Making Faith Connections - Cross of Hope Small Group Ministry
November 8th, 2026
24th Sunday After Pentecost (Lectionary 32)
Meeting Christ at the Cross-Roads – week 1

Gathering and Check-in … *share where you've encountered God this week*.

Prayer O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.** (ELW 52)

Introduction: Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb. (from Sundays and Seasons)

Discussion Questions:

Read again Matthew 25:1-13

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?
What is challenging or confusing as you read/hear it this time?
How is Jesus use this parable to reflect on the 'Christ will come again' proclamation of faith?
Why is this helpful and important to a life of faith filled with crossroads?
How does this parable bring us right back around to our faithful living now?
What does it mean to live between the gift of the gospel and the not yet fulfillment of the kingdom of heaven?
How are the parables of Jesus helpful for living in this 'both now and not yet' time? How are they not?
When at a crossroad, how does Jesus' expectation to 'Keep awake, for you know neither the day nor the hour' influence your discernment?
How does/can your experience meeting the risen Christ and the transforming love of God influence every encounter you have?

Read again Amos 5:18-24 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

What do you notice about this story as you read/hear it this time?
What is challenging or confusing as you read/hear it this time?
How do these readings speak to God's will and grace for our life of faith?
Where do they offer hope at a crossroad?

Read and reflect Psalm 70

Prayer Requests and Prayer

Making FAITH Connections
FRIENDS ✦ FAITH ✦ EVERYDAY LIFE