St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

Twenty-fifth Sunday After Pentecost

November 15, 2026 – 9:30 a.m.



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. 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.

Pastor Christian McMullan
Daniel S. Bower, Music Director
Craig Miller, Director of Youth and Family Ministries
2440 Conestoga Road, Chester Springs, Pennsylvania
610-458-5675
www.stmatthews-church.org

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WELCOME

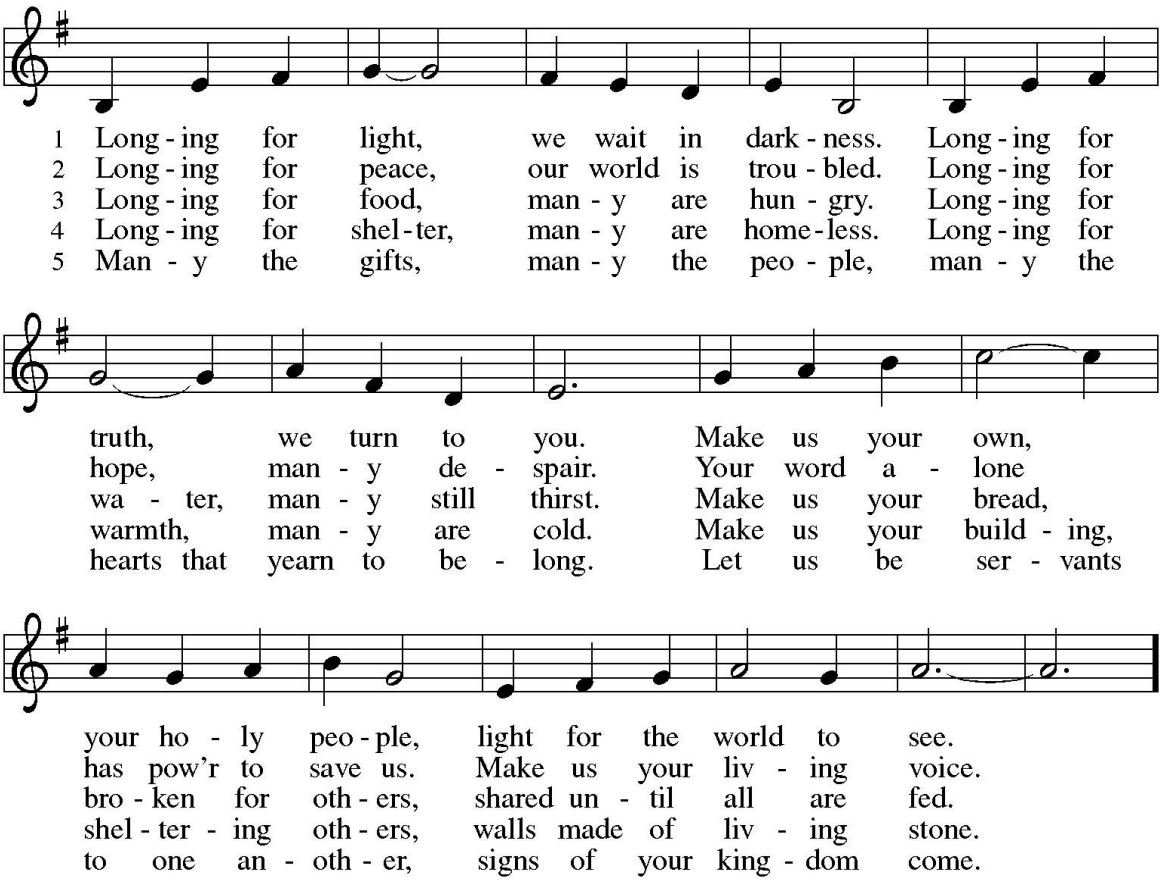
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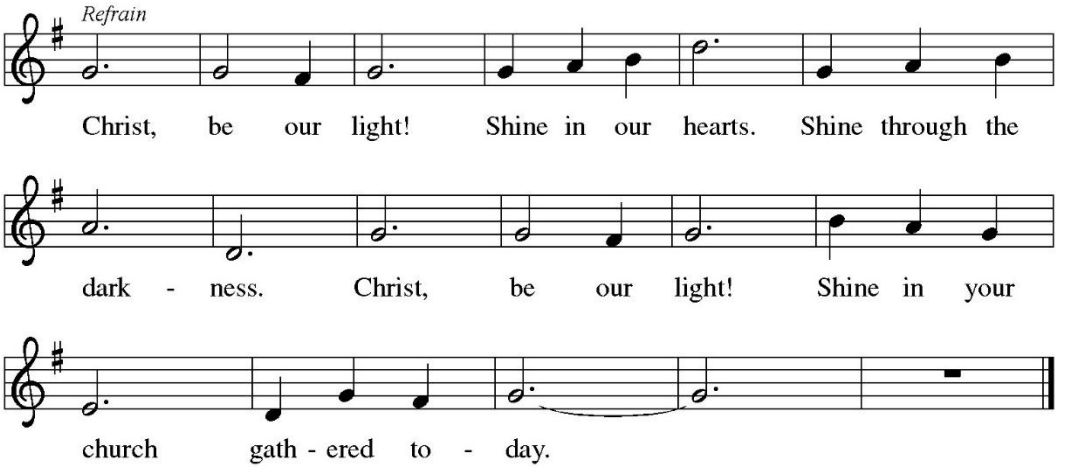
GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

OPENING HYMN — Christ Be Our Light ELW 715





CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.
C: Amen.

The presiding minister may lead one of the following or another prayer of preparation.

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to our help. All hearts are revealed to you, all desires are known by you, and no secrets are hidden from you. We are curved in on ourselves by sin. Open us by the power of your Holy Spirit that we may cleanse our hearts, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.
P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Most merciful God,
C: We confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown,
things we have done and things we have failed to do.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may live and serve you in newness of life
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Please be seated

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING — Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

A: A reading from the Book of Zephaniah, the first chapter.

7 Be silent before the Lord God,
for the day of the Lord is at hand!
The Lord has prepared a sacrifice;
he has consecrated his guests.

12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who settle like dregs in wine,
those who say in their hearts,
"The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do harm."

13 Their wealth shall be plundered
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

14 The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter;
the warrior cries aloud there.
15 That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

17 I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord,
their blood shall be poured out like dust
and their flesh like dung.
18 Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed,
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

A: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING Psalm 90:1-12

A: A reading from Psalm 90.

A: [1] Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
**C: [2] Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.**
A: [3] You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."
**C: [4] For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;**
A: [5] you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:
**C: [6] in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**
A: [7] For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.
**C: [8] Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**
A: [9] When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.
**C: [10] The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**
A: [11] Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?
**C: [12] So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

A: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION Precious Lord, Take My Hand ELW 773

Precious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
Take My Hand, precious Lord, lead me home.

GOSPEL — Matthew 25: 14-30

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
C: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 14 "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves
and entrusted his property to them; 15 to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one,
to each according to his ability. Then he went away. At once 16 the one who had received the
five talents went off and traded with them and made five more talents. 17 In the same way, the
one who had the two talents made two more talents. 18 But the one who had received the one
talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. 19 After a long time the
master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 20 Then the one who had received
the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to
me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' 21 His master said to him, 'Well done, good
and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of
many things; enter into the joy of your master.' 22 And the one with the two talents also came
forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more
talents.' 23 His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been
trustworthy in a few things; I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your
master.' 24 Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I
knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow and gathering where you did
not scatter, 25 so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what
is yours.' 26 But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap
where I did not sow and gather where I did not scatter? 27 Then you ought to have invested my
money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with
interest. 28 So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 29 For to all
those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance, but from those who have
nothing, even what they have will be taken away. 30 As for this worthless slave, throw him into
the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "
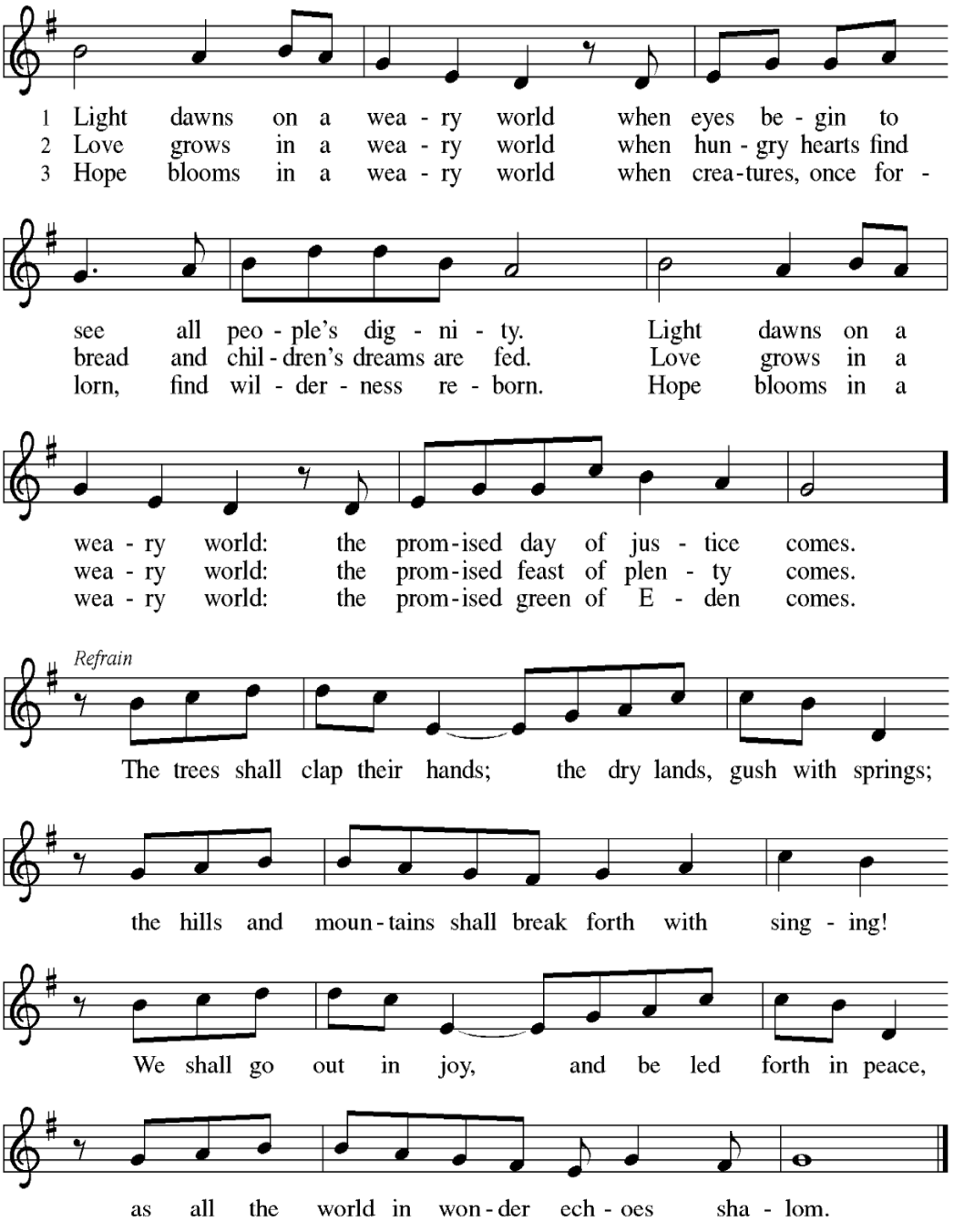
P: The Gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

MESSAGE

Please stand

HYMN **Light Dawns On A Weary World ELW 726**



THE PRAYERS

P: United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.
A brief silence.
P: God, in your mercy,
C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.
C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.

Please be seated

THE OFFERING

Please stand

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

In gratitude to God we give out of the abundance that God has given us.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Eternal God,
our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you.
Receive what we offer,
and all that you entrust to us,
until all the world is fed and no one is hungry.
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
C: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.
C: 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 God thanks and praise.

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:
surrounded by evil and bordered by death we cry 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
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 God,
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church both now and forever.
C: Amen.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray together our Lord's Prayer:

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.

Please be seated

COMMUNION

This is God's table so all are welcome to join the feast.

Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available.

P: In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in.
Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand

BLESSING

P: The holy Trinity,
Creator, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God,
today and always.
C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN — Praise and Thanksgiving ELW 689

Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.

God, bless the labor we bring to serve you,
that with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with you,
harvesting, milling for daily bread.

Father, providing food for your children,
by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share
one with another, so that, rejoicing
with us, all others may know your care.

Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,
freely confessing your gracious hand.
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;
your love sustaining showers the land.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Encourage one another.
C: Thanks be to God.

St. Matthew's Staff
Pastor Christian McMullan cmcmullan71@gmail.com
Daniel Bower, Music Director worship@stmatthews-church.org
Craig Miller, Director of Youth and Family Ministries 484-320-0785
Sandy Elkins, Director St. Matthew's School 610-458-3381
Sara Richardson, Church Administrator 610-458-5675
Beth Bilinski, Faith Formation Coordinator stmattsfaithformation@gmail.com