

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost
November 19, 2023

Faith Lutheran Church

512-863-7332

Georgetown, TX 78628

flcms.org

(The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod)

WELCOME

INVOCATION:

Vicar: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP: *Service of Prayer and Preaching*

Vicar: This is the day which the Lord has made;

People: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Vicar: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People: the name of the Lord is to be praised.

Vicar: Better is one day in Your courts than a thousand elsewhere;

People: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

Vicar: Make me to know Your ways, O Lord.

People: Teach me Your paths.

Vicar: Sanctify us in Your truth.

People: Your Word is truth.

Vicar: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People: the name of the Lord is to be praised.

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: “The Head That Once Was Crowned with Thorns” (Lutheran Service Book, #532 melody: Ich Singe Dir)

The Head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now;
A royal diadem adorns
The mighty Victor’s brow.

The highest place that heav’n affords
Is His, is His by right,
The King of kings and Lord of lords,
And heav’n’s eternal Light;

The Joy of all who dwell above,
The Joy of all below
To whom He manifests His love
And grants His name to know.

To them the cross, with all its shame,
With all its grace, is giv’n;
Their name an everlasting name,
Their joy the joy of heav’n.

They suffer with their Lord below,
They reign with Him above,
Their profit and their joy to know
The myst’ry of His love.

The cross He bore is life and health,
Though shame and death to Him:
His people’s hope, His people’s wealth,
Their everlasting theme.

Text: Public domain

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION:

Vicar: Beloved, if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Vicar: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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 loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Vicar: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Vicar: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Vicar: Let us pray:

People: Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM: "Beyond All Praising" (We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God"), LSB 941, arranged by Hart Morris, Published by CPH, 2005.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: *Zephaniah 1:7–16*

Be silent before the Lord God!

For the day of the Lord is near;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice
and consecrated his guests.

And on the day of the Lord's sacrifice—

"I will punish the officials and the king's sons
and all who array themselves in foreign attire.

On that day I will punish
everyone who leaps over the threshold,
and those who fill their master's house
with violence and fraud.
"On that day," declares the Lord,
"a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,
a wail from the Second Quarter,
a loud crash from the hills.
Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!
For all the traders are no more;
all who weigh out silver are cut off.
At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the men
who are complacent,
those who say in their hearts,
'The Lord will not do good,
nor will He do ill.'
Their goods shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them."
The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter;
the mighty man cries aloud there.
A day of wrath is that day,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING: *1 Thessalonians 5:1–11*

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, Who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Lector: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Lector: Please rise, as you are able.

Lector: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter:

People: Glory to You, O Lord!

GOSPEL READING: *Matthew 25:14–30*

[Jesus said:] “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master’s money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard

man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Lector: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ!

Lector: We confess together our Christian faith, using the Apostles' Creed.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

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!

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN: "Saints, See the Cloud of Witnesses" (LSB, #667)

Saints, see the cloud of witnesses surround us;
Their lives of faith encourage and astound us.
Hear how the Master praised their faith so fervent:
"Well done, My servant!"

These saints of old received God's commendation;
They lived as pilgrim-heirs of His salvation.
Through faith they conquered flame and sword and gallows,
God's name to hallow.

They call to us, “Your timid footsteps lengthen;
Throw off sin’s weight, your halting weakness strengthen.
We kept the faith, we shed our blood, were martyred;
Our lives we bartered.”

Come, let us fix our sight on Christ who suffered,
He faced the cross, His sinless life He offered;
He scorned the shame, He died, our death enduring,
Our hope securing.

Lord, give us faith to walk where You are sending,
On paths unmarked, eyes blind as to their ending;
Not knowing where we go, but that You lead us—
With grace precede us.

You, Jesus, You alone deserve all glory!
Our lives unfold, embraced within Your story;
Past, present, future—You, the same forever—
You fail us never!

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SERMON: “An End, The End, and What’s In Between” (*Matthew 25:14-30*)

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS (11:00am)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

People: O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer, when I call, answer me. O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer, Come and listen to me.

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.

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

Pastor: It is truly good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, Who, out of love for His fallen creation, humbled Himself by taking on the form of a servant, becoming obedient unto death, even death upon a cross. Risen from the dead, He has freed us from eternal death and given us life everlasting. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, ever more praising you and singing:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sin. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

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

People: Amen.

HYMN: "This is The Feast" (LSB, p.155)

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia.

This is the feast of victory for our God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

DISTRIBUTION

The Lord's Supper will be distributed at the altar rail. Please follow the ushers' directions.

DISTRIBUTION SONG: "Christ Be All Around Me"

As I rise, strength of God, go before, lift me up;

As I wake, eyes of God, look upon, be my sight.

As I wait, heart of God, satisfy and sustain;
As I hear, voice of God, lead me on, be my guide, be my guide

Above and below me, before and behind me;
In ev'ry eye that sees me, Christ be all around me;
Above and below me, before and behind me;
In ev'ry eye that sees me, Christ be all around me.

As I go, hand of God, my defense, by my side;
As I rest, breath of God, fall upon, bring me peace, bring me peace.

Above and below me, before and behind me;
In ev'ry eye that sees me, Christ be all around me;
Above and below me, before and behind me;
In ev'ry eye that sees me, Christ be all around me.

Your life, Your death, Your blood was shed
For ev'ry moment, ev'ry moment;
(Repeat)

Above and below me, before and behind me;
In ev'ry eye that sees me, Christ be all around me;
Above and below me, before and behind me;
In ev'ry eye that sees me, Christ be all around me.

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DISTRIBUTION SONG: "Great Are You Lord"

You give life. You are love.
You bring light to the darkness.
You give hope. You restore ev'ry heart that is broken.
And great are You, Lord

It's Your breath in our lungs,
So we pour out our praise,
We pour out our praise.
It's Your breath in our lungs,
So we pour out our praise to You only.

You give life. You are love.
You bring light to the darkness.

You give hope. You restore ev'ry heart that is broken.

And great are You, Lord

It's Your breath in our lungs,

So we pour out our praise,

We pour out our praise.

It's Your breath in our lungs,

So we pour out our praise to You only.

And all the earth will shout Your praise.

Our hearts will cry, these bones will sing,

“Great are You, Lord!”

(Repeat 2X)

It's Your breath in our lungs,

So we pour out our praise,

We pour out our praise.

It's Your breath in our lungs,

So we pour out our praise to You only.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN: “Come, Let Us Eat” (LSB, #626)

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread,

Come, let us eat, for now the feast is spread.

Our Lord's body let us take together,

Our Lord's body let us take together.

Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured,

Come, let us drink, for now the wine is poured.

Jesus' blood poured let us drink together,

Jesus' blood poured let us drink together.

In His presence now we meet and rest,

In His presence now we meet and rest.

In the presence of our Lord we gather,

In the presence of our Lord we gather.

Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty Word,

Rise, then, to spread abroad God's mighty Word.

Jesus risen will bring in the Kingdom,
Jesus risen will bring in the Kingdom.

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DISTRIBUTION HYMN: “Have No Fear, Little Flock” (LSB, #735)

Have no fear, little flock;
Have no fear, little flock,
For the Father has chosen
To give you the Kingdom;
Have no fear, little flock!

Have good cheer, little flock;
Have good cheer, little flock,
For the Father will keep you
In His love forever;
Have good cheer, little flock!

Praise the Lord high above;
Praise the Lord high above,
For He stoops down to heal you,
Uplift and restore you;
Praise the Lord high above!

Thankful hearts raise to God;
Thankful hearts raise to God,
For He stays close beside you,
In all things works with you;
Thankful hearts raise to God!

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COMMON DISMISSAL:

Vicar: Now may this true body and blood our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in faith unto life everlasting.

People: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Vicar: Let us pray:

People: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

BENEDICTION: (Numbers 6:24-26)

Vicar: 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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: "Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise" (LSB, #680)

Thine the amen Thine the praise
Alleluias angels raise
Thine the everlasting head
Thine the breaking of the bread
Thine the glory Thine the story
Thine the harvest then the cup
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.

Thine the life eternally
Thine the promise let there be
Thine the vision Thine the tree
All the earth on bended knee
Gone the nailing gone the railing
Gone the pleading gone the cry
Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.

Thine the truly Thine the yes
Thine the table we the guest
Thine the mercy all from Thee
Thine the glory yet to be
Then the ringing and the singing
Then the end of all the war
Thine the living Thine the loving evermore evermore.

Thine the kingdom Thine the prize
Thine the wonder full surprise
Thine the banquet then the praise
Then the justice of Thy ways
Thine the glory Thine the story
Then the welcome to the least
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast at Thy feast.

Thine the glory in the night
No more dying only light
Thine the river Thine the tree
Then the Lamb eternally
Then the holy holy holy
Celebration jubilee

Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only Thee.

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DISMISSAL:

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Go in peace and serve the Lord!

In Christian Service:

All disciples of the Lord Jesus
with

Liturgist: Vicar John Cotner

Proclaimer: Rev. Walt Pohland

Musicians: Adam Perez & Austin Angerman

Organist: Karen Darby

8:15 Lay Reader: Sabrina Stolle

11:00 Lay Reader: Stacie Wollam

Children's Message: DCE Austin Angerman