





# THE REST OF THE STORY: *Loving God & Serving Others*



GOD MAY BE CALLING  
YOU BUT PROBABLY NOT  
ON YOUR CELL PHONE  
PLEASE TURN OFF YOUR CELL PHONE

## TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

19 November 2023, 10:15 am



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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.

### PRE-SERVICE MUSIC and CANDLE LIGHTING

### WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please stand as you are able.*

### OPENING SONGS

**Come, Let Us Go Up to Zion** (Based on Hebrews 12:12-24)

Gerrit Gustafson

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**Brothers and Sisters in Christ**

Terry K Dittmer

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### INVOCATION

*In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**Amen.**

### OPENING SENTENCES

*The LORD has prepared a sacrifice  
and consecrated His guests.*

*Let us encourage one another  
and build one another up.*



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*You make known to me the path of life;*

**in Your presence there is fullness of joy;**

*at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.*

**The one who endures to the end will be saved.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*O 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.**

*Please be seated.*

## **READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE**

*Please refer to the back of your service folder or to the screens overhead.*

### **OLD TESTAMENT READING: Zephaniah 1:7-16**

*"The Day of the LORD Is Near"*

Jane Goss

### **EPISTLE READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

*"Children of the Light"*

Steve Yearout

*Please stand.*

### **GOSPEL READING**

**Matthew 25:14-30**

*"The Parable of the Talents"*

Pastor Marty

### **WHAT WE BELIEVE ~ Apostles' Creed**

### **CHILDREN'S CHURCH**

Jane Goss

*(Kindergarten – 6th grade students are excused to attend Children's Church in the ANNEX)*

### **SONG OF THE DAY**

**Build Your Kingdom Here**

Chris Llewellyn, Gareth Gilkeson, William Herron

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### **MESSAGE**

*"We Are Not In Darkness"*

Pastor Marty Tyler

1 Thessalonians 5:4-5



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## *Sermon Notes*

*Focus Scripture Verse(s)*

*The Law (Shows Our Sin)*

*The Gospel (Shows Our Salvation)*

### **Main Point:**

*What Does This Mean for Me?*

### **Application:**

*How does what I learned help me share God's Good News?*



## THANKFUL GIVING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS

### **Thank you for your faithful prayers and financial support of Grace Ministries.**

Our ability to continue to serve you, the Church, and our community is greatly dependent upon the willingness of God's people to give of their time, talents and treasures. Please remember to support the LORD'S Church by regularly sending in your tithes and offerings; by mail, online at [www.GraceLutheranCC.com/Giving](http://www.GraceLutheranCC.com/Giving), or download the *GivePlus* Mobile App. As the Apostle Paul writes, "Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Corinthians 9:7). If you brought your tithe or offering with you today, you may place them in the box marked "I Bring An Offering To The Lord" sitting on the table next to the usher's station at the entrance to the sanctuary.

*Please stand.*

## OFFERTORY SONG

### **Create In Me**

Mary Rice Hopkins

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*Please be seated.*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

## REPENTANCE AND RENEWAL

*Dear friends, if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.*

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

*Let us in all honesty hear His Word again and confess our sins.*

*In silent prayer, we bring our sins to the foot of the cross.*

*The Lord has consecrated His guests,*

**but we have been more attentive to the things of this world. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us.**

*Build one another up,*

**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.**

*To everyone who has will more be given,*

**but we seldom recognize the abilities and opportunities He has given. Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us.**



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*The favor of the Lord is on you! The almighty and merciful God grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**Amen.**

### SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

**Holy Communion** is a confession of the faith whereby we profess at this altar that our Lord Jesus Christ gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Therefore, any who are not yet instructed, or who are in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, are respectfully asked to refrain from partaking in the meal and instead may come to the altar and receive a blessing, or remain in your pew during distribution, and afterwards speak with the pastor.

#### OPENING RESPONSES

*The Lord be with you.*

*2 Timothy 4:22*

**And also with you.**

*Lift up your hearts.*

*Colossians 3:1*

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

*Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.*

*Psalms 136*

**It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

*It is good, right, our privilege . . . song of praise and thanksgiving saying:*

**SANCTUS ~ Holy, Holy, Holy**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24;  
Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

**THE PEACE**

*Please be seated.*

**DISTRIBUTION SONGS**

***Change My Heart, Oh God***

*Eddie Espinosa*

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## **Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord**

LSB 637

## **Hide Me In Your Holiness**

Steve Ragsdal

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## **O Great God**

Bob Kauflin

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*Please stand.*

## **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

## **BLESSING TO DEPART**

*Please be seated.*

## **DISCIPLESHIP CHALLENGE**

Abbie Crist

- Read and meditate upon the Book of Zephaniah
- Advent Blocks and Devotion
- Encourage someone to join you for Thanksgiving Dinner
- Thanksgiving Community Dinner

## **SENDING SONG**

### **The Same Love**

Michael Rossback, Paul Baloche

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*Thank you for worshiping with us today.*

*Please join us for refreshments and conversation in the Grace Fellowship Hall.*

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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