25th Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, November 15, 2026

Introduction to the day
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. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
Let us pray.
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.**

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18
Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.

PSALM: Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12
So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. *(Ps. 90:12)*

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30
Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

GOSPEL MESSAGE - Politics, Religion, and Money

A strong impulse to avoid discussing certain contentious subjects exists within many communities. Perhaps you have heard the conventional wisdom to avoid talking about politics or religion at a dinner party, for instance. Or maybe you have been in family or social relationships in which money was never discussed. Sometimes we even prefer not to engage these aspects of our lives through the lens of faith.

Throughout the gospels, however, Jesus challenges his followers not to avoid difficult topics. He challenges systems of economic and political inequality, overturning the tables of temple money changers and dining with those who lived on the margins of society. He has conversation after conversation with religious leaders whose views differ from his own. And in the parable of the talents, he tackles matters of wealth head-on. These events and stories in the life of Jesus invite us not to shy away from challenging topics of faith and life.

Are there aspects of our lives—within ourselves or in our community—that we would prefer to exclude from deeper examination? What is it about those parts of our lives that makes us wary of deeper introspection and conversation? The life of faith involves the *whole* of our lives, including our political action, religious convictions, and financial choices. Just as the enslaved ones in this parable were charged with carefully stewarding the resources entrusted to them, we are invited to probe our own choices around money and wealth through the lens of faith. Nothing is outside the bounds of our call to live faithfully!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION
United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

You build up the church as a community of faithful witnesses throughout the generations. Enliven the worship, outreach, and service work of our congregations and ministries with the hope of your good news. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

As the nights grow longer in the northern hemisphere, make us mindful of the earth's need for rest. Provide for fallow fields and hibernating animals; show us how to curb human impact on vulnerable lands and species. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Rescue all nations and peoples from violence, displacement, or famine. Disrupt complacency among national and local leaders. Recommit our communities to transforming the systems that divide and oppress into those that empower and unite. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In your embrace, we find refuge from all trials and troubles. Care for families who are separated or estranged, accompany all undergoing medical procedures or mental health treatment, and reassure any who are ill or despairing especially we pray for Chris Burchat, Natasha Gagnon-Burchat, Claude Jeannotte, Glenda Panke, Joanne Robinson, Bernadette Schueneman, Heather Schruder, Linda Schruder, Harold Warlich, Roy Zadow, and those in long term care facilities and senior residences. In this moment of silence, we name out loud or in the quiet of our hearts, those who need your healing touch. (*pause)* God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless all who serve in congregational leadership: council members, finance committees, volunteers, and property teams. Encourage healthy stewardship of time, talents, and resources for the mission of the gospel. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

The faithful of every age trust in the hope of your saving grace. In thanksgiving for the ways our ancestors have journeyed before us, we remember all who have entered eternal life in you. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

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

LORD'S PRAYER
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

BLESSING
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen.

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Announcements:

Sunday, November 15th – **Pentecost 25**
9:00 AM – Bonnechere – Holy Communion
10:30 AM - Grace – Holy Communion
Sunday School
Helpers: Greeter: Janice Nagora, Reader: Lorna Byers
Head Usher: Barry Nagora, Bell Ringer: Jim Verch
Elevator: Ed Byers

Monday, November 16th
9: 00 AM to 3:00 PM - Quilting at Grace
4:00 PM – Confirmation

Tuesday, November 17th
10:00 AM – Bible Study
We will be discussing, Matthew 25:31-46

Wednesday, November 18th
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM – Cuddles and Hugs
1:00 PM – Worship & Music
7:00 PM – Community Choir

Thursday, November 19th
9:00 AM to 11:30 AM – Toy Bus
10:00 AM – Grace Choir

Sunday, November 22nd – **Christ the King**
9:00 AM – Bonnechere – Holy Communion
10:30 AM - Grace – Holy Communion - Sunday School
Helpers: Greeter: Janice Nagora, Reader: Herb Weckwerth;
Communion Assistants: Karen Sell and Morley Hass; Head Usher: Barry Nagora,
Bell Ringer: Jim Verch; Elevator: Ed Byers
7:00 PM – Off The Grid Productions – Ticket required.

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OFF THE GRID PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS: CONNIE KALDOR - Canadian Folk Singer / songwriter and 3-time Juno Award Winner. $50.00 per person.
Sunday, November 22, 2026 at 7:00 PM,
Doors open at 6:15 PM, Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Eganville, ON.
Desserts served at intermission
All profits to Eganville Food Bank
TICKETSPLEASE.CA For info about etransfers Contact
Lynne eppsoffthegrid@gmail.com 613-633-7244

Ladies Aid Christmas Party

The Ladies Aid would like to extend an invitation to everyone to join us for our annual Christmas party in the Fellowship Hall at Grace Lutheran Church on Tuesday, December 1, 2026. The "Red Hot Mamas" will be entertaining us with their musical talent beginning at 1:30 pm followed by light refreshments. Doors will open at 1:00 pm as the Ladies Aid will be selling homemade preserves and goodies prior to the performance. Hope to see you there for an afternoon of fun and fellowship to start the Christmas season.

We are looking for volunteers who would like to organize our entry for the **Eganville Christmas Parade, Sunday, December 13th at 1:00 PM**. Please contact the church office.

Home Communions and Home Visits

Do you or do you know someone who may be interested in receiving Holy Communion or a visit from Pastor Ralph. Please contact the church office at 613 628-1392 or send an e-mail to Pastor Ralph at ralph.weigold@sympatico.ca