Williams Bay Lutheran Church

November 22, 2026

Service of the Word & Holy Communion

CHRIST the KING

8:00 AM

On this final Sunday of the church year our gospel is Jesus' great story of judgment. In the end, the faithful are those who served Christ by ministering to those who are poor, hungry, naked, sick, or estranged. In the first reading God is the shepherd who seeks the lost, weak, and injured and feeds them with justice. We gather this day to celebrate the reign of Christ and his victory over death, yet we await the consummation of all things yet to come. Acknowledging Christ as our merciful ruler, we go forth that his reign may be known in our loving words and deeds.



Please silence your cell phone. Thank you.

26th Sunday after Pentecost

Welcome and Announcements

Gathering
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Confession and Forgiveness
The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.
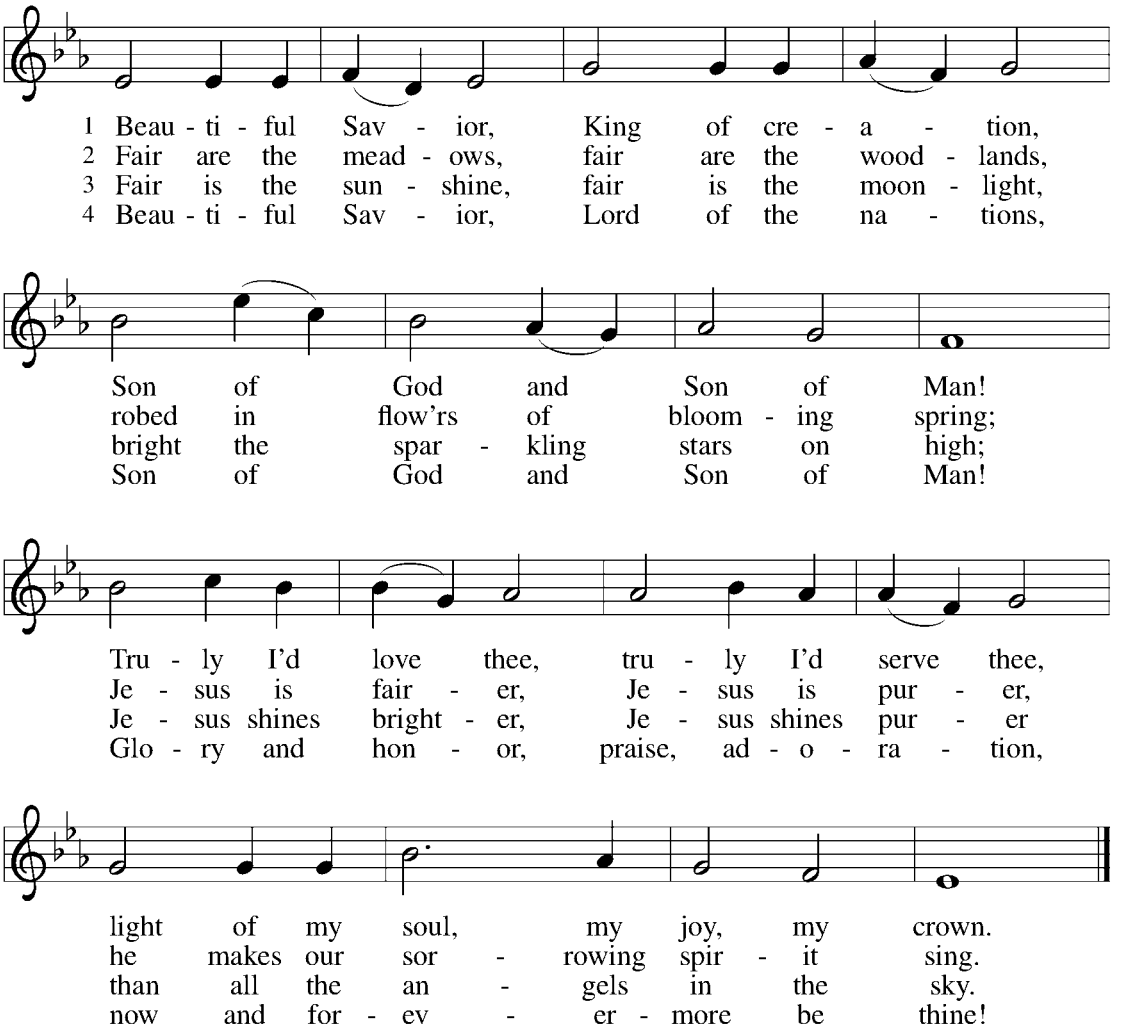
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose compassion endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate God, **we confess to you all our sins. Our burden is heavy, and we cannot free ourselves. In your mercy, call us back to you. Your yoke is easy and your burden is light. Restore us to dwell in your peace. In Christ's name we pray, Amen.**

Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." In the name of God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Rest in God's love. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn *Beautiful Savior* **ELW 838**



Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

Greeting: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Let us pray: O God of power and might, your Son shows us the way of service, and in him we inherit the riches of your grace. Give us the wisdom to know what is right and the strength to serve the world you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

WORD

First Reading: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

11 Thus says the Lord God: I myself will search for my sheep and will sort
them out. 12 As shepherds sort out their flocks when they are among scattered
sheep, so I will sort out my sheep. I will rescue them from all the places to which
they have been scattered on a day of clouds and thick darkness. 13 I will bring
them out from the peoples and gather them from the countries and bring them
into their own land, and I will feed them on the mountains of Israel, by the
watercourses, and in all the inhabited parts of the land. 14 I will feed them with
good pasture, and the mountain heights of Israel shall be their pasture; there
they shall lie down in good grazing land, and they shall feed on rich pasture on
the mountains of Israel. 15 I myself will be the shepherd of my sheep, and I will
make them lie down, says the Lord God. 16 I will seek the lost, and I will bring
back the strays, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, but
the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them with justice.

20 Therefore, thus says the Lord God to them: I myself will judge between the
fat sheep and the lean sheep. 21 Because you pushed with flank and shoulder and
butted at all the weak animals with your horns until you scattered them far and
wide, 22 I will save my flock, and they shall no longer be ravaged, and I will judge
between sheep and sheep.

23 I will set up over them one shepherd, my servant David, and he shall feed
them; he shall feed them and be their shepherd. 24 And I the Lord will be their
God, and my servant David shall be prince among them; I the Lord have
spoken.

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

Psalm: Psalm 95:1-7a

[1] Come, let us sing to the Lord;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
[2] Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.
[3] For you, Lord, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.
[4] In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.
[5] The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.
[6] Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the Lord our maker.
[7a] For the Lord is our God,
and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15-23

[15] I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason [16] I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, [17] that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, [18] so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, [19] and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. [20] God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, [21] far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. [22] And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, [23] which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

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

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 25:31-46

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 31 "When the Son of Man comes in his glory and all
the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. 32 All the nations
will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a
shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, 33 and he will put the sheep at his
right hand and the goats at the left. 34 Then the king will say to those at his right
hand, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared
for you from the foundation of the world, 35 for I was hungry and you gave me
food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you
welcomed me, 36 I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took
care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' 37 Then the righteous will answer
him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty
and gave you something to drink? 38 And when was it that we saw you a stranger
and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? 39 And when was it that we
saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' 40 And the king will answer them,
'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters
of mine, you did it to me.' 41 Then he will say to those at his left hand, 'You who
are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his
angels, 42 for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave
me nothing to drink, 43 I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and
you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'
44 Then they also will answer, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or
thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and did not take care of you?'
45 Then he will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of
the least of these, you did not do it to me.' 46 And these will go away into eternal
punishment but the righteous into eternal life."

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

Sermon Pastor Tom

Silence for Reflection

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of Intercession
Petitions conclude with: God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Words of Institution for Holy Communion

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.

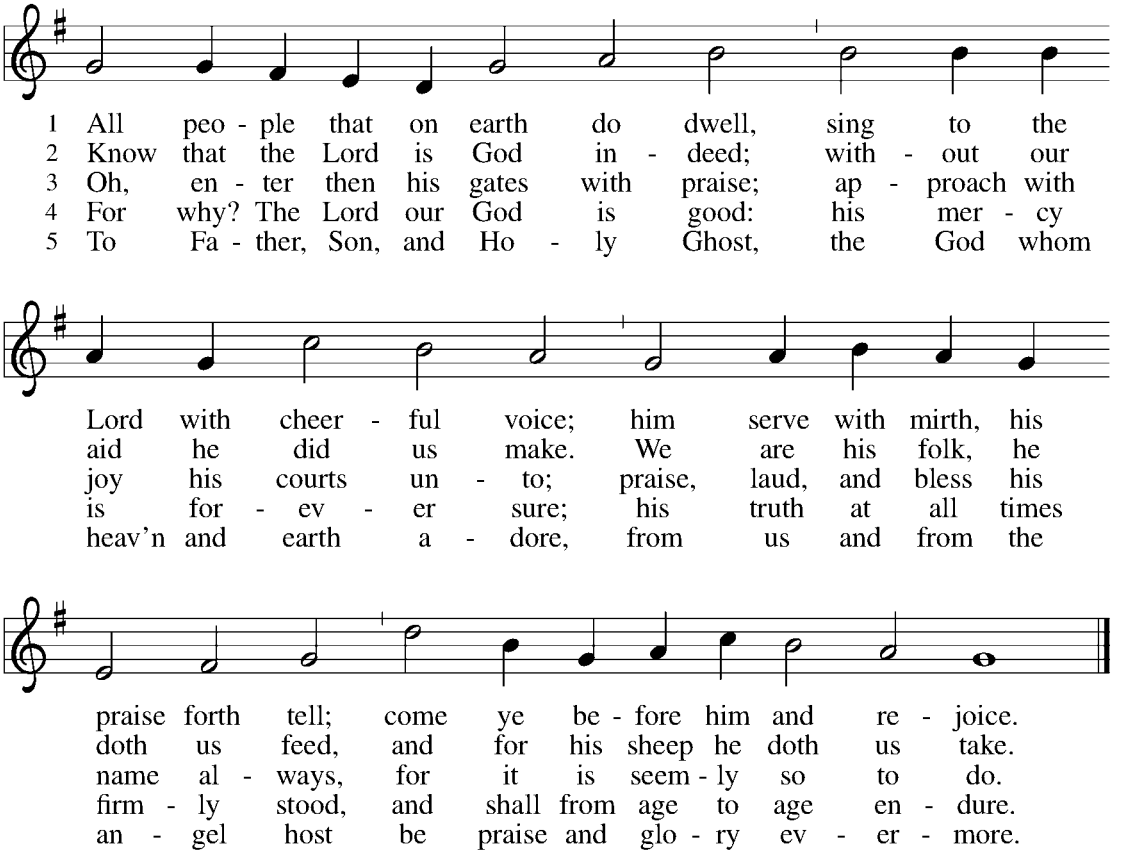
All are Welcome to receive the Lord's Meal at His table.

Table Blessing

Prayer

Sending Blessing

Sending Hymn *All People that on Earth do Dwell* **ELW 883**



Text: William Kethe, d. c. 1594
Music: OLD HUNDREDTH, Louis Bourgeois, 1510–1561

Dismissal

Thanks be to God.

Let us share the peace of the Lord with one another.

†

Altar flowers: Today's altar flowers are provided by the Bieber family.

Grace Notes

Nov 22	8:00 AM Simplified Service
	9:30 AM Traditional Service
	9:45 AM Sunday School
	10:45 Bible Study
	10:45 Christmas Practice
Nov 23	Office Closed
Nov 24	Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service @ Linn Presbyterian, 7 PM
Nov 25	9:30 AM Coffee Club
Nov 26 - 30	Pastor Tom on vacation

Community Thanksgiving Service - Join us for an Ecumenical Thanksgiving Worship Service at the country church of Linn Presbyterian Church at W3335 Willow Road, Lake Geneva, Lake Geneva on Tues. Nov. 24 at 7 PM.

Salvation Army - Please sign up to ring for Salvation Army on Wednesday, December 23rd at Daniels in Walworth. The sign-up sheet is on the narthex table.

Advent and Christmas Devotional - Please pick up the new devotional: *Comfort and Joy Devotions for Advent and Christmas* on the narthex table.

It's time to order your **Christmas Poinsettias**! The last day to sign-up is November 29.

2027 Church Calendars - Pick up your new scenic church calendar today.

Picture Directory - We are making plans for a new pictorial church directory. Please sign up to have your picture taken.

Worship Servers & Offering Counters - We are in need of more offering counters and worship server: reader, communion assistant, cantor, and usher. We also need members to sign up for refreshments and for altar flowers. Please sign up in the narthex. Thank you!

Worship Servers

Service		**Nov 22**	**Nov 29**
Usher	9:30 AM	OPEN	Chad Beth
Lector	8:00 AM	Dori Freundt	OPEN
	9:30 AM	OPEN	OPEN
Cantor	9:30 AM	OPEN	OPEN
Communion Assistants	9:30 AM	OPEN	OPEN
		OPEN	OPEN
Refreshments		OPEN	OPEN
Altar Flowers		The Bieber family	OPEN
Altar Guild		Dori	Dori
Offering Counters		Elise & Jackie	Stu & Allen
Sunday School		Collen Stewart	No Sunday School