TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

8:30 am

November 15, 2026



In the Meantime

AS WE GATHER

The Last Day may come soon, but in the meantime, many people are neglecting to use their abilities and opportunities for God's purposes. Zephaniah writes that it will be a day of wrath and mourning. But for those who have realized God's blessings over the years, as Psalm 90 recalls, though the times are mean, each day is an opportunity to "encourage one another and build one another up" (1 Thess. 5:11). Today is an opportunity to hear God's very gracious Word, "well done!" and be strengthened to respond by using the talents He has loaned to us.

We are very much like the servants in the Gospel, using the treasure our master has entrusted to us. We dare not keep our talents hidden, for they belong to God and should be invested! **No Time for Complacency!** The Good News—that our Savior will return on that Day—is reason enough to take risks, investing our faith in loving the people around us.

WELCOME — Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

RINGING OF THE BELL

Great Is The Lord

1. Great is the Lord
He is Holy and Just
By His power we trust in His love.
Great is the Lord
He is faithful and true
By His mercy He proves He is love.

2. Great is the Lord and worthy of glory
Great is the Lord and worthy of praise
Great is the Lord
Now lift up your voice,
Now lift up your voice
Great is the Lord
Great is the Lord

3. Great is the Lord
He is Holy and Just
By His power we trust in His love.
Great is the Lord
He is faithful and true
By His mercy He proves He is love.

4. Great are You Lord and worthy of glory
Great are You Lord and worthy of praise
Great are you Lord
I lift up my voice
I lift up my voice
Great are You Lord
Great are You Lord

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES *Zephaniah 1:7b; 1 Thessalonians 5:11; Matthew 25:29a*

Pastor: The Lord has prepared a sacrifice
People: and consecrated His guests.

Pastor: Encourage one another
People: and build one another up.

Pastor: To everyone who has will more be given,
People: and he will have an abundance.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION *1 John 1:8–9; Psalm 90:17*

Pastor: 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.

Pastor: Let us in all honesty hear His Word again and confess our sins.
The Lord has consecrated His guests,
People: but we have been more attentive to the things of this world. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us.

Pastor: Build one another up,
People: but we are used to the darkness of this world and fear His coming like a thief in the night. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us.

Pastor: To everyone who has will more be given,
People: but we seldom recognize the abilities and opportunities He has given. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us.

Pastor: The favor of the Lord is on you! Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

Old Testament Reading *Zephaniah 1:7–16*

(*A prophecy of the great and terrible Day of the Lord*)

Reader: Stand in silence in the presence of the Sovereign Lord, for the awesome day of the Lord's judgment is near. The Lord has prepared his people for a great slaughter and has chosen their executioners.

People: "On that day of judgment," says the Lord, "I will punish the leaders and princes of Judah and all those following pagan customs.
Yes, I will punish those who participate in pagan worship ceremonies, and those who fill their masters' houses with violence and deceit.

Reader: "On that day," says the Lord, "a cry of alarm will come from the Fish Gate and echo throughout the New Quarter of the city. And a great crash will sound from the hills. Wail in sorrow, all you who live in the market area for all the merchants and traders will be destroyed.

People: **"I will search with lanterns in Jerusalem's darkest corners to punish <u>those who sit complacent</u> in their sins. They think the Lord will do nothing to them, either good or bad. So their property will be plundered, their homes will be ransacked.**
They will build new homes but never live in them. They will plant vineyards but never drink wine from them.

Reader: "That terrible day of the Lord is near. Swiftly it comes—
a day of bitter tears, a day when even strong men will cry out.

People: It will be a day when the Lord's anger is poured out—a day of terrible distress and anguish, a day of ruin and desolation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness,

Reader: a day of trumpet calls and battle cries. Down go the walled cities and the strongest battlements!

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle *1 Thessalonians 5:1–11*

(Encouragement at the coming of the Lord)

Now concerning how and when all this will happen, dear brothers and sisters, we
don't really need to write you. [2] For you know quite well that the day of the Lord's
return will come unexpectedly, like a thief in the night. [3] When people are saying,
"Everything is peaceful and secure," then disaster will fall on them as suddenly as a
pregnant woman's labor pains begin. And there will be no escape.
[4] But you aren't in the dark about these things, dear brothers and sisters, and you
won't be surprised when the day of the Lord comes like a thief. [5] For you are all children
of the light and of the day; we don't belong to darkness and night. [6] So be on your
guard, not asleep like the others. Stay alert and be clearheaded. [7] Night is the time
when people sleep and drinkers get drunk. [8] But let us who live in the light be
clearheaded, protected by the armor of faith and love, and wearing as our helmet the
confidence of our salvation.

9 For God chose to save us through our Lord Jesus Christ, not to pour out his anger on
us. 10 Christ died for us so that, whether we are dead or alive when he returns, we can
live with him forever. 11 So encourage each other and build each other up, just as you
are already doing.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.



Stand

Holy Gospel *Matthew 25:14–30*
(The parable of the use of the talents)

14 "Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and
entrusted his wealth to them. 15 To one he gave five bags of gold, to another
two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went
on his journey. 16 The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and
put his money to work and gained five bags more. 17 So also, the one with two
bags of gold gained two more. 18 But the man who had received one bag went
off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.
19 "After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with
them. 20 The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five.
'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained
five more.'
21 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful
with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your
master's happiness!'
22 "The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with
two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.'
23 "His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful
with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your
master's happiness!'
24 "Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew
that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering
where you have not scattered seed. 25 So I was afraid and went out and hid your
gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.'

[26] "His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I
have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? [27] Well then, you
should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I
returned I would have received it back with interest.
[28] "'So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. [29] For
whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever
does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. [30] And throw that
worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and
gnashing of teeth.'

Reader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Praise to You, O Christ

Please Sit

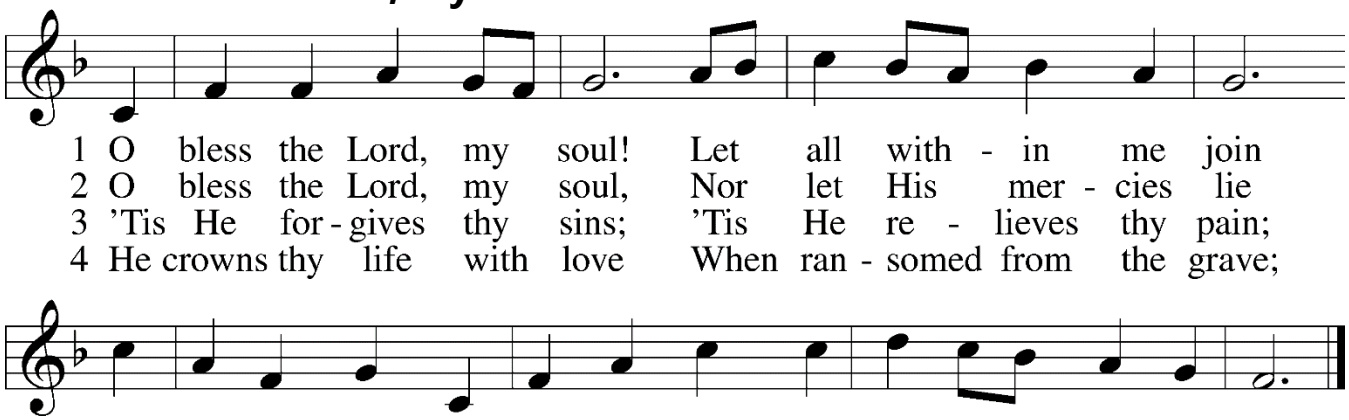


THE APOSTLES CREED

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.

Please Sit

814 O Bless the Lord, My Soul



Sermon – Pastor Christopher Fairbairn

5 He fills the poor with good;
He gives the suff'rers rest.
The Lord hath judgments for the proud
And justice for the_oppressed.

6 His wondrous works and ways
He made by Moses known,
But sent the world His truth and grace
By His belovèd Son.

Prayer of the Church

Pastor: Let us pray for the Church around the world, for ourselves in this place, for people in positions of authority, for families, and for all in need.

Guide and protect Your Church, Lord Jesus, as it endeavors to share the Gospel in the many circumstances of this sin-ridden world. Embolden leaders to speak Your Word with conviction, open the ears of those who hear the Good News in all circumstances, and grant increase of faith and numbers wherever people gather around Word and Sacrament.

People: Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.

Pastor: O Holy Spirit, strengthen this congregation so that we are a beacon of Your gracious love, calling one and all to join us to celebrate the Good News shining in this darkened world.

People: Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.

Pastor: Lord over all, guide and protect the officers of nations; armed forces deployed and police at home; leaders of large corporations; those who work in the media; those who grow, tend, and distribute food; and all who respond in emergencies, that together they work for the common good.

People: Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.

Pastor: Lord our God, hear the prayers of Your people near and dear to us, as well as those known only to You. As fits Your gracious plans for them, give healing, relief, and comfort, so that they may live out each day in peace and joy.

People: Hear our prayer, O Lord, and let Your favor be upon us and all for whom we pray.

Pastor: These and any other things You would have us ask of You, heavenly Father, grant us for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.
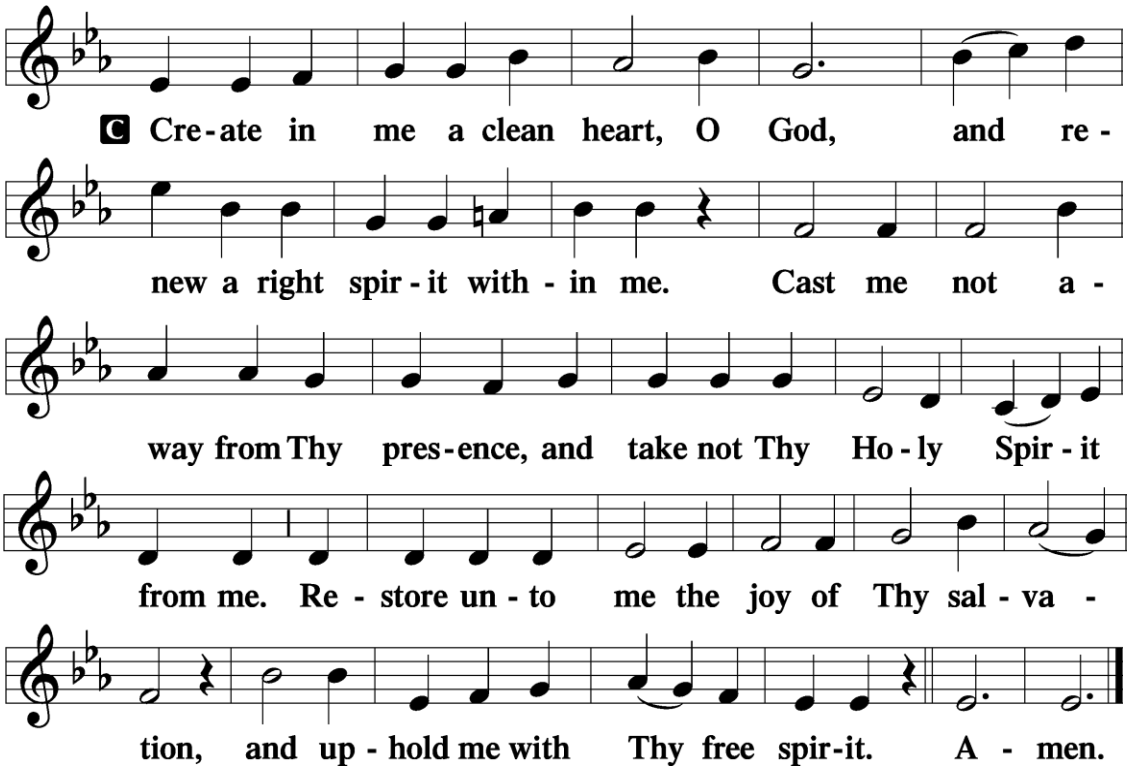
OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

If you brought your offering today, you are welcome to leave it in the offering box you will find at the back of the church. **Thank you.**

We invite <u>our guests</u> and members to fill out our Friendship Card during worship, which is found on the back of the pew. Please leave your card at the end of the pew near the center aisle as you leave.

Stand

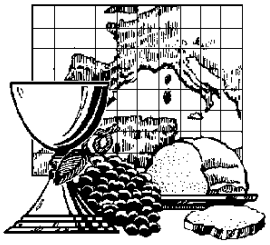
Offertory



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.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION



Please see our communion policy stated on the inside front cover.

THE DISTRIBUTION

COMMUNION WINE: For those who may not be able to take regular wine, we offer non-alcoholic wine, which is the light colored wine in the center of the communion tray.

++ *We offer* ***Gluten-free*** *wafers upon request.* ++

The Church's One Foundation
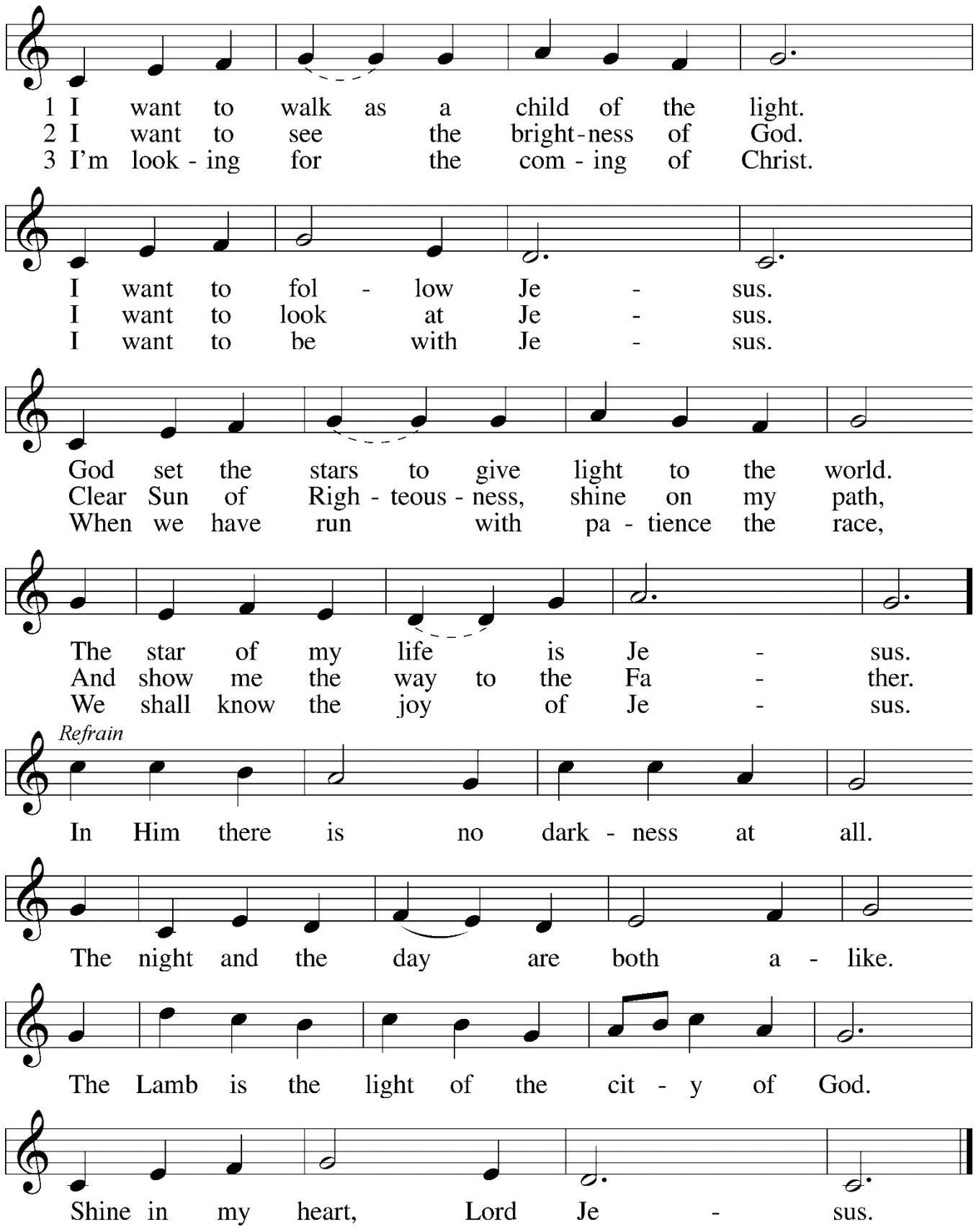
1 The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation
By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her
To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her,
And for her life He died.

2 Elect from ev'ry nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation:
One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
With ev'ry grace endued.

4 Through toil and tribulation
And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation
Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union
With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O blessèd heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us,
May see You face to face.

411 I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



Give Me Jesus

Verse 1
In the morning when I rise
In the morning when I rise
In the morning when I rise
Give me Jesus

Chorus
Give me Jesus
Give me Jesus
You can have all this world
Just give me Jesus

Verse 2
When I am alone
When I am alone
Oh when I am alone
Give me Jesus

Interlude
(Jesus give me Jesus)

Verse 3
When I come to die
When I come to die
Oh when I come to die
Give me Jesus

Because He Lives (Amen)

Verse 1
I believe in the Son
I believe in the Risen One
I believe I overcome
By the power of His blood

Chorus
Amen amen
I'm alive I'm alive because He lives
Amen amen
Let my song join the one that never ends
(Because He lives)

Verse 2
I was dead in the grave
I was covered in sin and shame
I heard mercy call my name
He rolled the stone away

Amen amen
I'm alive I'm alive because He lives
Amen amen
Let my song join the one that never ends
(Because He lives)

Bridge
Because He lives I can face tomorrow
Because He lives ev'ry fear is gone
I know He holds my life
My future in His hand

Amen amen
I'm alive I'm alive because He lives
Amen amen
Let my song join the one that never ends
(Because He lives)
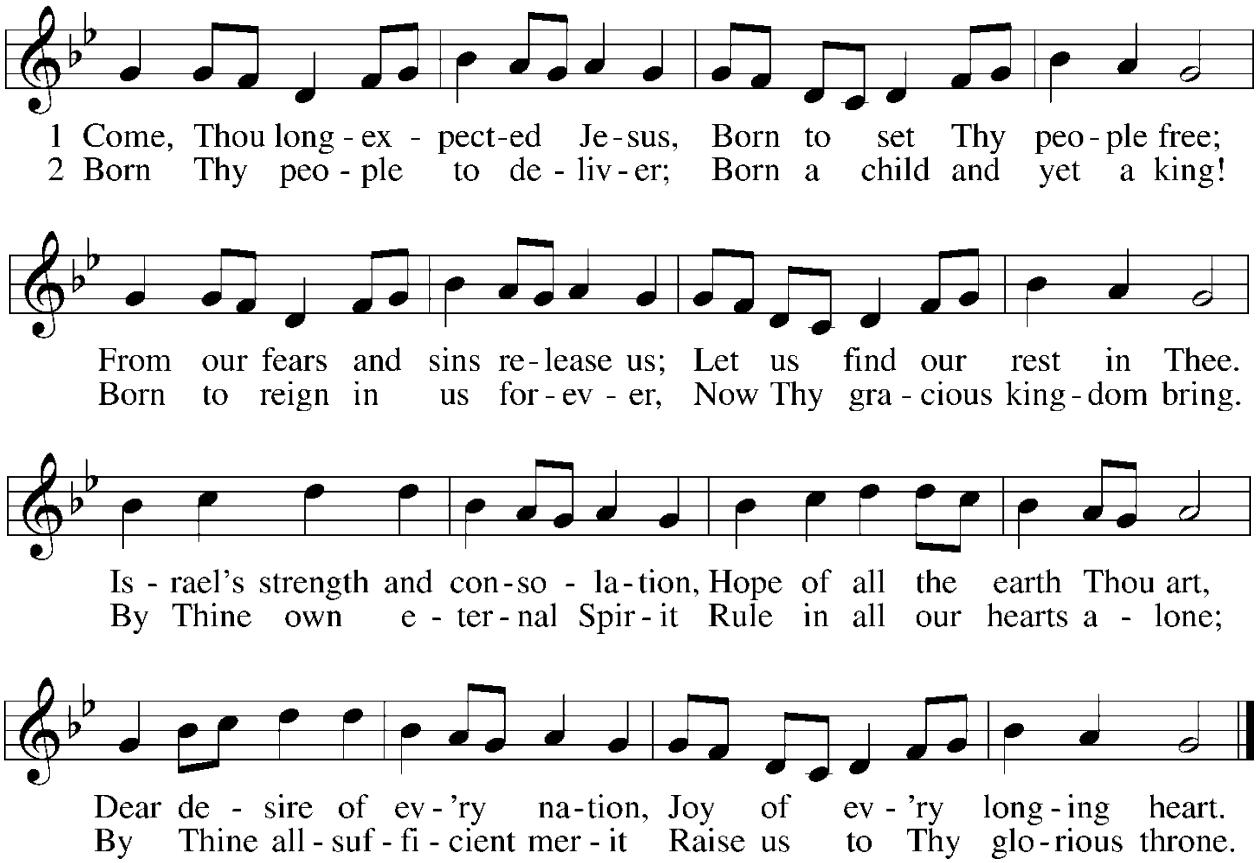
Because He lives

BLESSING OF COMMUNICANTS

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You, heavenly Father, for You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come through this blessed Meal, which calls us to sing…

338 Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus



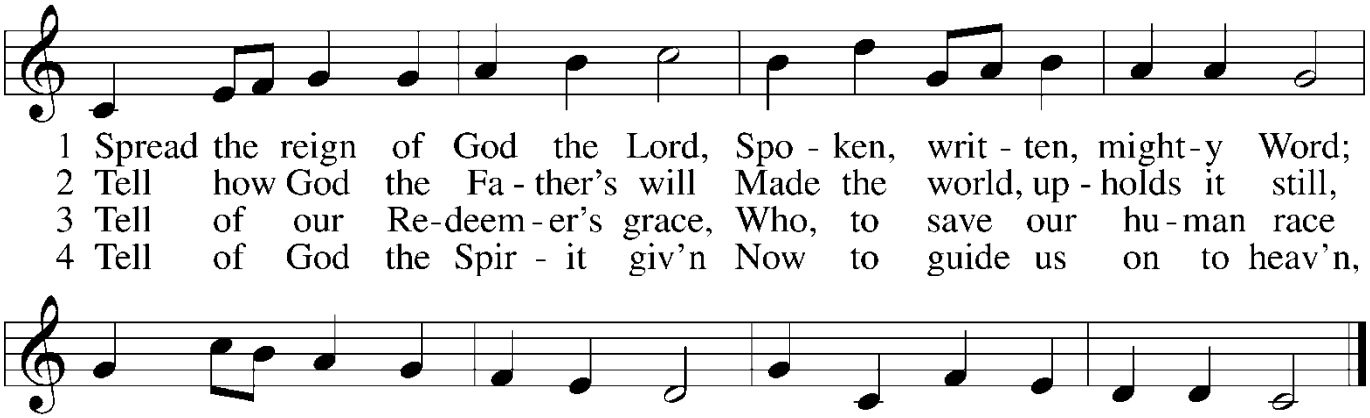
BENEDICTION

Pastor: God the Father bless your lives and your deeds with His peace.
God the ✠ Son, our Lord Jesus, fill your hearts and your days with hope.
God the Holy Spirit be with you to make your lives expressions of God's gracious and abiding love, now and forever.

People: Amen.

THE INVITATIONS

830 Spread the Reign of God the Lord



1 Spread the reign of God the Lord, Spo - ken, writ - ten, might - y Word;
2 Tell how God the Fa - ther's will Made the world, up - holds it still,
3 Tell of our Re-deem - er's grace, Who, to save our hu - man race
4 Tell of God the Spir - it giv'n Now to guide us on to heav'n,

Ev - 'ry - where His crea-tures call To His heav'n - ly ban-quet hall.
How His own dear Son He gave Us from sin and death to save.
And to pay re - bel-lion's price, Gave Him - self as sac - ri - fice.
Strong and ho - ly, just and true, Work - ing both to will and do.

Need some PRAYER? Anyone who desires special private prayer with a pastor or a Stephen Minister may do so by coming forward after service to one of the front pews.

Our Vision — a place to come for comfort, support, answers, opportunities to serve, and to strengthen a salvation relationship with Jesus



WHERE WE SERVE

Preacher/Officiant	Pastor Christopher Fairbairn
Music Director	Paul Ventimiglia
Family Life	Jeanette Koch
Elder	Will Hoffmeier
Welcome Center	Sue Poole
Greeter	Carolyn Nieuwkoop
Tech Team	Patrick Baker
Acolyte	Christian Hasse
Ushers	John Nordbeck Barry Helmick Katie Helmick Carole Crete Paul Kemp
Reader	Jan Faerber
Counters	Jan Greulich Frank Newman George Foor
Coffee Hour	Board of Evangelism
Altar Society	Karen Frusti Christine Lewis



Remember Our Homebound

Jean Pichan
Northville Pointe Senior Living
40405 6 Mile Rd.
Northville, MI 48168

Bible Study and Small Group Opportunities

WEDNESDAYS: Women's Bible Study- Wednesdays @ 9:30am in the church Parish Hall.
SUNDAYS: Join us for Bible study and fellowship @ 9:45am in the church Parish Hall.
SATURDAYS: Men's Bible Study – Every 1st and 3rd Saturday @ 9:00am – Parish Hall

Attendance Last week: 11.8.2026– Attendance – 8:30am - 132 + 11am - 81 = 213
Communion – 104

Received week of 11.8.2026 for **Church** (Envelopes + loose plate)- **$6,438** total includes online giving
School - $20



One vase in honor of our music director, Paul Ventimiglia,
+in appreciation for all he does from the St. Paul Choral Ensemble.

One vase in thanksgiving for the St. Paul Stephen Ministers.

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15 NOV, SUN	8:30 – 9:30am	Worship w/ Communion	
	9:45 – 10:45am	Sunday School & Youth Bible Study	
	11am – 12pm	Worship w/ Communion	
	7 – 9pm	Adult pick up basketball - check notes for availability	school gym
16 NOV, MON	4 – 5pm	Elders- Parish Hall	
	7:30 – 9pm	Northville Basketball Assoc. Gym	
17 NOV, TUE	12 – 1pm	Meeting - Ladies Lounge, Church	
	5 – 9pm	Scott Huggins - Parish Hall	
	6 – 7:30pm	Northville Basketball Association - Gym	
18 NOV, WED	9 – 10am	Yolanda M. - room 13 school	
	9:30 – 11am	Women's Bible Study- Parish Hlal	
	5 – 9pm	Family of God Mission Dinner Kitchen 2-5pm	7354 Whittaker St
	5:30 – 7pm	Board of Evangelism - Parish Hall	
	6 – 9pm	Northville Basketball Assoc. - Gym	
19 NOV, THU	4:30 – 5:30pm	Choir Practice	
	5:45 – 7pm	Bell Choir Rehearsal - church	
	6 – 9pm	Northville Basketball Assoc. -Gym	
20 NOV, FRI	6 – 7:30pm	Northville Basketball Association-Gym	
	7 – 9pm	AA Mtg.	church parish hall
	9 – 11:30pm	Yuta Basketball Rental	gym
21 NOV, SAT	9 – 11am	Men's Bible Study Parish Hall	

Detroit Street Outreach

Many ask how they can help the Detroit Street Ministry / Blessing Bag Outreach that we have here at Saint Paul Lutheran Church.

There are many ways to help!

Grab a bag of food and hygiene items that are found on a table in the church parish hall, and pass it out to someone in need!



Currently we have a need for NEW BOOTS!

Hard wearing, pull on, winter boots, men's styles - waterproof and warm!

If anyone, family or group would like to even buy one pair, that would be a blessing!

Sizes 10-12 are most needed.





We also could use handwarmers and new stocking cap type (Adult size) knit hats.



Thank you for thinking of our less fortunate brothers and sisters in Detroit and surrounding areas!

All items can be left in the church parish hall on the blessing bag table, or brought to the church office.



HOLIDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE 2026

(H/C = Holy Communion)

Saint Paul Lutheran Northville -noon services



Decorate Church 11.29.2026

11/25/2026 - Thanksgiving Eve Service – 7pm — Wednesday (H/C)
11/26/2026 – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED - Thursday

11/29/2026 – Worship – 8:30am & 11:00am – Sunday

12/02/2026 – Advent noon Service – Wednesday – lunch follows service
12/02/2026 - Advent Dinner – 5:30pm – 6:45pm – Wednesday (Board of Evangelism)
12/02/2026 - Advent Service – 7pm –- Wednesday

12/06/2026 – Worship – 8:30am (H/C) & 11:00am (H/C) - Sunday

12/09/2026 – Advent Noon Service - Wednesday -lunch follows service
12/09/2026 – Advent Dinner – 5:30pm-6:45pm – Wednesday (Youth Group)
12/09/2026 - Advent Service -7pm - Wednesday

12/13/2026 – Worship – 8:30am (H/C) & 11:00am – Sunday

12/16/2026 – Advent Noon Service- Wednesday -lunch follows service
12/16/2026 – Advent Dinner – 5:30pm-6:45pm – Wednesday (St. Paul School)
12/16/2026 - Advent Service -7pm –Wednesday - St. Paul Sunday School

12/20/2026 – Worship – 8:30am (H/C) & 11:00am (H/C) – Sunday

12/24/2026 - Christmas Eve - 6:00 pm & 8:00pm – Thursday

12/24/2026 - Christmas Eve Family Service - 10pm – Thursday (H/C)

12/25/2026- Christmas Day Service – 10am — Friday (H/C)

12/27/2026 - Worship – 10am – Sunday – ONE SERVICE

12/28/2026 – CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED- Monday

12/31/2026 – New Years Eve Service – 6pm – Thursday (H/C)

1/03/2027 – Worship – 8:30am (H/C) & 11:00am (H/C) – Sunday

1/4/2027– CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED - Monday

Medicare 101 Seminar

Are you currently on Medicare or do you need to sign up? Do you have questions, like "what are my choices?" or "how do I enroll?" Scott, with Huggins Medicare Advisors, is offering a free Medicare 101 seminar to help you navigate your options. Learn about deadlines, penalties and optional add-ons. A complimentary sub sandwich meal will be provided. This free seminar takes place on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, 6 - 8 p.m., at St. Paul Lutheran Church, 201 S. Elm St, Northville, MI in the Fellowship Hall. Call Scott at 248-266-9677 to sign up, or ask any other questions.

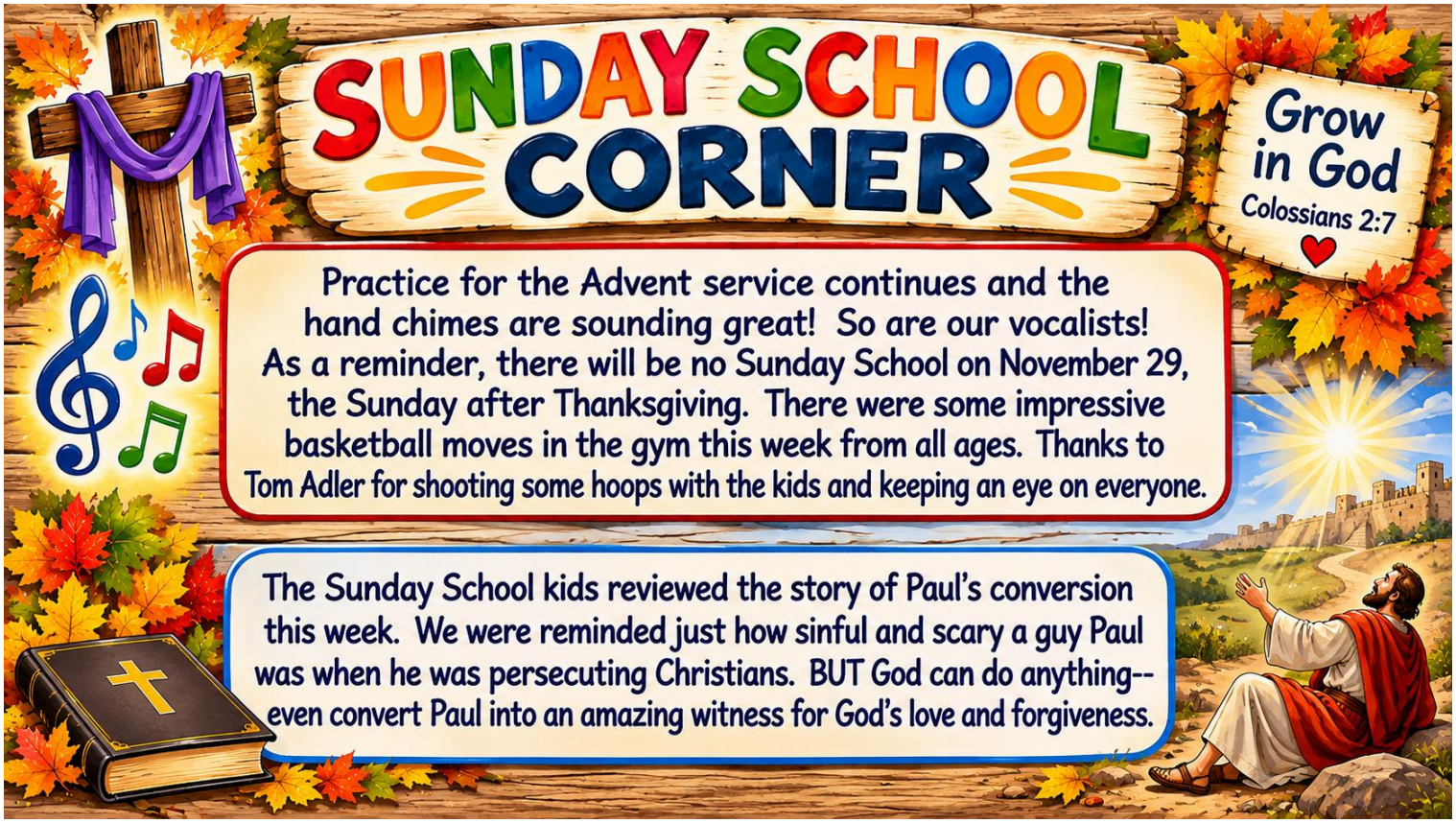
November 3, 2026 - It was a warm and pleasant evening at FOG with about 80 people coming for dinner. The diners enjoyed all eleven casseroles, tangerines, corn chips, brownies and cookies and beverages. Everyone thanked us for the food and drinks. We brought leftover Halloween candy and everyone was invited to take a few treats. Chocolate is always the favorite. A young child in a highchair appeared to appreciate the food offered, showing a big smile. In addition to the food, SPL donated blankets, a pack-n -play and protective child gates. All of these items are greatly appreciated by the church pastors and will be distributed to families. Pastor Alexander provided a message about God's protective and loving hands that surround us all. A huge thank you to those that donated food, drove to Detroit and served the meal. This is a mission that truly serves the Detroit community with much needed food and supplies.

Christmas bells are ringing and the cool weather is saying it's almost here. It's a gentle nudge to begin preparation for a very special time together, relax, enjoy your sisters in Christ, meet some new people, enjoy familiar tunes and celebrate the birth of our Savior. Ladies you and your children are invited to join us on December 6 from 2:00-4:00pm, "You Shall Call His Name Jesus", Christmas Tea. There is no charge but we need 16 ladies to prepare an appetizer or dessert. We will have a giving tree, you can bring a needed item or put money on our tree that will be used to purchase items for Detroit Street Ministry. There is a bulletin blurb for DSM already needing new men's only winter boots, pull on sizes 10, 11 & 12, handwarmers and new knit stocking caps (adult size). There is a sign up board, we want to see if you are coming and who is bringing what, so we have enough. Please sign up and plan to join us. The men will be serving. Any questions, please let me know, Sue Poole, 248.904.9080



BLAZE ~ 2027 Bible-in-a-Year Reading Group

Have you ever read through the whole Bible? Join St. Paul in our new group called "BLAZE", where we will read through the whole Bible together in 1 year. We have a daily reading schedule that you can do on your own or with family or friends, and we'll meet together on **2nd & 4th Tuesdays (starting Jan 12) @ 6:30PM in the Parish Hall**. The reading plan starts **January 1, 2027**, so be sure to get the reading schedule before then! To join the email list or see more info and resources like the reading plan, go to: biblequizzing.azurewebsites.net/Blaze


SUNDAY SCHOOL CORNER
Grow in God
Colossians 2:7
Practice for the Advent service continues and the hand chimes are sounding great! So are our vocalists! As a reminder, there will be no Sunday School on November 29, the Sunday after Thanksgiving. There were some impressive basketball moves in the gym this week from all ages. Thanks to Tom Adler for shooting some hoops with the kids and keeping an eye on everyone.
The Sunday School kids reviewed the story of Paul's conversion this week. We were reminded just how sinful and scary a guy Paul was when he was persecuting Christians. BUT God can do anything-- even convert Paul into an amazing witness for God's love and forgiveness.


Voters Meeting
- 11/22 - 10am -
between worship services
OFFICIAL BALLOT
OFFICIAL BALLOT
OFFICIAL BALLOT
OFFICIAL BALLOT


ST. PAUL YOUNG ADULTS
Christmas at the Zoo
Detroit Zoo • Wild Lights
Saturday, December 5, 2026
5:00–6:30 PM
Join us when the lights come on at 5 PM!


We need more
Sunday School
Teachers
for all age groups
Learn About Jesus
Grow in Faith
Share His Love
Please call the church office and speak with Pastor Chris for more information.
248-349-3140