

WELCOME TO WORSHIP
Twenty-Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
November 22, 2026
9:15 AM Worship Lite

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman
Guest Preacher: Scott Geister-Jones
Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz
Lector: Ella Pavolonis **Acolyte:** Beckett Nelson
Ushers: Jill & Erik Foltz
Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.

CALL TO WORSHIP: "O Worship the King" First Class Ringers

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.
C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.
P: Holy God,
C: we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

P: Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.
C: Amen.
Stand
GATHERING SONG: "Give Me Oil in My Lamp" #158 Life Songs

vs. 1: Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning.
Give me oil in my lamp, I pray.
Give me oil in my lamp, keep me burning.
Keep me burning till the break of day.

Refrain: Sing hosanna, sing hosanna,
sing hosanna to the king of kings (2x)

vs. 2: Give me love in my heart, keep me sharing.
Give me love in my heart, I pray.
Give me love in my heart, keep me sharing.
Keep me sharing till the break of day. Refrain…

vs. 4: Give me faith in my heart, keep me praying.
Give me faith in my heart, I pray.
Give me faith in my heart, keep me praying.
Keep me praying till the break of day. Refrain…

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.

LITANY

P: You are the treasured people of the Lord,

C: a people holy to the Lord our God.

P: Keep the words of the Lord in your heart; teach them to your children.

C: Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

P: One does not live by bread alone,

C: but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

SONG OF PRAISE: "Come, All You People" #717 WOV

vs. 1: Come, all you people,
come and praise the Most High; (3x)
come now and worship the Lord.

vs. 2: Come, all you people,
come and praise the Savior; (3x)
come now and worship the Lord.

vs. 3: Come, all you people,
come and praise the Spirit; (3x)
come now and worship the Lord.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GOSPEL SONG: "Halle, Halle, Hallelujah" #172 ELW

Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Halle, halle, hallelujah.
Hallelujah. Hallelujah.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:31-46
NARRATOR: 31-33 "When he finally arrives, blazing in beauty and all his angels with him, the Son of Man will take his place on his glorious throne. Then all the nations will be arranged before him and he will sort the people out, much as a shepherd sorts out sheep and goats, putting sheep to his right and goats to his left. 34-36 "Then the King will say to those on his right,

KING(ALL): 'Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what's coming to you in this kingdom. It's been ready for you since the world's foundation. And here's why: I was hungry and you fed me, I was thirsty and you gave me a drink, I was homeless and you gave me a room, I was shivering and you gave me clothes, I was sick and you stopped to visit, I was in prison and you came to me.'

NARRATOR: 37-40 "Then those 'sheep' are going to say,

SHEEP (WOMEN AND GIRLS): 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?

NARRATOR: 'Then the King will say,

KING (ALL): 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.'

NARRATOR: 41-43 "Then he will turn to the 'goats,' the ones on his left, and say,

KING (ALL): 'Get out, worthless goats! You're good for nothing but the fires of hell. And why? Because—I was hungry and you gave me no meal, I was thirsty and you gave me no drink, I was homeless and you gave me no bed, I was shivering and you gave me no clothes, sick and in prison, and you never visited.'

NARRATOR: 44 "Then those 'goats' are going to say,

GOATS (MEN AND BOYS): 'Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry or thirsty or homeless or shivering or sick or in prison and didn't help?'

NARRATOR: [45] "He will answer them,

KING (ALL): 'I'm telling the solemn truth: Whenever you failed to do one of these things to someone who was being overlooked or ignored, that was me—you failed to do it to me.'

NARRATOR: [46] "Then those 'goats' will be herded to their eternal doom, but the 'sheep' to their eternal reward."

P: The gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.
Sit
CHILDREN'S WORD / THE WORD
Stand
SONG OF THE WORD: "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine" #774 ELW

vs. 1: What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain: Leaning, leaning, safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, leaning on the everlasting arms.

vs. 2: Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain*...

vs. 3: What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain*...

APOSTLE'S CREED

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

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

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: 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.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence

P: Gather all the nations at your side and teach them the ways of your kingdom of wholeness and abundant life. Empower judges, juries, and legal advocates to create and uphold pathways toward transformative justice. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Accompany communities struggling with conflict. Help us to listen deeply to one another, that we might know one another more fully and release any hurt or anger. Create ways of healing and reconciliation among us. God, in

your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Fill us with the spirit of wisdom and perseverance that you grant to all the saints, and bring us, at the last, into the hope of your promised new day. God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE
P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.
Sit
OFFERING SONG: "Make Me a Servant" #137 Lifesongs

Make me a servant Humble and meek.
Lord let me lift up those who are weak.
And may the prayer of my heart always be
Make me a servant. Make me a servant.
Make me a servant today.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BLESSING

P: The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.

C: Amen.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Encourage one another.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: "Blessing, Honor and Glory" Bullock & Reidy/Cool