

Service of the Word

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

November 16, 2025



This Service of the Word derives its pattern from the service of Holy Communion. Although a weekly celebration of the Lord's Supper is the norm, a service of the word of God is also celebrated regularly or occasionally in many places.

INTRODUCTION

The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right."

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Congregation stands as you are able

L. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The congregation is seated. Silence is kept for reflection.

L. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

L. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake God forgives you all your 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. **Amen.**

Congregation stands

GATHERING HYMN

How Firm a Foundation

ELW 796

GREETING

L. 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.**

KYRIE

A. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C. Lord, have mercy.

A. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C. Amen

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise God, all
crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711, alt.

Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L. O God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Congregation is seated

WORD

FIRST READING: Malachi 4:1-2a

¹ See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. ^{2a} But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

A. Word of God, word of life. C. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 98 (*read responsively*)

¹ Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things,
whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

² **O LORD, you have made known your victory,
you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

³ You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel;
all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

⁴ **Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands;
lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

⁵ Sing to the LORD with the harp,
with the harp and the voice of song.

⁶ **With trumpets and the sound of the horn
shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

⁷ Let the sea roar, and all that fills it,
the world and those who dwell therein.

⁸ **Let the rivers clap their hands,
and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge
the earth.**

⁹ The LORD will judge the world with righteousness
and the peoples with equity.

SECOND READING: Thessalonians 3:6-13

⁶ Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not

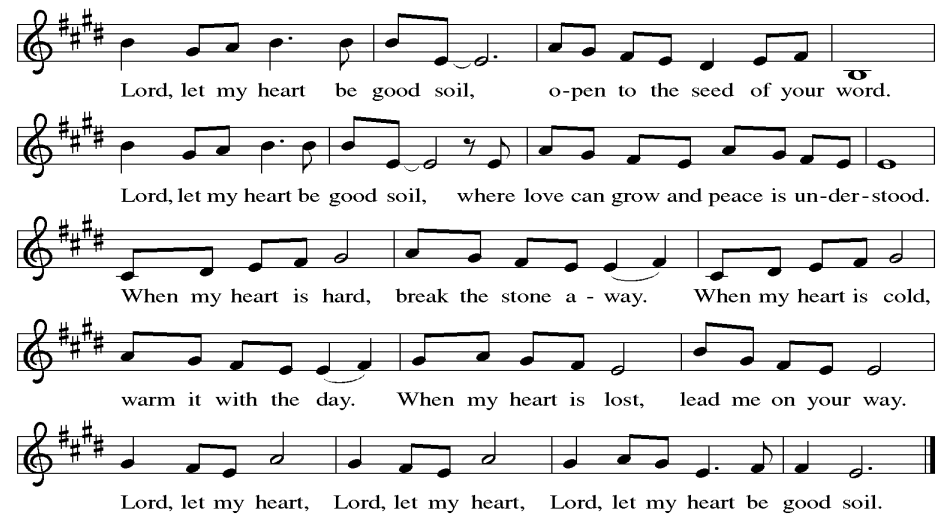
according to the tradition that they received from us.⁷ For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you,⁸ and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you.⁹ This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate.¹⁰ For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat.¹¹ For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work.¹² Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living.¹³ Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

A. Word of God, word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

Congregation stands as you are able

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

GOSPEL: Luke 21:5-19

L. The holy gospel according to Luke. C. **Glory to you O, Lord**

⁵ When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, ⁶ “As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.”

⁷ They asked him, “Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that

this is about to take place?" ⁸ And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them.

⁹ "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." ¹⁰ Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; ¹¹ there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

¹² "But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. ¹³ This will give you an opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all because of my name. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By your endurance you will gain your souls."

L. The gospel of the Lord. **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

Congregation is seated

SERMON REFLECTION

Pam Kucks

Congregation stands as you are able

HYMN OF THE DAY

Canticle of the Turning

ELW 723

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A. Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

A. God of roots and branches, defend the leaders of your church as they proclaim the gospel using discernment, wisdom, and brave testimony. Keep all the baptized on righteous paths in response to Christ's call. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. God of roaring seas, in a world of earthquake, famine, and plague, use your mighty power to nurture the land and all that lives upon it. Restore peoples and places experiencing natural disasters. Strengthen organizations who provide aid to any in crisis. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. God of victory, among quests for power, guide those in government, courts, law enforcement agencies, and the military. Turn them from war and violence to actions of care that build up the common good. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. God of healing, where injustice and exploitation result in populations that are marginalized or underserved, accompany those abandoned by friends, hurt by family, and harmed by violence or oppression. Care for all who are ill, anxious, or in pain of any kind. We pray especially for....those we now say aloud.....and those we hold in our hearts....Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. God of new songs, in a congregation of faithful believers, energize us for compassionate service and delight us through worship and inspired prayer. Encourage your people in building equitable community where all are valued. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

A. God of every generation, we remember the saints with steadfast love and faithfulness. Confident in Christ's victory over death, may we be inspired by the example of the faithful. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

L. We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L. The Peace of Christ be with you always.

C. And also with you.

L. Let us share with each other a sign of Christ’s peace.

Congregation is seated

CHOIR ANTHEM

Christ Is Able to Save *Harland, Walker, Parks*

OFFERTORY INVITATION

Scan to give
via Venmo



Offering can be given by putting it in the offering plate when it is passed, online directly via the QR codes for Tithely or Venmo, or by requesting your bank to send a check to the church. Find more details on our website.

Thank you for your generous gifts!

Scan to give
via Tithely



Congregation stands as you are able

OFFERTORY SONG

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were

gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from

all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless-ing is shared with-in our midst,

Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

A. Let us pray... God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.

Congregation stands as you are able

SENDING

BLESSING

L. The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you, God the Son save you, and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead. The holy Trinity bless you ☩ and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

When Peace Like a River

ELW 785

DISMISSAL

A. Go in peace. Share the harvest. **C. Thanks be to God.**

Announcements for November 16th, 2025

Welcome to Holy Counselor Lutheran Church. May you experience the joy of God’s presence in our worship!

If today is your **first time** worshipping at Holy Counselor, please be sure to fill out the “Guest Book” on the table in the narthex and take a welcome bag.

Please ask our ushers any questions you may have regarding worship this morning. **Large print bulletins are available.**

Worship is live streamed to our church Facebook page, but the camera is pointed away during Communion and is not on the children when they come forward during A Time for the Child in Us All.

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**Thank you, Emilie Dupont, for this morning’s refreshments**  
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Volunteers for Today’s Worship

Lay Asst.	Volunteer needed
Ushers	Volunteer needed
Comm. Asst.	Volunteer needed
Tech	Fred Schoenagel
Tellers	Volunteer needed
Refreshments	Emilie Dupont

Volunteers for Next Sunday, Nov. 23rd

Lay Asst.	Debbie Lennon
Ushers	Volunteer needed
Comm. Asst.	Volunteer needed
Tech	Volunteer needed
Tellers	Volunteer needed
Refreshments	Kucks Family

***** Join us for refreshments after worship*****

THIS WEEK AT HOLY COUNSELOR

Sunday, Nov 16: Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am

Worship, Service of the Word, 9:30am

Choir Practice following worship

Wednesday, Nov 19: Adult Ed, Zoom, 10am

Saturday, Nov 22: Sisters in Prayer, Zoom, 8:30am

Thanksgiving Pie baking

Sunday, Nov 23: Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am

Worship w/Communion & Baptism, 9:30am

Thanksgiving Pie pick-up following worship

Choir Practice following worship

Pie Sales: Order forms are available for our annual Thanksgiving Pie Sale! **Order your pies TODAY.** Apple, Pumpkin, Coconut Custard, and Chocolate Cream are available! \$20 each or 3 for \$50! **Pick up** is Sunday, November 23rd following worship. If you'd like to **help make the pies** on Saturday, November 22nd, please contact Francine Vince.

Thank You: to everyone who brought in bags of food for our **Youth Group Food Drive last Sunday!** We had a great time collecting and sorting **45 bags of food** with the help of our youth, Arlo Moller and Darios Hartlage, along with Sue and Matt Moller and Mark and Diane Rossi. God Bless Aimee Nilsen for her dedication to keeping our food pantry organized and our bags full for families in great need!

Advent Evening Study: An Advent Study will be offered at 7-8pm on Zoom **if we have enough interest.** Please contact Pam Kucks or Pastor Peggy if you are interested.

College Student Addresses: Do you have a student in college? If so, **email** Pam Kucks (pkucks@gmail.com) their name & address **ASAP** for college care packages! They count even if they live at home and commute. Packages will be mailed out on November 28th.

Hanging of the Greens: Our annual Hanging of the Greens will be on **Saturday, November 29th from 9-11am.** Come join in the fun decorating the church for Advent and Christmas. **Snacks will be provided.** All are welcome, many hands make light work!

Turkey Trot: The Annual Vernon Turkey Trot is Thanksgiving Day (11/27). HCLC is the center hub! You are invited to **participate in the 5K, which begins at 8am. Church members are free, advance registration is required.** You can also

volunteer to help with check-in or snack tables & cheer on the participants. Volunteers should arrive by 6:45/7am. Speak to Denise Urbaniak for more details.

Poinsettia Orders: Order forms are available for our annual poinsettia sale which will help beautify the altar for our Christmas Eve Worship. Note "poinsettias" with your payment via check, cash, or Venmo. **Order forms** can be **placed** in the offering plate or turned into the church office. The **deadline** for ordering is November 30th.

RaiseRight for Holiday Shopping/Gifts: As you are preparing gifts for the holidays, we want to remind you of our ongoing program RaiseRight! **You can purchase gift cards to be sent to others as gifts or you can get gifts cards for the places you are buying from during this season.** Order forms with a sample of cards that can be ordered through HCLC, are by the book in the Narthex. Share the forms with your family and friends. It works by simply buying gift cards to stores where you already shop, and then the church gets a percentage of the gift card purchase. **Download the RaiseRight app & link to the church with enrollment code: TJUSKV3MDNWP**
Speak with John Heeren for more information.

Calendars coming soon: Have you enjoyed the beautiful calendars created by Frank's photography and Pam's scripture this year? Good news! **Calendars for 2026 have been created and will be available soon.** They make great gifts in addition to beautifying your own home! Keep an eye out.

Prayers for Porch Planks: **We have a little over \$1000 to go to cover the whole project.** Please consider supporting the Parsonage Porch replacement fund ("Prayers for Porch Planks") which is displayed on the whiteboard in the narthex. **A HUGE thank you** to everyone for your generous support so far!!

Food Pantry: **We are running low and can use monetary and food donations including** canned chili, canned green beans, pasta, pasta sauce, tuna, canned soup, canned baked beans, canned corn, canned stew, macaroni & cheese, boxed potatoes, hamburger helper, instant pudding & jello, snacks and juice packs for kids, deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, and 4-pack toilet paper. You can always bring donations of canned goods, paper goods, and hygiene products. All donations can be **placed in the blue bin** by the sanctuary doors. Thank you!



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Bookkeeper: Wynn White: accounts@hc-lutheranchurch.org

MISSION STATEMENT

*As Children of God,
we are called to share and serve
Christ's love and bring God's word to all.*

CHURCH COUNCIL

Pastor Rev. Peggy Ludlow
President Nancy Knecht
Vice President Frank Urbaniak
Treasurer Claire Speroni
Recording Secretary Dawn McCormick
Financial Secretary John Heeren
Outreach Coordinator Francine Vince
Nurture Coordinator Fred Schoenagel
Administration Coordinator Diane Rossi
Youth Representative Kevin Drache

PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Kristina Heeren
Pam Kucks
Matt Moller
Aileen Donovan

Holy Counselor is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

