

# The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
# November 8, 2026

**St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Grant Park, IL**

**Theme of the Day:** The Beginning of the End: It's Time to Watch for the Final Events
Imagine you are planning to take the family out to dinner. You all have to wait for someone to get ready. Minute after minute passes. What can happen in that situation? It's easy to focus on something else and even forget the original goal. Perhaps as you wait, you even fall asleep.

As we wait for Christ to return, as day after day passes, it can be easy to get distracted, to lose vigilance, to become spiritually drowsy. It's the beginning of the end. Why does it have to take so long? God forbid that Christ should return and find us spiritually asleep. Today we are reminded that the time between Christ's first and second coming is a time for watchfulness.

**Order of Service:** Service Setting Two (CW page 172)

**Prayer upon entering church:** Lord, you have forgiven us the great debt of our sin and ask us to show the same mercy to others. We must confess that we are not always willing to show the same kindness and forgiveness that you have shown us. Forgive us for our failures and give us the strength to grant forgiveness to those who wrong us. Amen.

**Opening hymn:** Christ Be My Leader (CW 518)

**Invocation and Confession**

**The Word**

**Prayer of the Day**
Let us pray.

Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**First Reading:** Isaiah 52:1-6 – The prophet cries “Awake!” to people sleepwalking through life.

Awake, awake, Zion, clothe yourself with strength! Put on your garments of splendor, Jerusalem, the holy city. The uncircumcised and defiled will not enter you again. Shake off your dust; rise up, sit enthroned, Jerusalem. Free yourself from the chains on your neck, Daughter Zion, now a captive. For this is what the Lord says: “You were sold for nothing, and without money you will be redeemed.”

For this is what the Sovereign Lord says: “At first my people went down to Egypt to live; lately, Assyria has oppressed them. And now what do I have here?” declares the Lord. “For my people have been taken away for nothing, and those who rule them mock,” declares the Lord. “And all day long my name is constantly blasphemed. Therefore my people will know my name; therefore in that day they will know that it is I who foretold it. Yes, it is I.”

**Psalm:** O God, Our Help in Ages Past (Psalm 90)



5 Time, like an everrolling stream,
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, abr., alt.
Tune: William Croft
Text and tune: Public domain

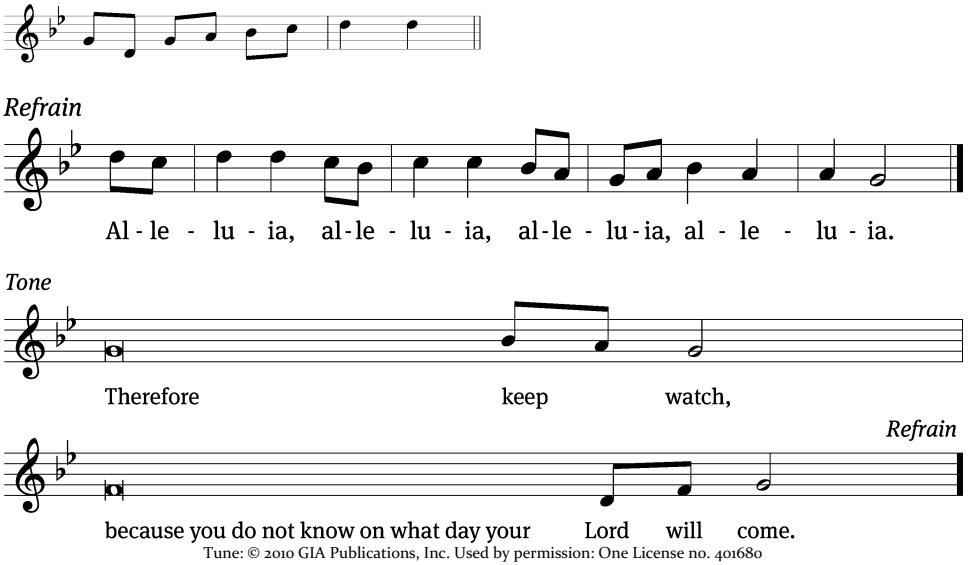
**Second Reading:** Revelation 7:9-17 – St. John's vision lets us see all the saints in heaven as a picture of our own future.

After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb." All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, saying: "Amen! Praise and glory and wisdom and thanks and honor and power and strength be to our God for ever and ever. Amen!"

Then one of the elders asked me, "These in white robes—who are they, and where did they come from?" I answered, "Sir, you know." And he said, "These are they who have come out of the great tribulation; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. Therefore, "they are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple; and he who sits on the throne will shelter them with his presence. 'Never again will they hunger; never again will they thirst. The sun will not beat down on them, 'nor any scorching heat. For the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd; 'he will lead them to springs of living water. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'"

*Stand*

**Gospel Acclamation** *Matthew 24:42*



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**Gospel:** Luke 6:17-26 – The Lord calls us blessed when we stay awake and are prepared for his coming.

He went down with them and stood on a level place. A large crowd of his disciples was there and a great number of people from all over Judea, from Jerusalem, and from the coastal region around Tyre and Sidon, who had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases. Those troubled by impure spirits were cured, and the people all tried to touch him, because power was coming from him and healing them all. Looking at his disciples, he said: “Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh.

Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets. But woe to you who are rich, for you have already received your comfort. Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry. Woe to you who laugh now, for you will mourn and weep. Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

The Gospel of our Lord
**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be seated*

**Hymn of the Day:** Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying (CW 486)

**Sermon:** Blessed Are You (Luke 6:17-26)

**Apostles' Creed** (CW 181)

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.**

**Prayer of the Church**

**Offering:** We give our gifts to the Lord and sing "Alleluia! Let Praises Ring" (CW 481 vs. 1) in response to our offerings.

**Prayer and Blessing** (CW page 171)

**Closing hymn:** The Church's One Foundation (CW 855)

**Announcements**

**Welcome** in Jesus' name to any and all guests and visitors here with us today. It is a joy to be able to worship with you. Help us to remember your visit by signing our guest book. Ask an usher if you need help finding the book. If you would like more information about our church please speak with pastor after church. If you need a hearing device, please speak to a greeter. Please come again!

**Weekly Preview** next week we will observe the Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost. Our lessons will be from Isaiah 1:10-18, Romans 12:1-8 and Matthew 25:14-30. Our sermon will be based on Isaiah 1:10-18 with the theme: God's Reasoning.

**Hospitalized/Homebound members/members to keep in your prayers:** Elmer Guritz, Myrna Vandergriff (Windward Pointe Senior Living, Portage, Indiana) David Moeller, Dorothy Riechers (Beecher Manor) and Don Genge.

**Fellowship Treats** have a signup in the narthex.

**Bible Study will be replaced** today a presentation about our ongoing mission work in Cedar Lake, Indiana led by home missionary Micah Neumann. Next week we'll look at Matthew 25:14-30.

**Poinsettias for the Christmas season** have a signup in the narthex. The cost is $12.50 per plant. The order is due by November 15 so the last day to signup is today!

**Mark your calendars** our yearly Friendsgiving will be held on November 15. Social hour starts at 4pm. There is a signup sheet in the narthex. Hope to see you there and bring a friend!

**Thanksgiving Eve Service** will be Wednesday, November 25 at 6:30pm.

**Thank you** to Pastor Micah Neumann for leading us in worship today!

**October Financial report**: Current: $8,997, Missions: $1,465, Christian Ed: $320, WELS: $50. Total: $10,832.

**Pastor** has received a call to Christ in Zumbrota, Minnesota. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as they decide where best to serve the Lord.

## This week at St. Paul

**Today:** Worship 9am
Bible Study after worship
Sunday School after worship
**Sunday:** Worship with communion 9am
Sunday School after worship
Bible Study after worship

**Organist**: Thank you to Doreen Romadka
**Last Week's Attendance:** Sunday Worship 37
Bible Study 10
Sunday School 4

**St. Paul Evangelical (Gospel Centered) Lutheran Church**
Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)
9954 N16000 E Rd. Grant Park, IL 60940

**Pastor Paul Micheel, Pastor**
**Phone: 815-465-6906 (church)**
**Email: pastor@stpaulgrantpark.net**
**Web Site: http://www.stpaulgrantpark.net**