvelous things,  
whose right hand and holy arm have | won the victory.

<sup>2</sup> **O LORD, you have made | known your victory,  
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight | of the nations.**

<sup>3</sup> You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the <sup>1</sup> house of Israel;  
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory <sup>1</sup> of our God.

<sup>4</sup> **Shout with joy to the LORD, <sup>1</sup> all you lands;  
lift up your voice, re- <sup>1</sup> joice, and sing. R**

<sup>5</sup> Sing to the LORD <sup>1</sup> with the harp,  
with the harp and the <sup>1</sup> voice of song.

<sup>6</sup> **With trumpets and the sound <sup>1</sup> of the horn  
shout with joy before the <sup>1</sup> king, the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup> Let the sea roar, and <sup>1</sup> all that fills it,  
the world and those who <sup>1</sup> dwell therein.

<sup>8</sup> **Let the rivers <sup>1</sup> clap their hands,  
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who  
comes to <sup>1</sup> judge the earth.**

<sup>9</sup> The LORD will judge the <sup>1</sup> world with righteousness  
and the peo- <sup>1</sup> ples with equity. **R**

## **The Second Reading**

## **2 Thessalonians 3:6-13**

<sup>6</sup> Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. <sup>7</sup> For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, <sup>8</sup> and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you.

<sup>9</sup> This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. <sup>10</sup> For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. <sup>11</sup> For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. <sup>12</sup> Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. <sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

**R:** Word of God; Word of Life.

**A:** **Thanks be to God.**

## \*The Announcement of the Gospel Reading

*ELW Setting 8*

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.  
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second and third staves contain the second line, and the fourth staff contains the third line. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests.

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St Luke.

**A:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## \*The Reading of the Gospel

**Luke 21:5-19**

<sup>5</sup> When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, <sup>6</sup> “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

<sup>7</sup> They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?” <sup>8</sup> And he said, “Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and, ‘The time is near!’ Do not go after them.

<sup>9</sup> “When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.” <sup>10</sup> Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; <sup>11</sup> there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

<sup>12</sup> “But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. <sup>13</sup> This will give you an opportunity to testify.

<sup>14</sup> So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, <sup>15</sup> for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. <sup>16</sup> You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. <sup>17</sup> You will be hated by all because of my name. <sup>18</sup> But not a hair of your head will perish. <sup>19</sup> By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

A: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## The Sermon

*We observe a brief silence for reflection*



## My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than  
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I  
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -  
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,



Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my  
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and  
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are  
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

### *Refrain*



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.

Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

## **\* The Apostle's Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and 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.**

## **The Prayers of the People**

Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of roots and branches, defend the leaders of your church as they proclaim the gospel using discernment, wisdom, and brave testimony. Keep all the baptized on righteous paths in response to Christ's call. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of roaring seas, in a world of earthquake, famine, and plague, use your mighty power to nurture the land and all that lives upon it. Restore peoples and places experiencing natural disasters. Strengthen organizations who provide aid to any in crisis. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of victory, among quests for power, guide those in government, courts, law enforcement agencies, and the military. Turn them from war and violence to actions of care that build up the common good. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of healing, where injustice and exploitation result in populations that are marginalized or underserved, accompany those abandoned by friends, hurt by family, and harmed by violence or oppression. Care for all who are ill, anxious, or in pain of any kind (*especially Peggy*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of new songs, in a congregation of faithful believers, energize us for compassionate service and delight us through worship and inspired prayer. Encourage your people in building equitable community where all are valued. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God of every generation, we remember the saints with steadfast love and faithfulness (*especially*). Confident in Christ's victory over death, may we be inspired by the example of the faithful. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **\*The Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

**A: And also with you.**

P: Let us offer one another the sign of the Risen Christ's peace.

*As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we welcome all because God welcomes all,  
and we recognize that our differences are gifts to our communal life.*

**Anthem**

*Bridge Over Troubled Water*

*Paul Simon*

## **\*The Offering Prayer**

P: God of healing and hope,  
you bless those who are hungry,  
promising to fill them with good things.  
Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts.  
Nourish us with the abundance of your feast  
and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior,  
now and forever.

**A: Amen.**

*The offering plates will be available on the table in the Narthex.  
Please place your offering there, as you leave.*

## \*The Great Thanksgiving

The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are quarter notes, and the lyrics are written below the staves. The first staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The second staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The third staff has a double bar line after the first measure. The fourth staff has a double bar line after the first measure.

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*Holy, Holy, Holy

*ELW Setting 8*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## \*Words of Institution

**P:** In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.  
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**A:** **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

## \*Lord's Prayer

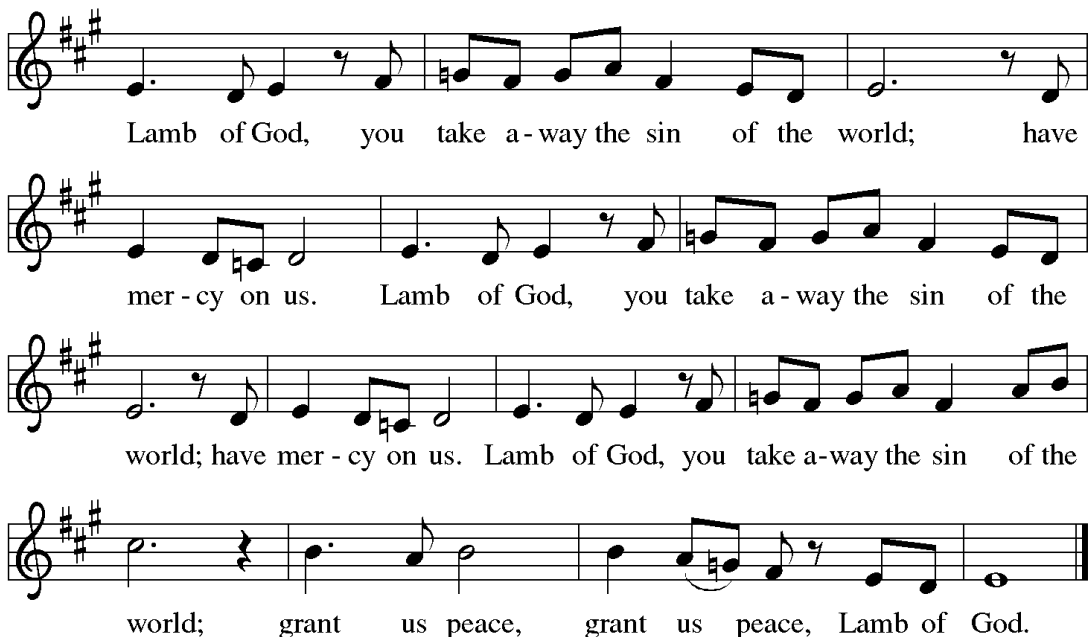
P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

A: **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.**

## The Celebration of Holy Communion

### \*Lamb of God

*ELW Setting 8*



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; grant us peace, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

## The Invitation to Communion

P: There is a place for you at the table of God.  
Come, receive the food that does not perish,  
a taste of life eternal.

*Please come to the communion rail and kneel (or stand). We will receive communion by intinction. Receive the bread, dip into the wine or white grape juice, then take and eat.*

## The Communion Music

ELW 619



1 My soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the  
2 Though I am small, my . . . God, my all, you . . .  
3 From the halls of pow'r to the for - tress tow'r, not a  
4 Though the na - tions rage from . . age to age, we re -



God of my heart is great, and my spir - it sings of the  
work great . . things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the  
stone will be left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your  
mem - ber who holds us fast: God's mer - cy must de -



won - drous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
jus - tice tears ev - 'ry ty - rant . . . from his throne.  
liv - er us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp.



You fixed your sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my  
 Your ver - y name puts the proud to shame, and to  
 The hun - gry poor shall . . weep no more, for the  
 This sav - ing word that our fore - bears heard is the



weak - ness you did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 those who would for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 food they can nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - 'ry  
 prom - ise which holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be



name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.



My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your jus - tice burn.



Wipe a - way all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is a-bout to turn.

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, based on the Magnificat  
 Music: STAR OF COUNTY DOWN, Irish traditional  
 Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358.  
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## \*The Communion Blessing

**P:** May the nourishment of the body and blood of our Savior  
 Jesus Christ give you renewed strength and life.

**A:** Amen.

### **\*The Prayer After Communion**

P: God of field and flower, wheat and grape,  
you have nourished us with the bread of heaven  
that gives life to the world.  
Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son,  
send us out to gather your good gifts for all who  
hunger and thirst,  
and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name.

A: **Amen.**

### **Community Updates**

### **\*The Blessing**

P: The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you,  
God the Son save you,  
and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead.

The holy Trinity bless you ✝  
and grant you a faithful and courageous heart  
now and forever.

A: **Amen.**

**\*Sending Song**

ELW 785

**When Peace, like a River**  
*It Is Well with My Soul*



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when  
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let  
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my  
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast  
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my  
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I  
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.  
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.  
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!  
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

*Refrain*



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888

Music: VILLA DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

## **\*Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Share the harvest.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

## **Postlude**

*Every Time I Feel the Spirit*

*arr: Clayton J. Foor*

## **Worship Assistants**

Reader & Communion Assistant: *Gail Flack*

Crucifer: *Bruce Torkelson*

Usher(s): *Bruce & Nat Torkelson*

Presiding Minister: *Pastor Joshua Johnson*

Music Director: *Clayton Foor*

Cantor: *Jeni Lipe*

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