St. Paul's Lutheran CHURCH & SCHOOL | Precious Lambs PRESCHOOL

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Find us online!

Website | stpauls.edu
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School Facebook | stpaulsbeverlyhills
YouTube |@StPaulsBeverlyHills
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St. Paul's LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 15, 2026
Twenty-Fifth
Sunday after Pentecost



It's Time to Put Your Affairs in Order

Welcome to honored guests and St. Paul's family alike!

In our service we gather before our almighty God to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to be strengthened through the study of God's holy and powerful Word, and through the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Restrooms and a drinking fountain are located on the right in the hallway outside the sanctuary.

We have **personal hearing devices**. If you need one, please let an usher know before the service.

Our worship is designed for your whole family. Find children's busy bags, a book that teaches young children about worship, children's bulletins, and children's worship note sheets on the cart near the central sanctuary doors.

God loves the sound of children in worship, and so do we! If you need to step out of worship for a moment, we have a **family room** located through the door in the back of the fellowship hall. The facility includes a TV, a window, and speakers so that you can still follow along with the worship service.

If you do not have a church home, we would love to talk with you about how we can serve you with the Gospel and make here your home!

Today's service begins on page 4

Our congregation

St. Paul's Lutheran Church is a family. As a family, we **gather** together around God's Word in church and in Bible classes. We have a school where children can **grow** in their relationship with our Heavenly Father and where we can **go** to share the love of Jesus with them.

If you would like to learn more about our church family or our church, school, and preschool can serve you, please speak with our pastor, principal, preschool director, faculty, or one of our members.

Our Synod

St. Paul's belongs to the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS), congregations united in faith and in desire to serve everyone we can with the truth of God's saving Word. To learn more, visit wels.net or ask a pastor.

Our worship

We gather for worship Sundays at 9:30 am and for children's and adult Bible study about ten minutes after worship.

Our Christian Stewardship of God's Gifts

preacher & *presiding minister* | **Tim Rosenow**
accompanists | **Noah Uhlenbrauck and Hannah Rux**
ushers | **Newton & Rochelle Trimmer**
worship streaming tech | **Bill Hoeltke**
flowers | **Lorene Seidenstucker** (birthday) **&**
Gary and Sheri Warren (birthday for Mark and Merry)

last Sunday's worship attendance | 189
freewill offering | $2,909

Let's pray! This week, we offer special prayers for…

birthdays | **Lorene Seidenstucker** (11-16) | **Jim Kohrs** (11-18) | **Aria Myers** (11-18 | 1 year old!) | **Debora Brito** (11-20)

anniversaries | (none this week)

homebound members | **Dave Brandt, Sharon Cummons, Leon and Barbara Johnson, Susan Rammel, Kathy Saracione, Josephine Throo,** and **Paula Vitolo**

health | **David Assumpcao** (brother of Debra Brito, cancer); **Jim Teller** (surgery recovery); **Carole Chapman** (recovering from surgery at home); **Kris Christie** (mother of Karl, continued recovery); **Denise Costa** (mother of 1st grade student); **Liesse Foley** (mother of Hannah, health complications); **Mark Hasenjager** (brother of David, terminal brain cancer); **Nancy Kohrs** (recovering from surgery); **Brenda Rivers** (recovery from surgery); **Barbara Sadler, Kathy Babcock** (Barbara's daughter), and **Kathy's daughters** (genetic health issues); **Nancy Scruton** (recovery); **Lorene Seidenstucker** (undergoing cancer treatment)

This Week | November 22nd – 28th

MON | BIC 6:00 PM
WED | Kingsway Bible study 10:00 AM | Choir 6:30 PM
THU | BIC 5:00 PM
FRI | Chapel 8:30 AM | PreK-K Thanksgiving feast
SAT | Women's Bible Study 10:00 AM

Upcoming events

Nov 23-27 | NO SCHOOL (Thanksgiving break)
Nov 25 | Thanksgiving Eve service 6 PM | FEAT pie social to follow
Dec 2 | Midweek Advent service 6 PM

Our worship series | The beginning of the end

Jesus himself makes clear that no one knows the day or hour of his return. This uncertainty is not meant to trouble us, but to keep us spiritually awake. Each day becomes an opportunity to live in repentance and faith, turning from sin and trusting fully in Christ's finished work for us.

Our preparation for the end is not about trying to predict signs or earn God's favor. Instead, it is about remaining rooted in Jesus: hearing the word, receiving the sacraments, and trusting the promises of forgiveness. These are God's ways of keeping us ready.

"The Beginning of the End" reminds us that history is moving toward our own death and Christ's return. For believers that end is truly a beginning.

Today's worship theme | Put your affairs in order

When you know that your death is approaching, you try to put your affairs in order for the sake of others. When you know that the second coming of Christ is approaching, what is the appropriate response? We are not to be sedentary. Jesus has not returned yet because there is still work to be done. And Jesus carries out his good work through us. So until he comes again and says, "Stop!" we will be busy with faithful service. It's the beginning of the end, and we use our gifts and talents in an orderly way for God's glory.

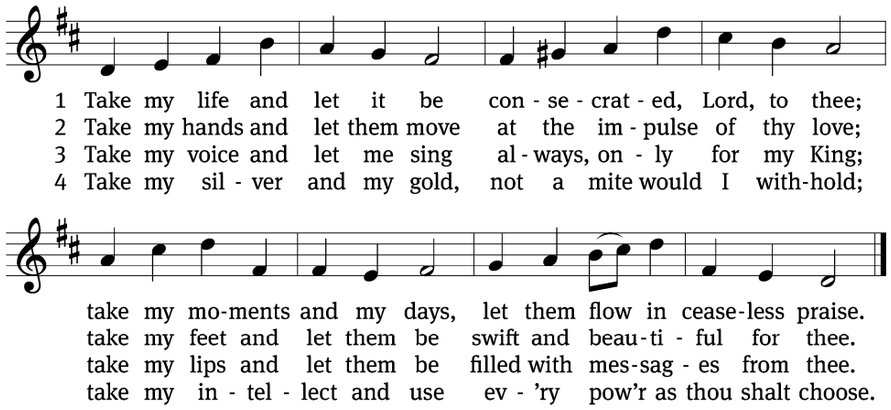
Our prayer before worship | to prepare for the end with faithful service

God of glory, eternal King, help us to recognize the signs of the end times around us and to live each day with the realization that it could be the Last Day. Move us to hate what is evil and cling to what is good. Keep us zealous in your service, joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer, so that when that day comes, we will be among those looking up to see our Savior coming in the clouds. In his name we pray, Amen.

Take My Life and Let It Be

CW 695 sts. 1–4

The place to have all our affairs ordered—lives, hands, voices, and wealth—is in the hands of the Lord.



Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879
Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870
Text and tune: Public domain

Invocation

P(residing minister) | In the name of the Father, and of the Son (+), and of the Holy Spirit.
C(ongregation) | Amen.

P | Dear Friends in Christ, the Bible says, "If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, *God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness*" (I John 1:8-9). Therefore, as we gather together for worship in the presence of God, together we pray, humbly confessing our sins and asking for his forgiveness.
C | O Lord, hear my prayer, listen to my cry for mercy, and in your faithfulness, come to my relief. Do not bring your servant into judgment, for no one living is righteous before you. Answer me quickly, O Lord; my spirit fails. Do not hide your face from me, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul. Teach me to do your will, for you are my God.

Brief silence for meditation

Financial snapshot

As part of our increased financial communication plan, we are providing regular updates on fiscal year-to-date numbers of ministry income and expenses and how they compare to our fiscal year budget numbers. It is important to note that we do not anticipate either actual income or actual expenses to be the same every month, most notably due to irregular receipts from Florida's Step Up For Students grant monies for our school students. What stays the same every month: **God graciously provides** for our ministry through member offerings, **we give thanks** for his grace which he richly showers on us, and **we prayerfully consider** how we can support our Gospel ministry with our offerings!

Envelope offerings | $71,572	*Budgeted* | $80,000
Fiscal year-to-date income | $398,454	*Budgeted* | $448,496
Fiscal year to date expenses | $571,453	*Budgeted* | $571,042

Note: financial numbers are available at any time upon request.

Thankful hearts and hands and voices

On Wednesday, **November 25** at 6 PM we will have a special Thanksgiving Eve service offering our praise and thanks to God for some of the countless blessings he continues to pour out on us. Please join us for this festive evening, as well as for the FEAT-hosted pie social that will follow.

Christmas is coming

Sunday, November 29 will be our first service in the season of Advent. Following our annual tradition, we will take some time after that service to decorate the sanctuary and fellowship areas for the coming Christmas season. Decorators of all ages are welcome to help out (though we won't let everyone use the ladders…).

Mark your calendars…

Sunday, **December 13** we will have our annual Christmas caroling and chili cookoff, led by FEAT. More information will be coming in the weeks ahead.

+ Ministry Notes +

Our good day in God's house continues after worship, too.

Our after-worship adult Bible Class time is a great time for good Christian encouragement as we **grow** in the Word together and take time to pray for one another. Today Pastor Tim will conclude our *Wise Worship Whys* with a study of the church year. Sunday School for the children will take place at the same time.

Thank you | Veterans' food drive

A heartfelt thank you to all who helped contribute to the veterans' food drive! We are blessed to be able to help out those who used their abilities to help protect us and the freedoms we enjoy.

Next divine call meeting

Next **Sunday, November 22**, we will have our next call meeting following the service. We will again have a list for a 3rd grade teacher.

Council of Ministry notes

- The Site Plan Committee has begun their work, examined the campus, and identified areas of concern. This group will begin and maintain a list that will have pertinent information regarding installations and repairs, warranties, including any contact information and relevant dates.
- The (dry rot) damage above the fellowship hall was not covered by insurance. Council is going to be receiving several bids from contractors who can replace the damaged wood, repair the roof leaks, and potentially move the air conditioning units to the ground. Once those have been received, a more concrete plan of action will be discussed and implemented.
- Several annual, procedural actions were approved (including setting the meeting calendar, housing allowance allocations for called workers, and health insurance coverage for 2027, and identifying which council positions are up for election [Dan Cerney and Andrew Welfel]).

An opportunity to help

Patti Bussinger is coordinating with Dana Eynon to prepare some Thanksgiving meals for some families in need. If you would like to contribute to help defray the costs, please use the special envelopes in the gathering area.

P | We confess:

C | Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner, confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, my words, and my actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them. I humbly ask for your forgiveness.

Lord, to You I Make Confession

CW 653 st. 1



Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

P | Jesus says to his people, "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven." His death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world. Do you believe this?

C | Yes, I believe.

Lord, to You I Make Confession

CW 653 st. 4



Text: Johann Franck, 1618–1677, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662, alt.
Text and tune: Public domain

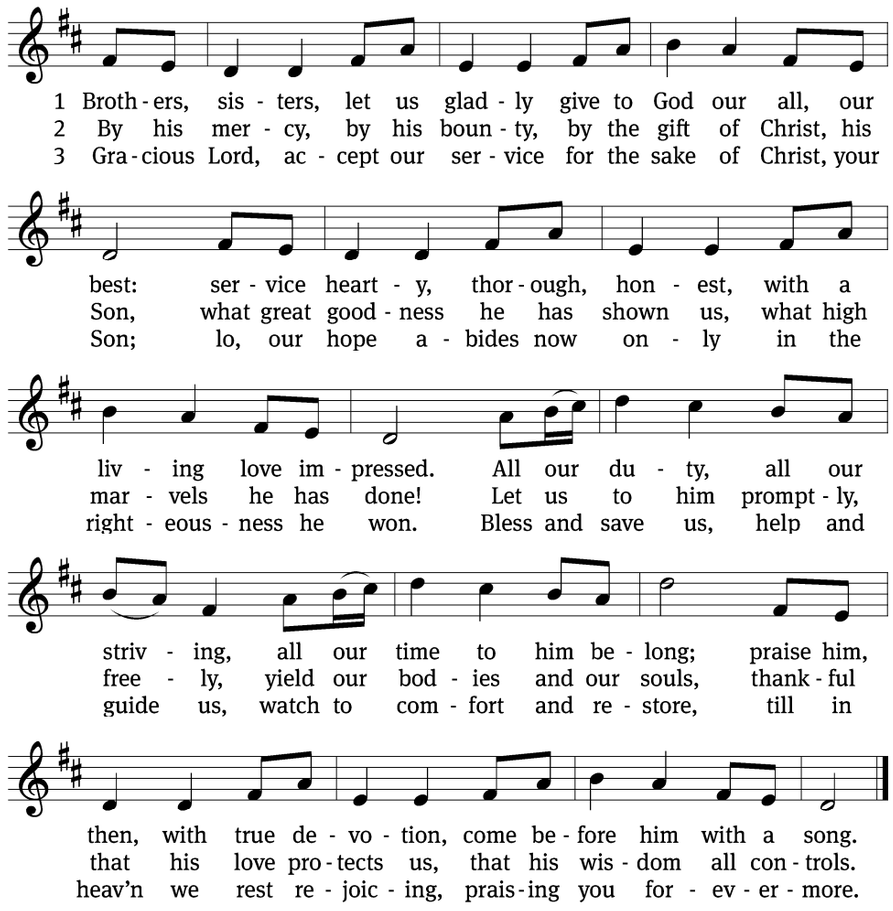
P | Because of the promise of our Savior, Jesus, I forgive all your sins. Be assured that you are a redeemed child of God, bought with the blood of Jesus Christ. "The blood of Jesus purifies us from all our sins" (I John 1:7). With your sins forgiven, know that you are an heir of eternal life. We pray together:

C | O Lord, my God, I called to you for help, and you answered me. I thank you for the love you have shown me in Jesus Christ, my Savior. Through him you have rescued me from the guilt of my sin and given me the peace of forgiveness. Help me fight against temptation, correct whatever wrongs I can, and serve you and those around me with love and good works. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.

Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly

CW 748

God uses our glad service to one another for his praise and to preserve the lives of our spiritual siblings.



Text: Henry Bateman, 1802–1872 Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, Harrisburg, 1813, ed. John Wyeth Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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Prayer of the Church

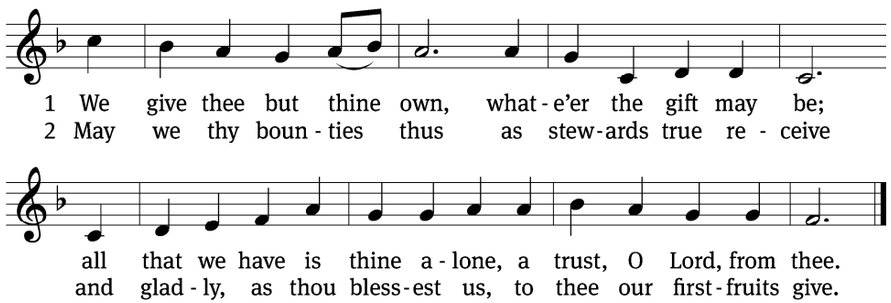
Lord's Prayer

C | Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

We Give Thee but Thine Own

CW 750

All that we give—all that we <u>can</u> give—is already the Lord's. We return it gladly from the heart.



Text: William W. How, 1823–1897, abr. Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–1889 Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer

C | Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

P | May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ…The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. (I Thessalonians 5:23, 28)
C | And also with you. Amen.

Take My Life and Let It Be

CW 695 sts. 5–6

With our lives properly ordered, we render to God the honor and love that he has so richly shown us.



Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879
Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870
Text and tune: Public domain

The Word

Salutation

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

Prayer of the Day

P | Let us pray: Lord God Almighty, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that we may always look forward to the end of this present evil age and the day of your righteous judgment. Keep us steadfast in true and living faith, and present us at last holy and blameless before you; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
C | Amen.

First Reading

Isaiah 1:10–18

Even though Old Testament Israel only grudgingly served the Lord, God remained faithful to his promises.

10 Hear the word of the LORD, you rulers of Sodom!
Listen to the law of our God, you people of Gomorrah!
11 What do your many sacrifices mean to me? says the LORD.
I have more than enough rams as burnt offerings
and enough fat from well-fed animals.
I am not pleased with the blood of bulls or the blood of lambs and male goats.
12 When you come to appear before me, who has asked for this from your hands:
this trampling on my courts?
13 Stop bringing worthless offerings!
Your incense is an abomination to me.
I cannot stand your sinful assemblies on the new moons, Sabbaths, and holy days.
14 Deep in my soul I hate your new moons and your appointed feasts.
They have become a burden to me. I am tired of putting up with them.
15 When you spread out your hands, I will hide my eyes from you.
Indeed, even though you make many prayers, I will not hear.
Your hands are full of blood.

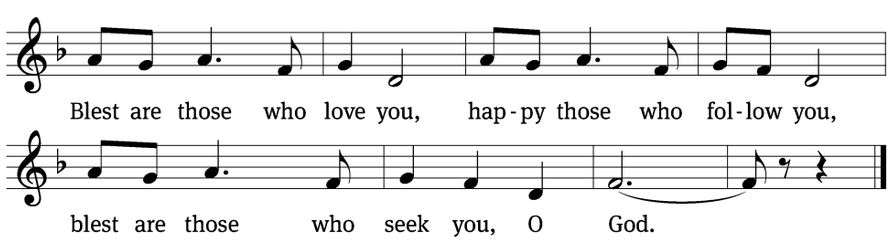
16 Wash yourselves. Purify yourselves.
Remove your evil deeds from my sight.
Stop doing evil.
17 Learn to do good. Seek justice.
Relieve the oppressed.
Seek justice for the fatherless.
Plead for the widow.

18 Come now, and let us reason together, says the LORD.
Though your sins are like scarlet, they will be as white as snow.
Though they are as red as crimson, they will be like wool.

P | The Word of the Lord.
C | Thanks be to God.

Psalm of the Day | Blest Are Those

Psalm 128B



Apostles' Creed

C | I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

I believe 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From there 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.

Offering

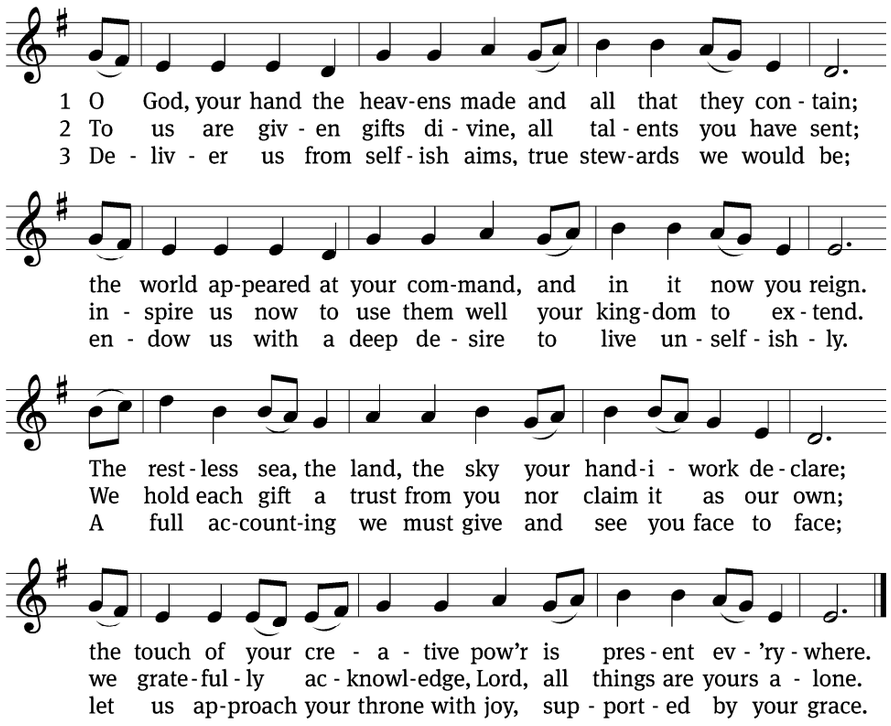
***To our honored guests**: We're happy that you're with us to hear about God's love for you today! Our offering is not a debt we owe God but a way that we return to God a portion of what he generously gave to us. Our motivation, then, is not obligation but love for God. Our offerings are how St. Paul's funds our Gospel mission work. As our honored guests, please do not feel obligated to contribute.*

*If you would like to support our Gospel ministry with an offering, you have options! Place your offering in **the offering plate** in our gathering space as you leave worship today, **mail an offering** to our church anytime, or go to **stpauls.edu** or **scan this QR** code to give an offering online.*

O God, Your Hand the Heavens Made

CW 751

We use what God has given as a trust, a gift of his grace to bring him glory and good for our neighbors.



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Sermon

Matthew 25:14-30

How Then Should We Live?

Questions to consider during the sermon |

- What's the difference between a talent and a mina?
- Why is the target audience of this parable so important?
- What is most shocking about the contemptuous one-talent servant?
- Is anyone really a "good and faithful servant"?
- Why does the phrase "After a long time" present such a struggle?
- How then should we live?

Verse

1 Hap - py all those who fear the LORD, and
walk in God's path - way. You will find what you
long for— the rich - es of our God. *Refrain*

Verse

2 Your spouse shall be like a fruit - ful vine in the
midst of your home, your chil - dren flour - ish like
ol - ive plants re - joic - ing at your ta - ble. *Refrain*

Verse

3 May the bless - ings of God be yours all the
days of your life; may the peace and the
love of God live al - ways in your heart. *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen Tune: Marty Haugen Text and tune: © 1987 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 715833

Second Reading

Romans 12:1–8

With God's mercy in view, we use God's gifts faithfully in joyful response.

1 Therefore I urge you, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living
sacrifice—holy and pleasing to God—which is your appropriate worship. 2 Also, do not
continue to conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewal of
your mind, so that you test and approve what is the will of God—what is good, pleasing,
and perfect.
3 So by the grace given to me, I tell everyone among you not to think of yourself more
highly than you ought, but think in a way that results in sound judgment, as God
distributed a measure of faith to each of you. 4 For we have many members in one body,
and not all the members have the same function. 5 In the same way, though we are many,
we are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another.
6 We have different gifts, according to the grace God has given us. If the gift is prophecy,
do it in complete agreement with the faith. 7 If it is serving, then serve. If it is teaching,
then teach. 8 If it is encouraging, then encourage. If it is contributing, be generous. If it is
leadership, be diligent. If it is showing mercy, do it cheerfully.

P | The Word of the Lord.
C | Thanks be to God.

Children's Devotion

Such a Precious Gift

Gospel Acclamation

Revelation 2:10

P | Alleluia! Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as your victor's crown. Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 25:14–30

Through a parable, Jesus calls his followers to faithful service.

The Parable of the Talents

14 "You see, the kingdom of heaven is like a man going on a journey. He called his
servants and entrusted his possessions to them. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another
two talents, and to still another one talent, each according to his own ability. Then he
went on his journey. 16 The servant who had received the five talents immediately put them
to work and gained five more talents. 17 In the same way, the servant who had received the
two talents gained two more. 18 But the servant who had received one talent went away,
dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's money.
19 "After a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them.
20 The servant who received the five talents came and brought five more talents. He said,
'Master, you entrusted five talents to me. See, I have gained five more talents.'
21 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful with
a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.'
22 "The servant who received the two talents came and said, 'Master, you entrusted me
with two talents. See, I have gained two more talents.'
23 "His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You were faithful with
a few things. I will put you in charge of many things. Enter into the joy of your master.'
24 "Then the servant who received one talent came and said, 'Master, I knew that you are
a hard man, reaping where you did not plant and gathering where you did not scatter
seed. 25 Since I was afraid, I went away and hid your talent in the ground. See, you have
what is yours.'
26 "His master answered him, 'You wicked and lazy servant! You knew that I reap where
I did not plant and gather where I did not scatter seed? 27 Well then, you should have
deposited my money with the bankers so that when I came I would get my money back
with interest. 28 Take the talent away from him and give it to the servant who has the ten
talents. 29 Because everyone who has will be given more, and he will have an abundance.
But the one who does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him. 30 Throw
that worthless servant into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing
of teeth.'

P | The Gospel of the Lord.
C | Praise be to you, O Christ!