THE LAST SUNDAY IN THE CHURCH YEAR
November 22, 2026
"Prepared for Heaven"

THE WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN #525 *"Crown Him with Many Crowns"*



(please stand)

THE INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.
P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C: Who made heaven and earth.
P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin. *(Psalm 124:8)*

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, who has given Your only-begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us forgiveness for all our sins; and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, to the end that by Your grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His 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. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

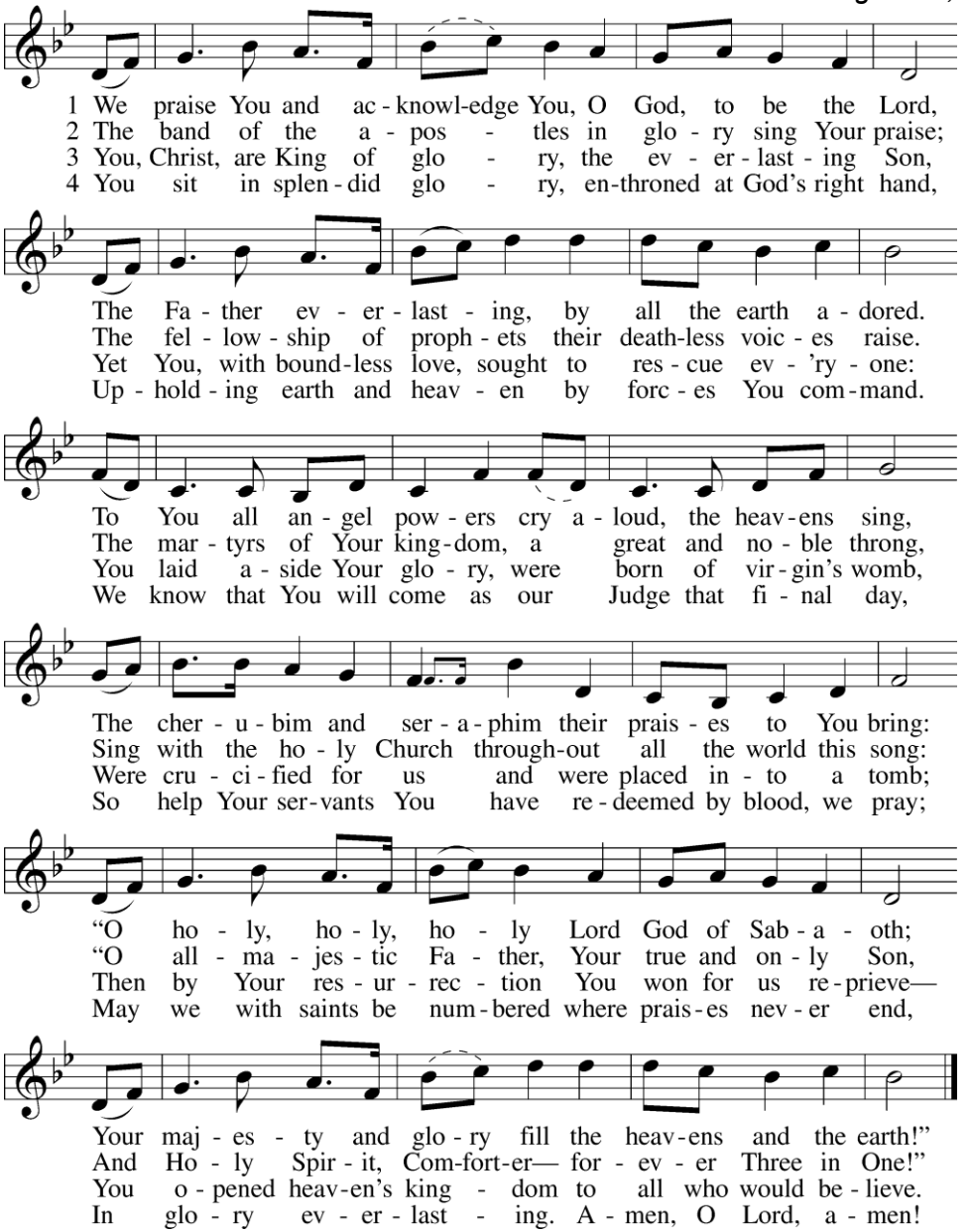
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THE INTROIT Psalm 39:4–5, 7–8, 12a (ESV); *antiphon: 2 Peter 3:13(NIV)*



In keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a | new earth,*
the home of | righteousness.
O Lord, make me know my end and what is the measure | of my days;*
let me know how fleeting | I am!
Behold, You have made my days a few | handbreadths,*
and my lifetime is as nothing be- | fore You.
And now, O Lord, for what | do I wait?*
My hope | is in You.
Deliver me from all my trans- | gressions.*
Do not make me the scorn | of the fool!
Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; hold not Your peace | at my tears!*
For I am a sojourner with You, a guest, like all my | fathers.
Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
In keeping with His promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a | new earth,*
the home of | righteousness.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE #941 *"We Praise You and Acknowledge You, O God"*



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THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Eternal God, merciful Father, You have appointed Your Son as judge of the living and the dead. Enable us to wait for the day of His return with our eyes fixed on the kingdom prepared for Your own from the foundation of the world; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24 (ESV)

"For thus says the Lord GOD: Behold, I, I Myself will search for My sheep and will seek them out. As a shepherd seeks out his flock when he is among his sheep that have been scattered, so will I seek out My sheep, and I will rescue them from all places where they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. And I will bring them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries, and will bring them into their own land. And I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the ravines, and in all the inhabited places of the country. I will feed them with good pasture, and on the mountain heights of Israel shall be their grazing land. There they shall lie down in good grazing land, and on rich pasture they shall feed on the mountains of Israel. I Myself will be the shepherd of My sheep, and I Myself will make them lie down, declares the Lord GOD. I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice. Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD to them: Behold, I, I Myself will judge between the fat sheep and the lean sheep. Because you push with side and shoulder, and thrust at all the weak with your horns, till you have scattered them abroad, I will rescue My flock; they shall no longer be a prey. And I will judge between sheep and sheep. And I will set up over them one Shepherd, My Servant David, and He shall feed them: He shall feed them and be their Shepherd. And I, the LORD, will be their God, and My Servant David shall be Prince among them. I am the LORD; I have spoken."

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE 1 Corinthians 15:20–28 (ESV)

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at His coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. For "God has put all things in subjection under His feet." But when it says, "all things are put in subjection," it is plain that He is excepted who put all things in subjection under Him. When all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subjected to Him who put all things in subjection under Him, that God may be all in all.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

THE ALLELUIA AND VERSE *(page 205 in the hymnal)*

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25:31-46 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the twenty-fifth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. Before Him will be gathered all the nations, and He will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. And He will place the sheep on His right, but the goats on the left. Then the King will say to those on His right, 'Come, you who are blessed by My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave Me food, I was thirsty and you gave Me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed Me, I was naked and you clothed Me, I was sick and you visited Me, I was in prison and you came to Me.' Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? And when did we see You a stranger and welcome You, or naked and clothe You? And when did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?' And the King will answer them, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these My brothers, you did it to Me.' Then He will say to those on His left, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels. For I was hungry and you gave Me no food, I was thirsty and you gave Me no drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome Me, naked and you did not clothe Me, sick and in prison and you did not visit Me.' Then they also will answer, saying, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to You?' Then He will answer them, saying, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me.' And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.
And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

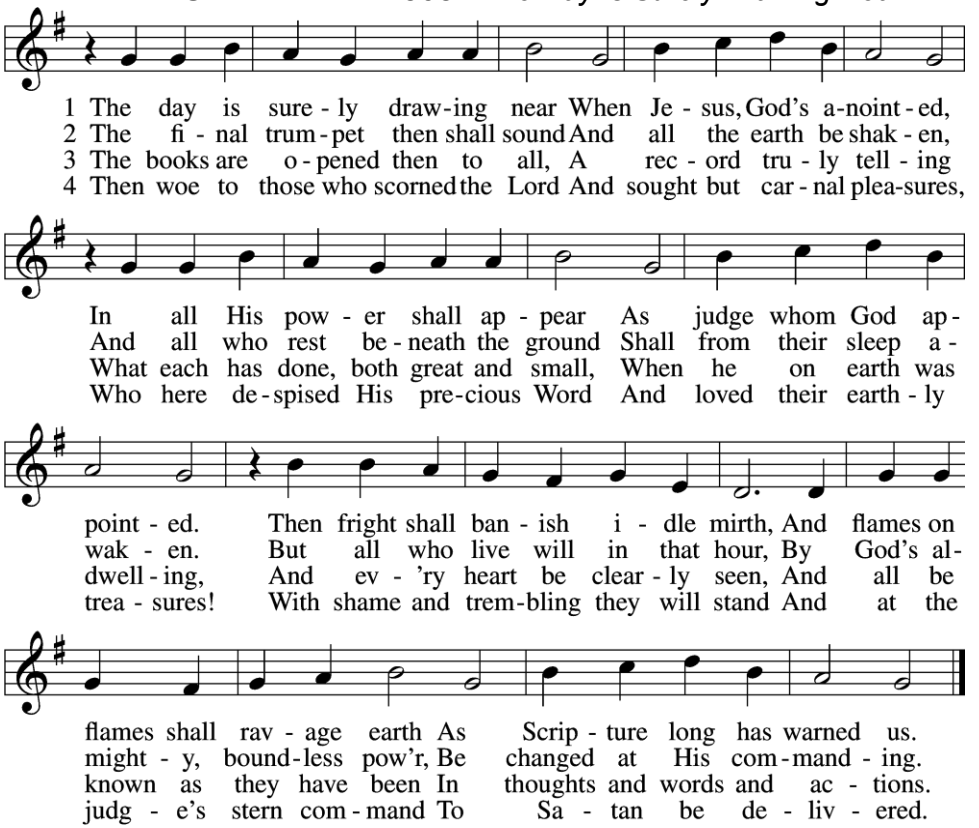
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THE MEMORY VERSE *The 10th Commandment & What does this mean?* from Luther's Small Catechism

You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor. *What does this mean?* We should fear and love God so that we do not entice or force away our neighbor's wife, workers, or animals, or turn them against him, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #508 *"The Day Is Surely Drawing Near"*



5 My Savior paid the debt I owe
And for my sin was smitten;
Within the Book of Life I know
My name has now been written.
I will not doubt, for I am free,
And Satan cannot threaten me;
There is no condemnation!

6 May Christ our intercessor be
And through His blood and merit
Read from His book that we are free
With all who life inherit.
Then we shall see Him face to face,
With all His saints in that blest place
Which He has purchased for us.

7 O Jesus Christ, do not delay,
But hasten our salvation;
We often tremble on our way
In fear and tribulation.
O hear and grant our fervent plea:
Come, mighty judge, and set us free
From death and ev'ry evil.

THE SERMON *"Prepared for Heaven"* Text: Matthew 25:31-46

(please stand)

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS *(pages 192-193 in the hymnal)*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Amen.

THE RECEIVING OF NEW MEMBERS *(Sunday)*

Darin, Toni, Grace and Hope Specketer
Larissa, Rhett, Lux and Atlee Clausen
Jacob and Carissa Kluver

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

*(Each petition concludes with the response: "*Lord, in Your mercy:" **"hear our prayer.***")*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

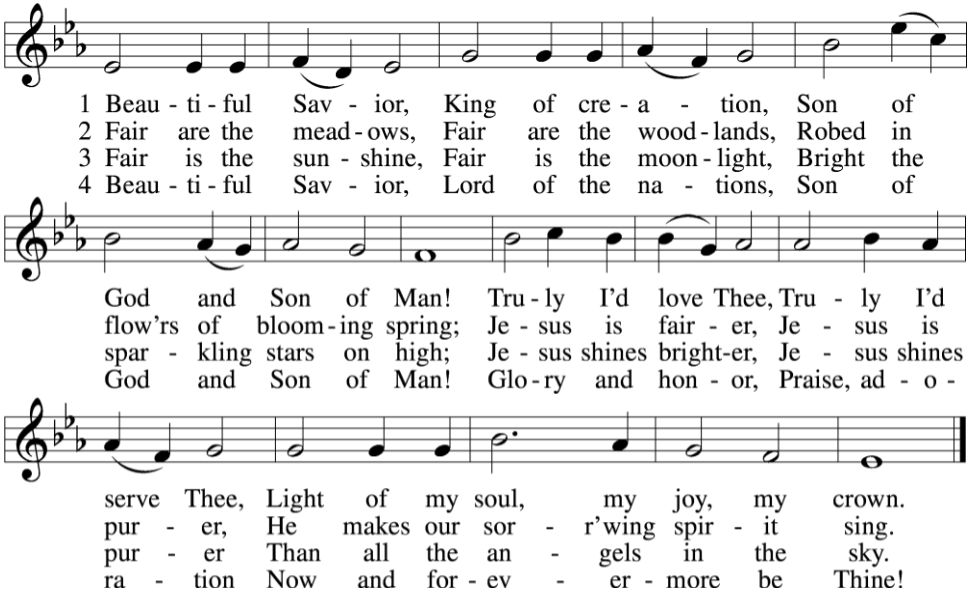
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✠ give you peace.
C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE CLOSING HYMN #537 *"Beautiful Savior"*



THE ANNOUNCEMENTS