

Are You Investing Wisely?



Faith Lutheran Church

The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod Our Mission: Faith Grows

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"Are You Investing Wisely?"

November 18 & 19, 2023

5:00 p.m., 8:00, & 11:00 a.m.

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AS WE GATHER

This Sunday and next we will consider how we should live between now and the Last Day. Our preparation for it is not a matter of simply believing correctly, for that would make our faith to be a good work. Rather, we are living in the end times, and by grace the Lord has already consecrated His guests. A Gospel-centered life means letting the Good News affect how we live in love today. Paul says we should "encourage one another and build one another up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11). 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! 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.

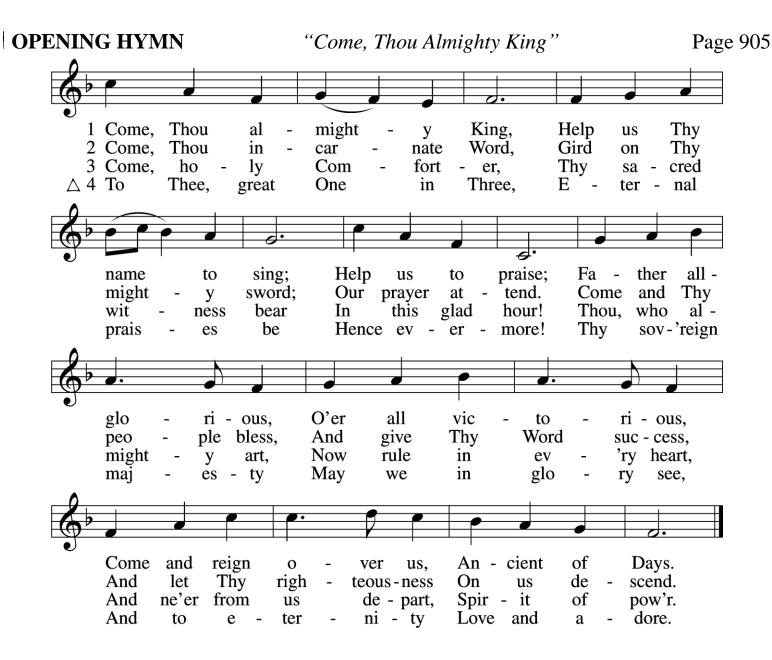
PRELUDE

"Improvisations on a Hymn"

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CHIMING OF THE TRINITY

(The congregation stands at the ringing of the bell.)



INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

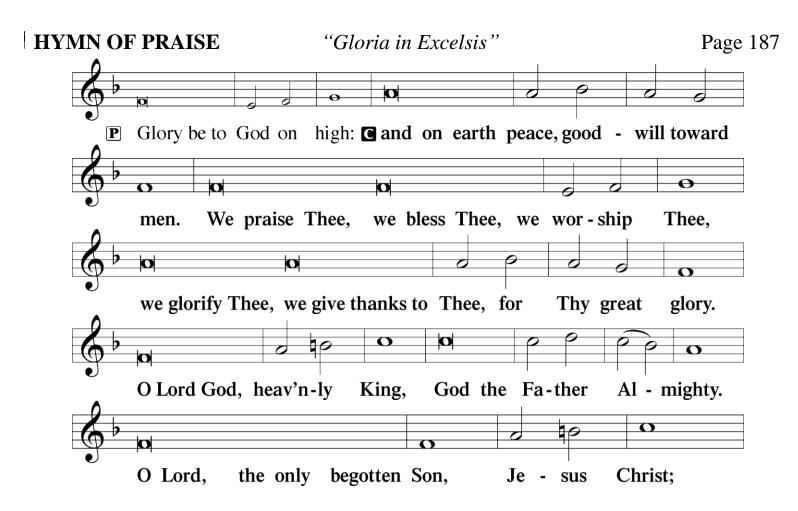
- People: Amen.
- Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,
- People: who made heaven and earth.
- Pastor: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
- **People:** and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

- Pastor: O almighty God, merciful Father,
- People: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.
- Pastor: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

The Service of the Word





SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

- Pastor: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, Your Son died for the sins of the whole world. Embolden us to share His love with everyone we meet until the day we hear His gracious blessing, "Well done, good and faithful servant"; 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

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.

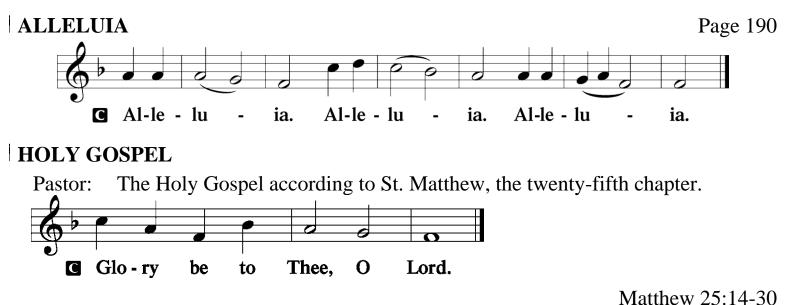
Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

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.

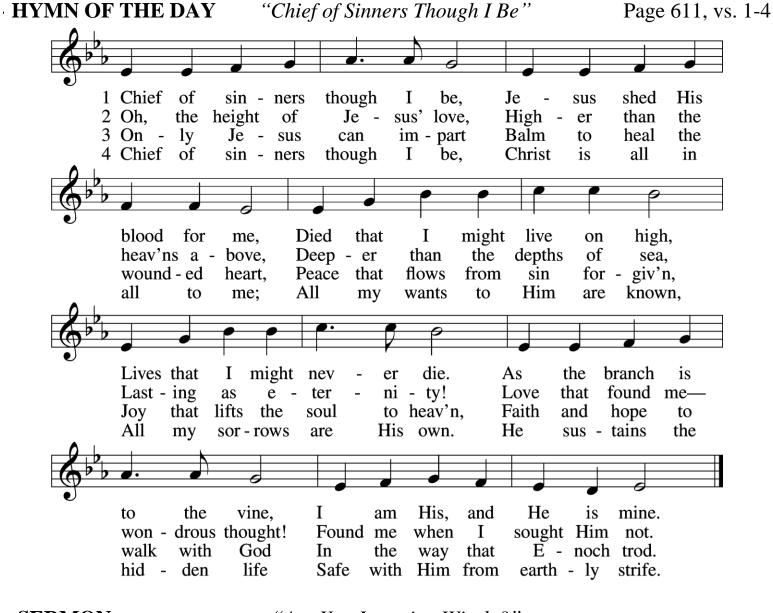
Reader: This is the Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11



"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 sown 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.""





SERMON

"Are You Investing Wisely?" Pastor Brandford Hildebrandt Text: Matthew 25:14-30

NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead; whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

OUR GIFTS AND OFFERINGS

We give Thee but Thine own, whate 'er the gift may be;All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.Prayer Requests: Please print prayer requests on the blue "Prayer" card and hand it to an usher during this time.

• OFFERTORY ANTHEMS "Great Is Thy Faithfulness" Brian L. Hanson

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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 Service of the Sacrament

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

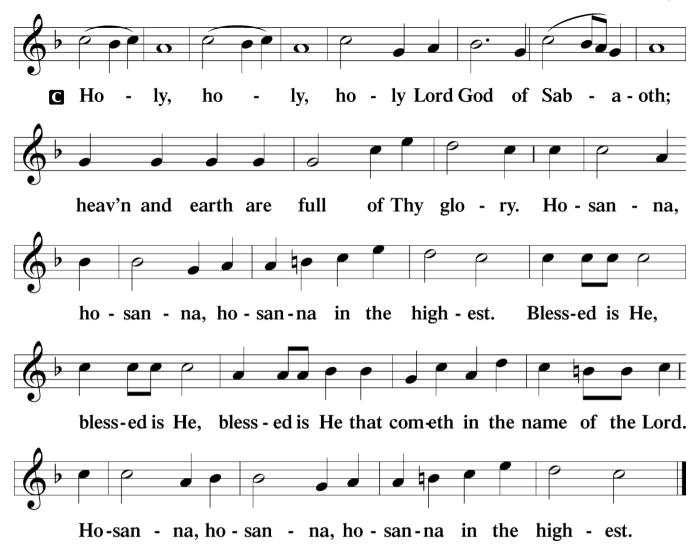
Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

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.

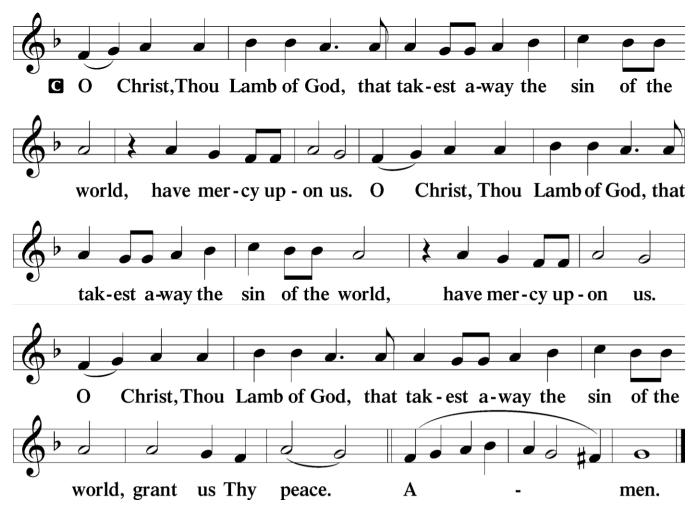
Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS



WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the 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 testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me. **AGNUS DEI**



DISTRIBUTION

(Please review our statement of faith inserted into the front of the hymnal.)

BENEDICTION

- Pastor: The LORD bless You and keep you; the LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the LORD look on you in favor and + give you peace.
- People: Amen.



POSTLUDE

INFORMATION ABOUT THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM

Thomas Chisholm, author of "*Great is Thy Faithfulness*" led a pretty ordinary life. He did not write this hymn during a period of intense grief or after encountering God in a profound way. Instead, he found truth in the words he encountered in Lamentations 3:22-23: "*Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*" Jeremiah, on the other hand, was in tumultuous circumstances when writing Lamentations. The people to whom he prophesied did not listen, and he was ostracized and completely alone because of what God called him to do. He also lamented the consequences of their faithlessness. God allowed them to be conquered by the Babylonians, resulting in their entire world being laid to waste. But in the midst of that utter devastation, Jeremiah still offers them hope on the horizon: they are not completely destroyed because of the LORD's compassion and faithfulness, and in the morning, after this "dark night of the soul," things will be better. So whether we are at a place in our lives where everything is pretty ordinary, or whether we are in a period of grief: no matter what our circumstances, God never changes and is faithful to us, sustaining us in His compassion and faithfulness each and every day.

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