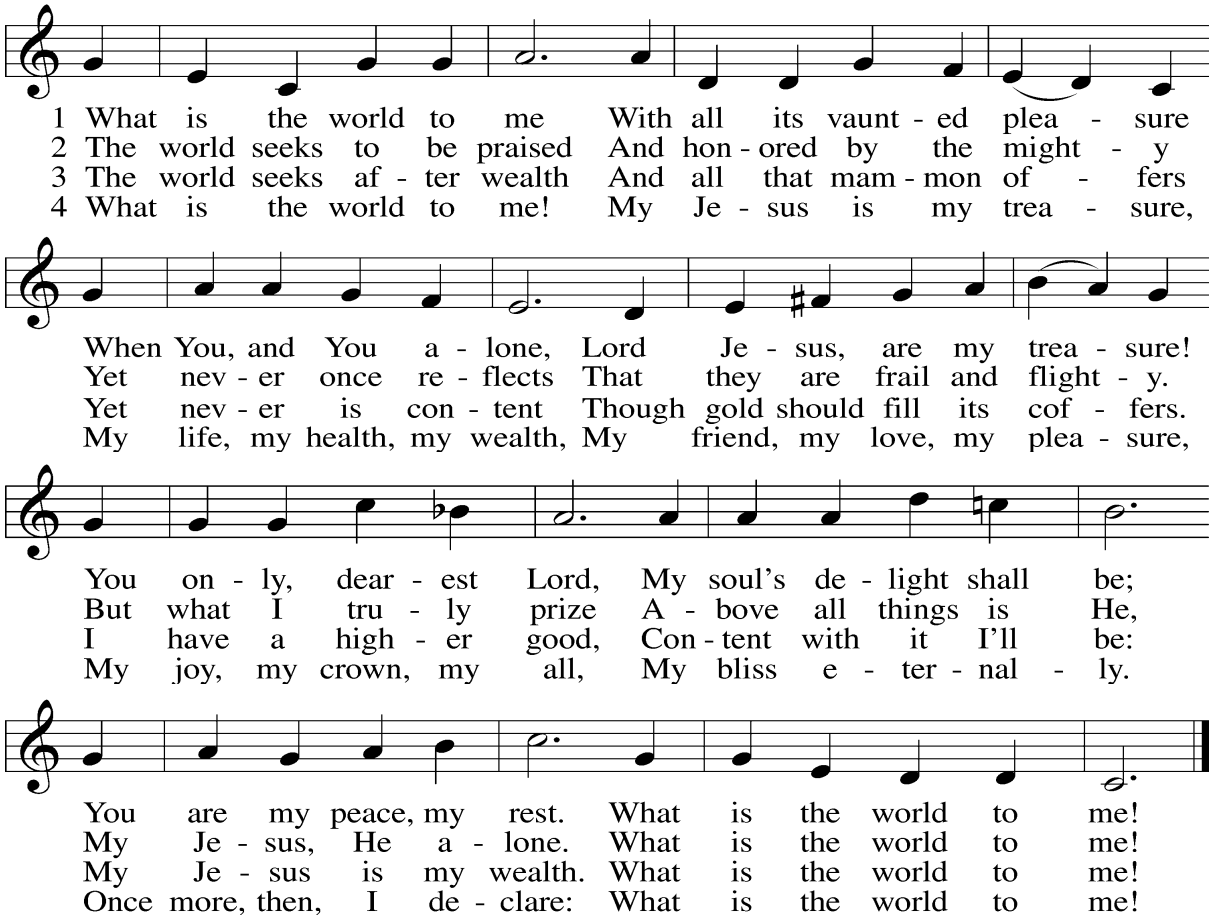
Pastor's Bible Class

November 15, 2026

The Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost – Proper 28

#730 "What Is the World to Me"



Read Zephaniah 1:7-16

1. Like Jeremiah, the prophet Zephaniah proclaimed a message of judgment to the people of Jerusalem and Judah. What do verses 4-6 say about the reason for this stern message?

2. The text opens with the command to "Be silent before the Sovereign Lord" (1:7). Using Romans 3:19 as a guide, what function does Zephaniah's message serve?

3. The phrase "the Day of the Lord" is used throughout the Bible. To what event does this title usually point? See II Peter 3:10.

4. In this reading, Zephaniah points to a "sacrifice" prepared by the Lord. What will be the result of this sacrifice? See verse 8.

5. In what ways is our culture like the one described in verse 12?

6. What is the main message of this text?

Read Matthew 25:14-30

7. In verse 14, Jesus refers to a previous teaching which this parable is meant to further explain. What is that previous teaching? See Matthew 25:1 and 13.

8. In the parable, what determines the gifts apportioned to the three stewards? See also I Corinthians 12:7-11.

9. What is the significance and value of a "talent" and what does this have to do with "the kingdom of God?"

10. How are the gifts from the master received?

11. How is the master received by the servants upon his return?

12. Read I Thessalonians 5:1-11 (this week's epistle reading). How does Paul speak of the return of Master in these verses? Contrast this with the master's words to the third servant in verses 26-27.

13. What is the Gospel in this text?

Devotional Thought (from The Lutheran Study Bible)
Our relationship to God and the world is one of stewardship. We are to use everything entrusted to us in such a way that it benefits God's kingdom. Though modern people often have far more material and technological means than any previous generation, they often use these tools selfishly. An unfailing promise attaches to faithful stewardship: if we use the things entrusted to us for God and His purposes, we will be blessed here and in heaven (TLSB, 1976).

Prayer
O generous Lord, grant that we may remain faithful in our stewardship of Your gifts and always ready for Your return. Amen.