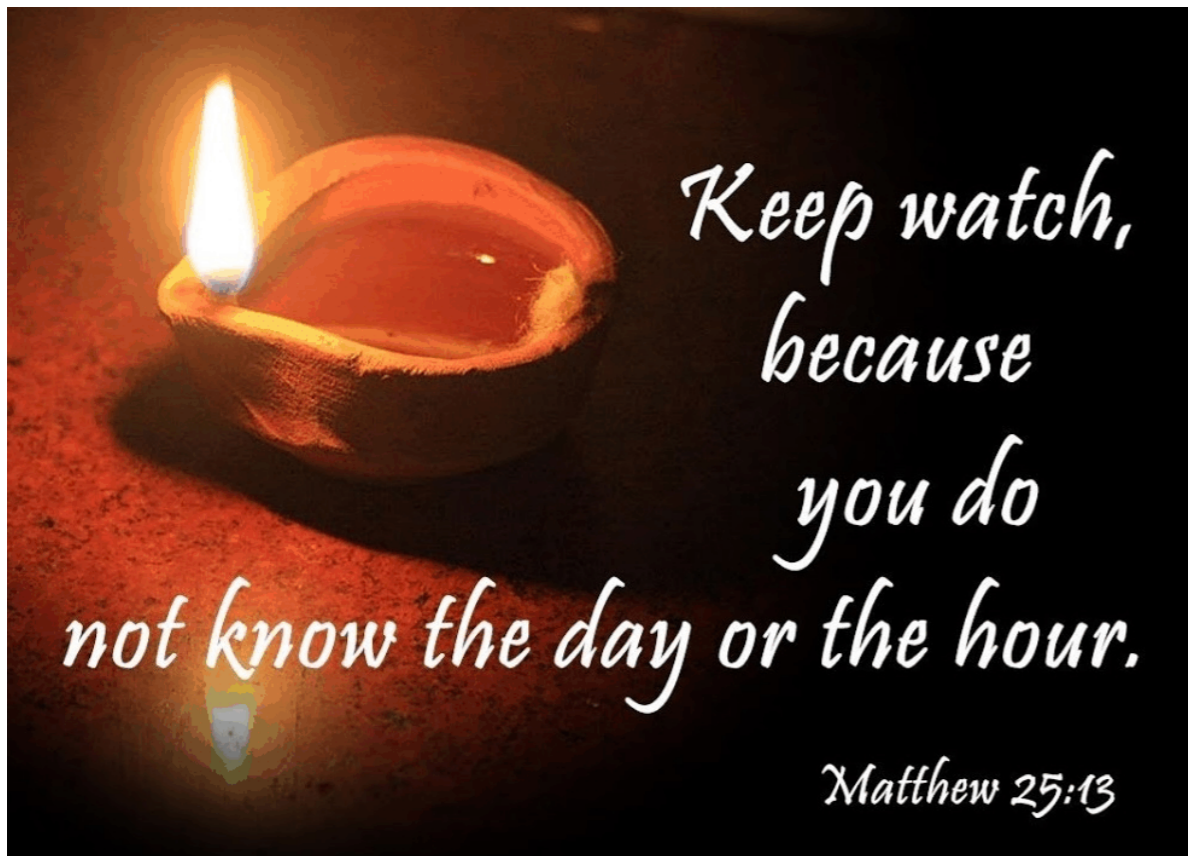


THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 11-12, 2023

**"Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education"**



**Music of Preparation,  
Welcome, Announcements, Greeting**

**Our Ministry:** We are a people of God who are: ***"Changing Lives through Worship, Compassion, and Christian Education."***

**Welcome!** Welcome to St. Paul's Lutheran Church! It is a gift to come together in worship of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

**Devotions & Publications Available** are found in the main entryway. Please leave donation envelopes in the offering plate.

..... **WORSHIP NOTES** .....

**Note About Attendance Cards...**Remember that the only way we may know you are worshipping with us is by seeing your name on an attendance card. These cards may be completed as you enter for worship and will be collected after the offering. Use one card for each family that is gathered. ***Please list the name of each person in worship.*** (Parents, please take responsibility for signing in your children) There is a "Member" side as well as a "Guest" side. Please fill out the appropriate side and pass them to the center aisle during the gathering of the offerings. The cards are gathered after the offering has been collected.

**To Our Visitors...**Our church and school have a few nooks and crannies, so don't be afraid to ask an usher where things are. Our pastor and any member here today would also be glad to meet and assist you. A guest information packet is available near the guest register in the main (west) entryway.

**For All Who Worship...**If you are arriving after the service has started, please allow our ushers to assist you with seating. We ask that you avoid entering during the confession, prayers, or Bible readings as these are quiet and meditative moments.

**For Parents with Small Children...**We love and want children in our services as a part of God's family, to spend time with Jesus, and to learn how to worship. We also know that kids can be kids. We want you and your children to experience our Lord's love and to have a great opportunity to worship the Lord along with all who are gathered here to praise our Savior's name.

## DIVINE SERVICE, SETTING FOUR

(The music for the liturgy may be found on page 203 in the Hymnal)

**Notes for Worship:** As you prepare for worship this day, we invite you to turn to the prayer section of the Hymnal (page 305). In addition to prayers for before and after worship, there are prayers for all aspects of the Christian Life (some of the prayers are also located on the inside front cover of the hymnal). May these prayers be useful in your worship.

### **Before worship prayer**

O Lord, our creator, redeemer, and comforter, as we come together to worship You in spirit and in truth, we humbly pray that You may open our hearts to the preaching of Your Word that we may repent of our sins, believe in Jesus Christ as our only Savior, and grow in grace and holiness. Hear us for His sake. AMEN.

**Special Music: “Somebody’s Knocking” and “The Day is Surely Drawing Near”**

*Ruth Fabbro, Violin*

### **We’re So Glad God Brought You Here Today!**

**Opening Hymn: “The Day Is Surely Drawing Near”** *LSB, hymn #508*

The day is surely drawing near      When Jesus, God’s anointed,  
In all His power shall appear      As judge whom God appointed.  
Then fright shall banish idle mirth,      And flames on flames shall ravage earth  
As Scripture long has warned us.

The final trumpet then shall sound      And all the earth be shaken,  
And all who rest beneath the ground      Shall from their sleep awaken.  
But all who live will in that hour,      By God’s almighty, boundless pow’r,  
Be changed at His commanding.

The books are opened then to all,      A record truly telling  
What each has done, both great and small,      When he on earth was dwelling,  
And ev’ry heart be clearly seen,      And all be known as they have been  
In thoughts and words and actions.

Then woe to those who scorned the Lord      And sought but carnal pleasures,  
Who here despised His precious Word      And loved their earthly treasures!  
With shame and trembling they will stand      And at the judge’s stern command  
To Satan be delivered.

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!

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.

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.

### **INVOCATION, CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

- P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
C: **Amen.** *Matthew 28:19b*
- P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,  
C: **who made heaven and earth.** *Psalm 124:8*
- P: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
C: **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**
- P: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word and call upon Him in prayer and praise in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Let us humble ourselves before our Good and gracious God.  
(Moment of silent reflection)
- P: Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner. *Luke 18:13*
- C: **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**
- P: Let us pray . . . Almighty God,

**C:** merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**P:** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen. *John 20:19-23*

**KYRIE ~ Lord Have Mercy (Sung)** *Mark 10:47*  
Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

**Gloria in Excelsis ~ Glory To God In The Highest (Sung)** *Luke 2:14; John 1:29*  
To God on high be glory And peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name we sing  
Our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.

To You, O sole-begotten, The Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus; Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in pow'r are seated At God's right hand on high

For You alone are holy, You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever, Be worshiped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit Alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

**P:** The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Let us pray . . . Lord God, we do not know the day nor the hour of the coming in glory of the Bridegroom, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we wait, continue to nourish our faith until we enter the eternal wedding feast, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen

*(Please be Seated)*

**THE READING OF THE WORD**

**Epistle Lesson:** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 *(The Coming Of The LORD)*

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

*Stand (as you are able)*

**Alleluia and Verse** *John 20:31*

**C:** (Sung) Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

**C:** Glory to you, O Lord.

**Gospel Lesson:** Matthew 25:1-13 *(The Parable Of The Ten Virgins)*

[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast,

and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be Seated)*

**Sermon Hymn: "The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us"**

*LSB, hymn #514*

The Bridegroom soon will call us,  
"Come to the wedding feast."  
May slumber not befall us  
Nor watchfulness decrease.  
May all our lamps be burning  
With oil enough and more  
That we, with Him returning,  
May find an open door!

There shall we see in glory  
Our dear Redeemer's face;  
The long-awaited story  
Of heav'nly joy takes place:  
The patriarchs shall meet us,  
The prophets' holy band;  
Apostles, martyrs greet us  
In that celestial land.

There God shall from all evil  
Forever make us free,  
From sin and from the devil,  
From all adversity,  
From sickness, pain, and sadness,  
From troubles, cares, and fears,  
And grant us heav'nly gladness  
And wipe away our tears.

In that fair home shall never  
Be silent music's voice;  
With hearts and lips forever  
We shall in God rejoice,  
While angel hosts are raising  
With saints from great to least

A mighty hymn for praising The Giver of the feast.

**Sermon: "Be Ready!"**

*Matthew 25:6-13*

Stand (as you are able)

P: Let us confess our faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C: 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**

*(Please be Seated)*

**Tithes and Offerings/Attendance Cards**

**Special Music: "You Are the Way"**

*Ruth Fabbro, Violin*

**SERVICE OF RECOGNITION AND THANKSGIVING FOR VETERANS**

P: Dear friends in Christ, at this time, I ask that all of our veterans as well as those in active service in the armed forces of our country to please stand.

Today, we gather at this time to lift up prayers of thanksgiving to our God on behalf of the service that you have offered and still offer to our country as veterans of our armed forces. We live in a broken world where Satan and sin would seek to rise up and destroy peace in our world to hinder the work and will of God. Thus God, in His wisdom, granted the authority of the sword to government that it might be an agent of God's wrath to bring punishment on the wrong doer (Romans 13:4). For God desires to put down evil that we might

live quiet and peaceful lives. In view of the sacrifice that you have made as you have served in the armed forces to secure and guard the peace that we now enjoy by God's grace, I now ask the people of God this question. Will you use the gift of this peace to work to further the Kingdom of God that others might come to know the peace of God which is found in Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior?

**C: We will with the help of God and we praise God for the peace that is ours in Christ and for the gift of peace He has granted to us to allow us to work while it is day before the night comes when no man can work.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, on this Veterans Day, we give thanks for those who selflessly served our country to make and keep us free. May their sacrifices not have been in vain as we seek to preserve them in our generation. We thank and praise You for the gift of peace and freedom that is ours within this land. We praise you for the gift of the men and women who have served and continue to serve in the armed forces as they have dedicated themselves to preserve this peace and freedom. Grant that by the leading of the Prince of Peace, we may dedicate our lives to furthering the Gospel of Peace in the lives of those for whom Your Son died that they might live. All glory be to You as we look forward to a time when peace shall reign forevermore upon Your great return in Christ our Lord.

**C: Bless us and them and keep us strong in the Lord.**

P: O Lord, we remember before You those who need Your strength in physical protection today. Keep safe in body and soul those serving in our nation's armed forces or other occupations whose duty puts them in harm's way. We pray for those service members who are deployed, those who serve our country far from home, and the families of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice. May Your care be shown to them by many. Bless our chaplains as they faithfully minister to many on land and sea.

**C: Keep them all strong in the Lord. Amen.**

P: Dear friends, We thank you for your service to our country and pray God's continued blessings upon you. Let us all stand for the Offertory.

#### **OFFERTORY - Create In Me**

*LSB, Divine Service 3, pg 192-193*

**C: (Sung) 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.**

#### **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

*1 Timothy 2:1-4*

P: As the Lord invites us to come to Him with petitions and supplications, we commonly close our prayers with "Amen." Derived from a Hebrew verb, amen means "certainty" or "to confirm." As Martin Luther put it, amen means, "Yes, yes, it shall be so." As we await the day of the Lord, we pray in confidence as Scripture closes with the words: "He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!" We, as we wait, come to our Lord in prayer, proclaim our "amens," and confidently invite Him to come.

P: Let us pray, . . . Heavenly Father, grant to us all things needful and dissuade us from all things harmful. Fill the oil in our lamps, strengthen and nourish our faith, that united, together we as Your Church and as Your people confidently and courageously shine Your light to our neighbors, our community, and the world. Amen.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus, Come quickly.**

P: Heavenly Father, keep us ready in our waiting for the promised day to come when the door is opened and we are welcomed to the wedding feast. As we wait, keep us from earthly distractions that would lead us away from You. By Your Holy Spirit, keep us prepared to welcome Jesus when He comes in all His glory at the hour and the day You have set, as we remain trusting in Your promises made, promises fulfilled, and promises to come. Amen.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus, Come quickly.**

P: Heavenly Father, You have already called faithful servants from this life as they are in Your glorious care and await the resurrection. For we who remain on this earth, give comfort and hope to those who grieve. We also pray for those who struggle with health of mind or sickness of body, grant healing according to Your will and lasting peace in light of affliction. We pray that you be with those hospitalized this past week (*Epecially, . . .*). Also be with those who continue treatment and healing at home. We pray for them and all those that we name in our hearts . . . (*Silence*). For all those whose needs are known only to You and for all who face the afflictions of this life while awaiting the Last Day at Your time, grant patience. Amen.

**C: Come, Lord Jesus, Come quickly.**

P: Heavenly Father, as we pray, "Come, Lord Jesus," awaiting His return, we know that in the meantime He even comes to us now through Your Word and Sacraments. These bless us with sins forgiven and they nourish our faith as we wait so that our hearts and lives be reflective of the grace You freely give. Amen.

C: **Come, Lord Jesus, Come quickly.**  
(Additional prayers of the congregation. Each petition concludes with. . .)

P: . . . Lord, In Your Mercy,

C: **Hear Our Prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has taught 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.**

*Matthew 6:9-13*

**BLESSING**

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.** *Psalm 103:1*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

C: **Amen.** *Numbers 6:24-26*

**Closing Hymn: "How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds"** *LSB, hymn #524*

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds In a believer's ear!  
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds, And drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole And calms the heart's unrest;  
'Tis manna to the hungry soul And to the weary, rest.

Dear name! The rock on which I build, My shield and hiding place;  
My never-failing treasury filled With boundless stores of grace.

O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend, My Prophet, Priest, and King,  
My Lord, my life, my way, my end, Accept the praise I bring.

How weak the effort of my heart, How cold my warmest thought!  
But when I see Thee as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.

Till then I would Thy love proclaim With ev'ry fleeting breath;  
And may the music of Thy name Refresh my soul in death!

**See You In Worship Next Week!**

*There will be Prayer Ministry Member(s) in each service that will be wearing a prayer ministry tag around their neck. Please look for them if you are wanting prayer for yourself, someone else or prayer for a concern or situation you may have.*

*Please join us for coffee and donut holes in the cafeteria after Sunday services.*

**Altar Flowers** Altar flowers this weekend are given in loving memory of my grandfather, Charles Gagnon, by Tim & Michelle Lavoie and family; also to the glory of God and in memory of our little angel, Winona June Harris, by Kayla Smith & David Harris and brother Asher, Carol Ginger and Kim Smith.

# ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

<b>Rev. Karl J. Koeppen</b> . . . . . Senior Pastor	<b>Rev. David Baker</b> . . . . . Missionary to Mongolia
<b>Rev. Roger A. Drinnon</b> . . . Associate Pastor	<b>Church &amp; School Office:</b> . . . . . 932-0312
<b>Mr. Richard Nordmeyer</b> . . . Interim Principal	<b>Mary Weber, Family Counselor</b> . . 932-0312 ext 1458
<b>Church Campus</b> . . . . . 348 E. Merchant, Kankakee	
<b>School Campus and Church &amp; School Office</b> . . . . . 1780 Career Center Road, Bourbonnais	
<b>Church &amp; School Website</b> . . . . . <a href="http://www.stpaulslutheran.net">www.stpaulslutheran.net</a>	

**COPYRIGHT ACKNOWLEDGMENTS (PK)**

**Portions of this service may be copyrighted under:**  
Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted with permission. Scripture quotations taken from THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 by International Bible Society®. Used by permission. Created by Lutheran Service Builder ©2006 Concordia Publishing House. **HYMNS:** LSB508 - The Day Is Surely Drawing Near: Text (sts. 1-7) and Music: Public domain; LSB514 - The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us: © 1982 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License .NET, no. 100012920, Public domain; LSB524 - How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds: Text (sts. 1-6) and Music: Public domain