Christ United



25th Sunday after Pentecost

11-15-2026

Welcome!

(Stand)

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

P: *Alleluia.* Abide in me as I abide in you;

C: those who abide in me bear much fruit. *Alleluia. (John 15:4, 5)*

P: Our mission statement guides us so that:

C: We welcome all people to experience the unconditional love of Jesus Christ.

A Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

Opening Song: Song Sheet

Prayer of the Day:

P: You, O god are our dwelling place from generation to generation, our shield from anguish and distress. You arm us as children of light with the hope of salvation, and you protect us by your love. Give us grace to build up and encourage one another, as we seek wisdom and abundant life in the strength of your Word and the assurance of your Spirit.

C: Amen.

The Readings: (Sit)
A: First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
A: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.
A: Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12
A: Second Bible Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
A: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.
(Stand)
A: The Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30
P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 25th Chapter **(Stand)**
C: Glory to you, Lord Christ.
The Gospel lesson is read
C: Praise to you, Lord Christ. (Sit)

Kids Time and the Sermon

Song of the Day: Red Hymnal #654 (Stand)

Apostles' Creed
C: I believe in God the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and 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.

The Prayers

P: God of salvation, who sent your Son to seek out and save what is lost, hear our prayers on behalf of those who are lost in our day, receiving these petitions and thanksgivings with your unending compassion.

A: You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations. Enliven the worship, outreach, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news. God, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species. God, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine. Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite. God, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: Loving God, be with us and guide us during this time of discernment. Fill our leaders with your wisdom. Keep us mindful of the work you would have us do. Lead us and guide us O Lord to be about the work of your kingdom even as the search for a new pastor continues. Prepare the pastor you are calling to our congregation and prepare us to discern and recognize that calling. Prepare us in this congregation for new leadership and opportunities in this vast world in which we minister. Fill us with patience and understanding during this in between time. God in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing. God, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteer coordinators, and property teams. Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel. God, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

A: The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you. God, in your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Other intercessions may be offered by anyone at this time.

P: Redeeming Sustainer, visit your people and pour out your strength and courage upon us, that we may hurry to make you welcome not only in our concern for others, but by serving them generously and faithfully in your name.

C: Amen

The Peace is shared at this time

P: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

C: And also with you. (Sit)

People may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: Peace be with you.

Offering - November Noisy Offerings: Cardboard Prophets **(Stand)**

P: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life,

C: You have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty. Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal. Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

A: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal: surrounded by evil and bordered by death we appeal to you, our Sovereign, our Wisdom, and our Judge. We praise you for Christ, who proclaimed your reign of peace and promised an end to injustice and harm.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, the sacrifice of his life and death and the victory of his resurrection, we await with all the saints his loving redemption of our suffering world. Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son: teach us your mercy and justice, and make all things new in Christ. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

P: As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Bread is broken

P: Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.
C: Thanks be to God.

(Form a circle around the altar to receive communion.)
Distribution of Holy Communion
Communion today is open to all. The Episcopal and Lutheran Churches believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine.
Communion is either wafer and individual cup, or celebrated as spiritual communion. You will receive a wafer from the pastor (gluten-free wafers are available upon request). You will then take a cup from the tray the assistant is holding (wine in the outer rings, grape juice in the center). Eat the wafer and drink from the cup. You will not be ushered but ask that you come forward when ready and return to your seat when you have received communion.

(Stand)
P: Let us pray.
C: Holy God,we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost,bind the injured,and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out,awake to your presence,now and forever. Amen.

The Blessing (Sit)
The Holy Trinity,Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,today and always. **C: Amen**

Closing Song: Song Sheet (Stand)

Announcements (Sit)

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Encourage one another.
C: **Thanks be to God.**
P: And This Week
C: **Share the unconditional love of Jesus Christ**

P: Presiding Minister **A:** Assisting Minister **C:** Congregation

Announcements and Events

Food Donations:
This Fall (now until Thanksgiving) we are collecting non-perishable food items and personal care items for the outdoor food closet at Grace Lutheran, and St. Paul's weekly food bank. Please bring items at any time and we will build our display.

Pledge Cards:
We will be passing out our Generosity Drive letters/Pledge cards. We will ask they be returned by Christ the King Sunday Nov. 22 2026 just before Thanksgiving. This allows for your Steering Team to develop OUR 2027 budget. Thanks to everyone, our checkbook continues to keep pace with our expenses/needs.

Weekly/Monthly Events:

- Understanding the Chronological Order of the Books the the Old Testament" Bible Study - Wednesdays @ 10am
- Game night/Service Project night -second and fourth Tuesday of the month.

Welcome to Christ United

Here is some information to help you feel welcome:

Relax - We don't expect you to stand up and introduce yourself or do anything which makes you feel uncomfortable. Most everything you need is in the bulletin.
Worship Service:
Children are always welcome in worship - Small toys in the entryway are for your use. The Pastor will invite children to be part of a "Kid's Time" before the sermon. Please feel free to move about as needed to make your children feel comfortable.
Bulletin and Music: Most everything you need is in the bulletin. We also use a variety of music resources, including hymnals and song sheets. Hymnals are located on the cart when you first come into the church. The sign next to the cart will direct you to which to pick up, the 'red' hymnal and/or the 'burgundy' hymnal. Song sheets are located by the bulletins.
Offering - Don't feel obligated to participate in the offering on your first visit. This service is our gift to you. Offering is a response to what God has given us. We also collect a "noisy offering." This is an offering of loose change for needs in our community and world. Each month the offering goes to a different need. The ideas for each of the offerings come from the participants in this ministry.
All are welcome to receive Communion - Whether you are a Christian or not, anyone can take communion here. Also, if you do not want to participate in the receiving of communion, feel free to come forward with your arms folded to receive a blessing.
Building - Restrooms are located on the lower level, at the far end of the building. Bathrooms are for all genders.
Refreshments after Worship - Please join us downstairs after worship for refreshments. We're glad you came today and look forward to seeing you again! If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact us.

Christ United

An Interdenominational Church founded by the Episcopal & Lutheran Church.
Welcoming ALL people to experience the unconditional love of Jesus Christ!
Pastor Bryan Schneider-Thomas - pastor.christuniteddewitt@gmail.com (616) 608-3334,
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