The Twenty-Forth Sunday after Pentecost

11/08/2026

Greg Fetzer, Pastor

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P 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.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for our sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

GATHERING HYMN: ELW#710 “Let Streams of Living Justice

P From God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, grace and peace be with you all.
C **And also with you.**

HYMN OF PRAISE: ELW#838 "Beautiful Savior"

P The Lord be with you.
C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God of justice and love,
C **you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen**

FIRST READING Amos 5:18-24

L A reading from Amos: [18]Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light, [19]as if someone fled from a lion and was met by a bear or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall and was bitten by a snake. [20]Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

[21]I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.
[22]Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them, and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon.
[23]Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. [24]But let justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

L The word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 70

L [1]Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O Lord, make haste to help me.
C [2]**Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**

L [3]Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.
C [4]**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the Lord!"**

L [5]But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry.

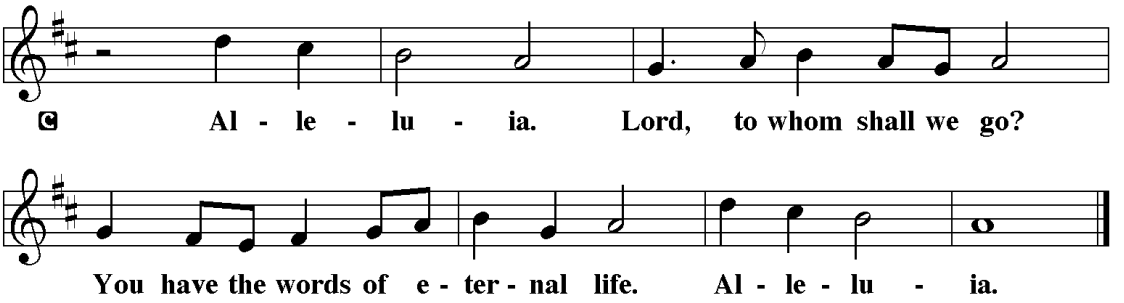
SECOND READING 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

L A reading from First Thessalonians: [13]We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. [14]For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. [15]For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. [16]For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. [17]Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will be with the Lord forever. [18]Therefore encourage one another with these words.

L The word of the Lord.

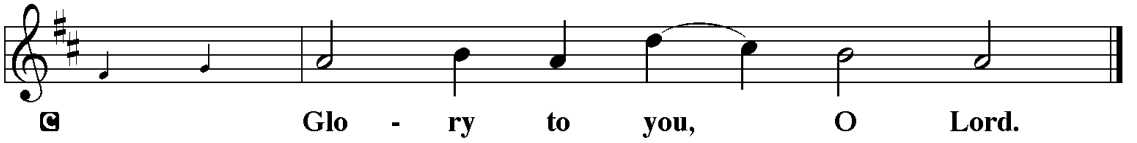
C Thanks be to God.

Please stand, as you are able.



GOSPEL READING Matthew 25:1-13

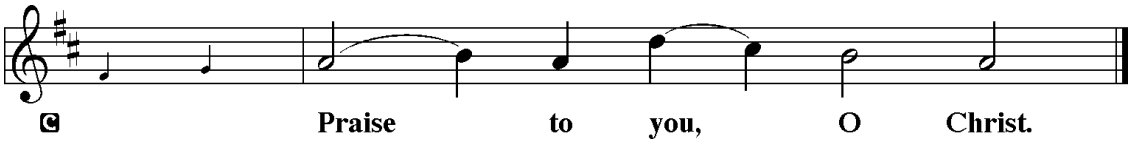
L The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.



P [Jesus said to the disciples:] [1]"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. [2]Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. [3]When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4]but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. [5]As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. [6]But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' [7]Then all those young women

got up and trimmed their lamps. [8]The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' [9]But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' [10]And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. [11]Later the other young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' [12]But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' [13]Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

P The Gospel of the Lord.



HYMN OF THE DAY: ELW#244 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

SERMON: (Sermon Audio Link)

Please stand, as you are able.

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

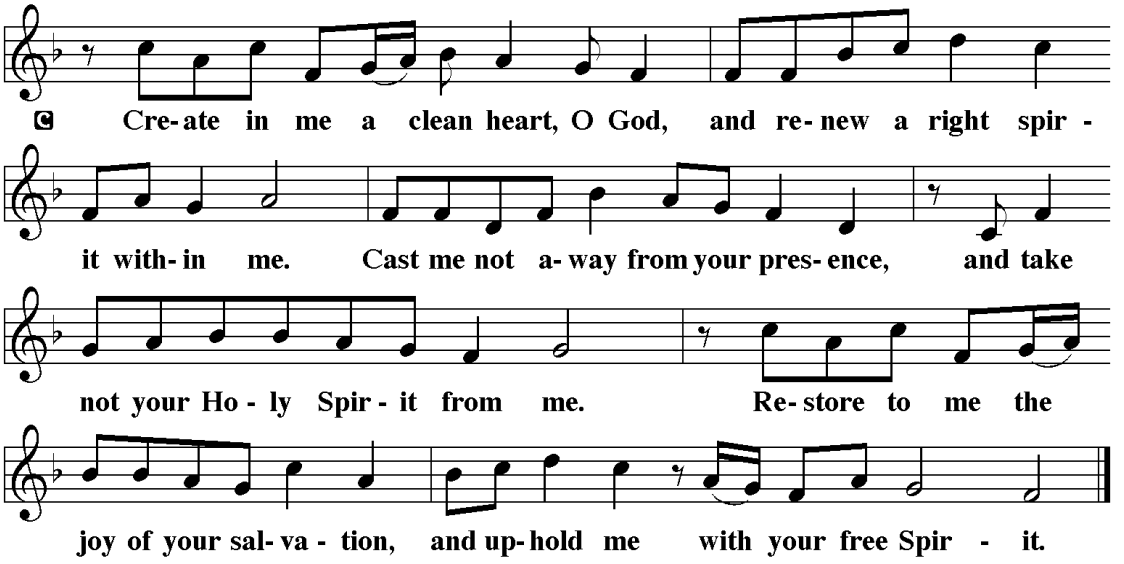
C **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

OFFERING*: (On-Line giving Link)

The Offering is received and is presented at the altar.



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

A brief silence.

L You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict. Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. We pray for Barbara Ash, Heidi Brackbill, Rebecca Brennan, the Elshafei family, Jeff Fultz, Bob Hardy, Mark Hughes, Charlotte Leer, John McCarthy, Wendy Neumann, Rick Newman, Peter Olsen, Kessa Rome, Claudia Schober, Esther Trautwein, and Pastor Jack. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

L For whom or what else shall we pray?

- For all those affected by war and armed conflict around the world, especially in Iran, Gaza, Ethiopia, Syria, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Ukraine, and Myanmar…

- For elections, political transitions, and for all who hold political office…

- For the families of those killed in the Florida Learjet crash…

- For ongoing protests and demonstrations around the world…

- For energy infrastructure concerns in Sudan…

- For political stability in Poland…

- For support for all facing mental health challenges, especially postpartum depression…

- For those impacted by flooding in Florida and California…

L You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. God, in your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

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

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
C **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**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
C **Amen**

SENDING HYMN ELW#810 "O Jesus, I Have Promised"

P Go in peace. Love and serve God and neighbor.
C **Thanks be to God.**

*Offering to be sent to
Robert Brackbill

10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church
9122 Sybert Drive
Columbia Hills
Ellicott City, MD 21043
https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291

ANNOUNCEMENTS and Upcoming Events

- Sunday, November 22, after the service - Annual Congregational Meeting
- Nativity Village to open on Sun, Nov. 29 after the service (1st Sunday of Advent)
- Saturday, Dec. 5 3:30 pm - Putting up the greens
- Saturday, Dec. 5 5:00 pm - Family Craft Night

READER SCHEDULE

11-Oct	Ron
18-Oct	Julie and Dave
25-Oct	Greg

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB173567. New Revised Standard Version Bible, Copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.