

25th Sunday after Pentecost
November 19, 2023

WELL DONE,
—GOOD—
AND
faithful
SERVANT.

First Lutheran Church
116 Inner Drive
Le Sueur, MN 56058
507-665-2615

Rev. Samuel Mailleue
office@firstlutheranlesueur.org
www.firstlutheranlesueur.org

UNITED by Christ, God call us to LOVE one another
As we RECEIVE, DISCOVER and PROCLAIM God's Word.

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.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING REFLECTION

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,

we confess that we are not awake for you.

We are not faithful in using your gifts.

We forget the least of our siblings.

We do not see your beautiful image in one another.

We are infected by sin

that divides your beloved community.

Open our hearts to your coming,

open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,

open our hands to serve your creation.

Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children,

and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.
Through † Jesus you are forgiven,
by Jesus you are welcome,
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN

“Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory” ELW #890
(vs. 1 & 2)

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

ELW page 98

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.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST CHOIR

“The Light of the World”
Arr. Bessig

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING—Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

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.

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."

¹³Their wealth 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.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath,
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,
¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Word of God. Word of Life

Thanks be to God!

PSALM—Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

¹Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

**²Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were
born,
from age to age you are God.**

³You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."

**⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;**

⁵you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

**⁶in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

**⁸Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

⁹When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

**¹⁰The 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.**

¹¹Who 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.**

SECOND 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.

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

Word of God. Word of Life

Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION—Alleluia

ELW page 102

The Holy Gospel according to the twenty-fifth chapter of Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

MESSAGE

Rev. Samuel Mailleue

HYMN OF THE DAY

***“Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand”* ELW #441
(Vs. 1 & 4)**

THE APOSTLES' 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

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth's resources.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders especially those in conflict. Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. We remember before you especially the Podhradsky's, Sue Michaelis, Fred Wentzlaff and those we name in our heart.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of life and rest and for the witness of those who have died in faith we praise your goodness.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS AND TITHES

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray:

**God of all goodness,
generations have turned to you,
gathered around your table,
and shared your abundant blessings.**

**Number us among them
that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,
and give thanks for your rich blessings,
we may feast upon your very self
and care for all that you have made,
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.**

Amen.

**THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

ELW page 107

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Holy, holy, holy **ELW page 108**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

There is a place for you at the banquet.

Come and feast at Jesus' table.

Lamb of God **ELW page 112**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord Jesus,
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
Sustain us on the journey,
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts
as we meet you on the way.
Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!
The blessing of God,
Sovereign, ✝ Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.
Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" ELW #815
(Vs. 1 & 3)

DISMISSAL

Beloved of God,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

POSTLUDE

Welcome to First Lutheran Church

*Whether you are looking for a place of worship
or are just passing through, we hope our service has blessed you
on your journey as your presence has been a blessing to us.*

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanksgiving Ecumenical Worship Service—Tuesday, November 21 at 7:00pm at Zion. Please bring a dessert to share.

The FLC Youth are offering to prepare a Christmas cookie platter for a suggested donation of \$20 per platter. Each platter will contain at least 2 dozen **HOME-MADE** cookies of all different varieties. Stick them in your freezer for Christmas dinner, give them as a gift to someone special, or enjoy them right away - there will be something for everyone!

The youth will be taking orders *and your donation* before and after church on Sunday, November 26 and December 3. Cookies can be picked up at church on Sunday, December 10 between 8:30 and 10:30 am.

The donations received will help fund their trip to the 2024 ELCA Youth gathering in New Orleans. We have a goal of preparing 20 platters but would be happy to exceed that goal! Thank you for your support.

Contact Marci Greisen or Renae Sater with questions!

Adopt a Family Tags are ready.

Tags are split between the Giving Tree in the Gathering Space and an online sign up.

- Choose the gift for your shopping list and shop!
- Drop off your gifts (unwrapped) at church under the Giving Tree by Dec. 1st.
- Be sure to include the Gift # on your bag!

The Red Cross will be here on Monday, November 27 from 12-6pm. Please call 1-800-RED-CROSS to make an appointment.

Financial Update		
Week of	Amount Received	Amount Needed
11-12-2023	\$2,780	\$4,431
YTD	\$182,189	\$203,803

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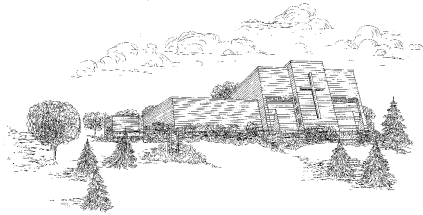
Songselect Advanced—Expires 6/30/2024

Shift Worship—Membership

Expires 12/25/2023

Sharefaith—Membership

Expires 6/2024



Weekly Schedule

Sunday, November 19	9:00a 10:00a	Worship w/Holy Communion First Choir Rehearsal
Monday, November 20	6:00p	Church Council Newsletter Deadline
Tuesday, November 21	10:00a 10:15a 7:00p	Coffee/Mary Unit Bible Study/Mary Unit Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service @ Zion UCC
Sunday, November 26	9:00a	Worship

Worship Assistants

November 19, 2023

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Ezra Carlen
Reader:	Bonnie Keech
Usher:	John Miller
Greeters:	
Communion Asst:	Joan May Ben Sullivan
Council Member:	Megan Schwarz
Fellowship:	FLC Youth
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	Bob Bartle Joan May
Altar Guild:	Rachel Wagner Edrie Barton

November 26, 2023

Organist/Pianist:	Virginia Miller
First Choir Director:	Jennifer Weick
Acolytes:	Oliver Carlen
Reader:	Rita Patrias
Usher:	LeRoy May
Greeters:	
Council Member:	Aaron Fredrickson
Fellowship:	
Projection:	Tech Team
Audio:	Tech Team
Videographer:	Becky Pollack
Offering Counters:	Dave Johnson Randy Baum
Altar Guild:	Rachel Wagner Edrie Barton