Welcome to St. Luke
Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost - November 15, 2026

Faithful to the End 2: Our Faithful High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-5:10)

Because Jesus has passed through the heavens as our great high priest, he is not distant or indifferent — he knows our weakness from the inside, having faced every temptation we face. His faithfulness through suffering secured for us access to the throne of grace exactly when we need it most. We hold firmly to our faith not by mustering our own strength, but by drawing near to the one who was faithful for us and intercedes for us still.

INVOCATION & OPENING PRAYER

SONG ♫ ♫ Here I Am To Worship

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Leader: We gather today as people who have not always been faithful — in our thoughts, our words, and our deeds, we have fallen short of the life God calls us to live. Yet we come boldly, not because of our own faithfulness, but because we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens — Jesus, the Son of God — who sympathizes with our weakness and bids us approach the throne of grace with confidence.

Brief silence for reflection.

Leader: Let us confess our sins to God.

All: Merciful God, we confess that we have not been faithful to you or to one another. We have doubted your promises, trusted in ourselves, and turned away from the path you set before us. We have failed to love you with our whole heart and to love our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Jesus, our faithful high priest, forgive us, renew us, and lead us in your ways. Amen.

Leader: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His Sake God forgives us all our 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. May the

Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

SONG ♫ ♫ Living Hope

Welcome of New Members

Pastor: The most important thing in a church is not whether or not you are a member. The most important thing is whether or not you believe in Jesus. The Holy Spirit gives us faith in Jesus and gathers us into various local congregations where we worship, serve, and share life together with other believers.

When someone becomes a member of a Christian church, they are committing themselves to live out their life as a follower of Jesus in the midst of that particular community of faith and serve alongside others in that community to work towards accomplishing the mission of God.

Today, we have an opportunity to welcome *a new member to our church who is re-affirming the faith that God has already given to him*. This is also an opportunity for those of us who are already members to recommit ourselves to God and to our sisters and brothers in Christ.

At this time I invite Nael Marqooz Naisan to please come forward:

Do you this day in the presence of God and of this congregation wish to publicly confess your faith? If so, please answer, “I do.”

Marcus: I do

Pastor: I invite the congregation to stand and join in answering the following questions:

Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his empty promises?

All: I do renounce them.

Pastor: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty?

All: Yes, I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son?

All: Yes, 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 sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

Pastor: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

All: Yes, 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.

Pastor: The congregation may be seated.

Marcus, I ask you:

Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it? If so, please answer: I do so intend, with the help of God.
Marcus: I do so intend, with the help of God.

Pastor: Do you hold the scriptures to be the inspired Word of God and confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church which is drawn from the Scriptures and explained in the Small Catechism, to be faithful and true? If so, please answer: I do.
Marcus: I do.

Pastor: Do you desire to be a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this congregation? If so, please answer: I do.
Marcus: I do.

Pastor: Do you intend faithfully to conform your life to God's Word, to be faithful in the use of God's Word and Sacraments, which are His means of grace, and to remain true to God in faith, word and deed? If so, please answer: Yes, by the grace of God.
Marcus: Yes, by the grace of God.

Pastor: As you follow Jesus,

- do you commit yourself to follow Him as part of this community of faith and share with us in all the blessings and challenges that God sets before us,
- and do you commit yourself to support the ministry of this church with your prayers, service and financial gifts?

If your answer is yes, then answer, “I do, with the help of God.”

Marcus: I do, with the help of God.

Pastor: May God give you the wisdom and courage you need to keep the promises which you have made here today.

In the name of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I welcome you as a member of this church. Amen

Prayer for Marcus

[Have him turn around - and introduce him to the congregation]

TODAY’S SCRIPTURE READERS is *Larry Balback*

OLD TESTAMENT READING Zephaniah 1:7-16 *(The Day of the Lord is Near)*

7 Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has
prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. 8 And on the day of the LORD’s
sacrifice— “I will punish the officials and the king’s sons and all who array themselves in
foreign attire. 9 On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and
those who fill their master’s house with violence and fraud. 10 “On that day,” declares
the LORD, “a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a
loud crash from the hills. 11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no
more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. 12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with
lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts,
‘The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.’ 13 Their goods 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
mighty man cries aloud there. 15 A day of wrath is that day, 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

NEW TESTAMENT READING Hebrews 4:14-5:10 *(Our Faithful High Priest)*

14 Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus,
the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a high priest
who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has
been tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us then with confidence draw near to
the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

1 For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in
relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. 2 He can deal gently with the
ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. 3 Because of this he is
obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. 4
And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron
was. 5 So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed
by him who said to him, “You are my Son, today I have begotten you”; 6 as he says
also in another place, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.” 7 In the
days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears,
to him who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his
reverence. 8 Although he was a son, he learned obedience through what he
suffered. 9 And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all
who obey him, 10 being designated by God a high priest after the order of
Melchizedek.

This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

ALLELUIA - Page 156 in the Hymnal *(Please rise if you are able)*

GOSPEL READING Matthew 25:14-30 *(The Parable of the Talents)*

14 “For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them
his property. 15 To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according
to his ability. Then he went away. 16 He who had received the five talents went at once and
traded with them, and he made five talents more. 17 So also he who had the two talents made
two talents more. 18 But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and
hid his master’s money. 19 Now after a long time the master of those servants came and
settled accounts with them. 20 And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing
five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five

talents more.’ 21 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 22 And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ 23 His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ 24 He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, 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 answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? 27 Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. 28 So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. 29 For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. 30 And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

All: Praise to You, O Christ!

THE NICENE CREED *(Backpage in the hymnal)*

THE MESSAGE: Faithful to the End 2: Our Faithful High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-5:10) - *Pastor James Paulgaard*

WE OFFER OUR GIFTS

RECORD OF FELLOWSHIP *(Please complete the Record of fellowship during the Offering. Located at the ends of the pews)*

SONG ♫ ♫ As The Deer

DEDICATE CHRISTMAS SHOEBOXES

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

THE LORD’S PRAYER

All: Our Father, in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread; and 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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD *Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25*

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My ✞ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✞ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

DISTRIBUTION ♫ ♫ #821 Alleluiah! Sing to Jesus”
At The Cross / Love Ran Red

THE BLESSING

Pastor: *As our time of worshiping God together comes to an end and you go out into the world to share God’s love with a broken and hurting world, go with this blessing:*

Pastor: Now may the God of peace, who through the blood of the eternal covenant brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, equip you with everything good for doing his will, and work in you what is pleasing to him, through Jesus Christ — to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SONG ♫ ♫ These Are The Days Of Elijah

NEXT SUNDAY’S SERMON TITLE, TEXT & SUMMARY:

Faithful to the End 3: Our Glorious Future (Hebrews 12:18-28)

Where Israel met God at Sinai with fire and terror, we have come through Christ to Mount Zion — the heavenly Jerusalem, where Jesus is the mediator of a better covenant. His blood secures for us a kingdom that cannot be shaken, no matter what rises against it. Because our glorious future is certain, we can hold fast in faithfulness, worshipping God with reverence and awe as we await what Christ has already secured.