



Sunday, November 19, 2023
Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost

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.

GATHERING

WELCOME

This is the day the Lord has made.
We will rejoice and be glad in it.

(Please stand as you are able)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.
Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,
we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God’s children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through ✠ Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world.
Amen.

OPENING SONG ELW #437 vs.1,4 *On Joran's Stormy Bank I Stand*

1 On Jordan's stormy bank I stand,
and cast a wishful eye
to Canaan's fair and happy land,
where my possessions lie.

Refrain

I am bound for the promised land,
I am bound for the promised land;
oh, who will come and go with me?
I am bound for the promised land.

4 When shall I reach that happy place
and be forever blest?

When shall I see my Savior's face
and in God's bosom rest? *Refrain*

Text: Samuel Stennett, 1727-1795

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.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE W&P 132 *Step by Step*

O God, you are my God,
and I will ever praise you. (repeat 1X)
I will seek you in the morning,
and I will learn to walk in your ways,
and step by step you'll lead me,
and I will follow you all of my days.

Text: Beaker ©1991 BMG Songs, Inc. and Kid Brother of St. Frank Publishing

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

(Please be seated)

WORD

SPECIAL MUSIC

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)

¹Lord, you have ¹been our refuge
from one generation ¹to another.

²Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the ¹earth were born,
from age to age ¹you are God.

³You turn us back to the ¹dust and say,
“Turn back, O child- ¹ren of earth.”

⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when ¹it is past
and like a watch ¹in the night;

⁵you sweep them away ¹like a dream,
they fade away suddenly ¹like the grass:

⁶in the morning it is | green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.
⁷For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.
⁸Our iniquities you have | set before you,
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.
⁹When you are angry, all our | days are gone;
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.
¹⁰The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength | even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and | we are gone.
¹¹Who regards the power | of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your | indignation?]
¹²So teach us to num- | ber our days
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *Alleluia*

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

Text: Evangelical Lutheran Worship

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.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated)

Music: Jesus Loves Me – ELW #595

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Music: *Lord, Listen to your Children Praying* – ELW #752

SERMON

SONG OF THE DAY ELW #689 vs.1,4 *Praise and Thanksgiving*

- 1 Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, you have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom and wood.
- 4 Then will your blessing reach ev'ry people,
freely confessing your gracious hand.
Where you are reigning, no one will hunger;
your love sustaining showers the land.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901-1984, alt. Text © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

JOYFUL RECEPTION OF A NEW MEMBER

Congregational Representative: Jennifer Tostenrud desires to make public affirmation of her Baptism and have membership in our community of faith.

Pastor: Jennifer, we rejoice to receive you, a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, into our fellowship in the Gospel.

In Holy Baptism our Lord Jesus Christ received you and made you members of the Church. In the community of God's people, you have learned from The Word God's loving purpose for you and all creation. You have been nourished at the holy table and called to be witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Now, therefore I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the Church, the faith in which we baptize.

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, Gods 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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**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.**

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in Holy Baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear God's Word and share in the Lord's supper,
to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed,
to serve all people, following the example of our Lord Jesus,
and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Jennifer: I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

Pastor: Let us pray: Gracious Lord, through water and the Spirit you have made Jennifer your own. You forgave her all her sins and brought her to newness of life. Continue to strengthen her with the Holy Spirit, and daily increase in her your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.

Amen

Cng.Rep.: Together may we strive to **praise** God in lively worship and faithful use of the sacraments, **learn** more about God's children everywhere, **share** God's gift of life in Jesus and **love** one another as God has loved us.

Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth's resources. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders. Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. We remember before you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Accept our thanksgiving for the people you surround us with, especially for those who celebrate their lives and birth this week:

Lola Fodness

Nancy Sandeen

enrich them with a sense of joy and grace for yet another year. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Save us from ourselves, from racism in all its hidden forms, from hollow words without actions, forgive us, renew us, call us to action Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For those fighting cancer and other serious illnesses, grant strength and grace. We pray for doctors, nurses, technicians, researchers and all who work toward treatments and cures. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For police officers and firefighters, for peacekeepers and military personnel, and for the leaders of governments, that they provide protection to all people, especially the most vulnerable. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

For your people in the midst of war, civil unrest, or conflict, grant protection, strength and hope for a better tomorrow. Bring peace and an end to the conflict. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of life and rest and for the witness of those who have died in faith we praise your goodness. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Share the peace ...

(Please be seated)

MEAL

OFFERING

The Worship/Communion Registration Card may be placed in the offering plate as it is passed.

Thank you for your support of our ministry.

(Please stand as you are able)

OFFERTORY ELW #186 *Create In Me a Clean Heart*

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Text: Lutheran Book of Worship

THE LORD'S SUPPER: Words of Institution

Grace at the table: The 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

(Please stand as you are able)

COMMUNION SONG *Lamb of God*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Text: Evangelical Lutheran Worship

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION CANTICLE ELW #207 *Thankful Hearts and Voices*

Thankful hearts and voices raise;
tell ev'ryone what God has done.
Let ev'ryone who seeks the Lord rejoice
and bear the name of Christ.
Send us with your promises
and lead your people forth in joy
with shouts of thanksgiving. Alleluia, alleluia.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980 Text © 1978, 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

SENDING

(Please be seated)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

May the Lord bless you and keep you,
may the Lord smile upon you and be gracious to you,
may the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. + Amen.

SENDING SONG ELW 815 vs.1 *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

Text © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. God is at work in you.

Thanks be to God.

ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR THE DAY

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS FOR

Christ the King Sunday

November 26, 2023

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24

God will shepherd Israel

Psalms 95:1-7a

We are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. (*Ps. 95:7*)

Ephesians 1:15-23

The reign of Christ

Matthew 25:31-46

The coming of the Son of Man; the separation of sheep and goats

GOSPEL MESSAGE

November 19, 2023

Who's Got Talent?

Jon Bloom is a cofounder of the Desiring God organization. Speaking to the parable of the talents, he suggests that being given one talent can appear unfair, can wound our pride. He is regularly tempted, he says, to covet his neighbors' talents. And isn't that always the way? Discounting our own gifts, we envy the abilities of others. And yet, Bloom points out, such behavior is, at its core, the sin of pride.

Our love of God can get eclipsed and our loving relationships with others can be damaged by such pride, which costs us any desire to be a good steward of the gifts God has given us. Hence the description of the last servant as "wicked" and "lazy" (Matthew 25:26). Being given a single talent means less of a chance to really impress the master and improve the servant's own position. Therefore, the servant believes, the master is harsh and unjust.

Pride infects all of us, no matter how many talents we have. In a number of parables, Jesus takes aim at people with a generous amount of prestige, wealth, and power. That's why this parable stings so much. Jesus is talking to all of us. We can and must be on the lookout for the sin of pride, which is at the root of so many unhealthy behaviors. Pride takes so many forms, including discouragement, self-pity, and hopelessness. Every single one of us is a cherished and deeply loved child of God—and God has blessed every single one of us, richly, with talents. Making the effort to be good stewards of the talents we have is a fine way to shut down self-pity and the sin of pride. God has reasons for giving us exactly the talents we have.

Upcoming Commemorations

Clement, Bishop of Rome, died around 100

Thursday, November 23, 2023

Clement was the third bishop of Rome. He is best remembered for a letter he wrote to the congregation in Corinth, still struggling with the same problems that led to Paul's letters to them. As did Paul, he focused on the need for love among Christians.

Miguel Agustín Pro, martyr, died 1927

Thursday, November 23, 2023

Pro grew up in a time when the Mexican revolutionaries accused the church of siding with the wealthy. He became a Jesuit priest, and worked on behalf of the poor and homeless. Falsely accused of throwing a bomb at a government official, he was executed, but not before crying out "Long live Christ the King!"

Justus Falckner, died 1723; Jehu Jones, died 1852; William Passavant, died 1894; pastors in North America

Friday, November 24, 2023

Not only was Falckner the first Lutheran ordained in North America, but he published a catechism which was the first Lutheran book published on the continent. Jones was the Lutheran church's first African American pastor and carried out missionary work in Philadelphia which led to the formation there of the first African American Lutheran congregation (St. Paul's). William Passavant helped to establish hospitals and orphanages in a number of cities and was the first to introduce deaconesses to the work of hospitals in the United States.

Isaac Watts, hymnwriter, died 1748

Saturday, November 25, 2023

Thought by many to be the greatest hymnwriter in the English language, Watts as a youth was critical of the quality of the metrical psalter of the time. He wrote about 600 hymns—many based on the psalms, but others that are not.

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