

Sunday, November 8, 2020  
23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**ALTAR FLOWERS** *To the glory of God in loving memory of my mom, Genette Silken.*

*Janell O'Mara*

**PRELUDE**

***"Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"***

arr. David Cherwien

Sharon Gray, organ

**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!**

**WELCOMING SONG**

***"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"***

**ELW 244**

**Rejoice, rejoice, believers,  
and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing,  
and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising  
and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;  
at midnight comes the cry.**

**The watchers on the mountain  
proclaim the bridegroom near;  
go forth as he approaches**

with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting;  
the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory;  
the bridegroom is at hand.

The saints, who here in patience  
their cross and suff'rings bore,  
shall live and reign forever  
when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory  
the Lamb they shall behold;  
in triumph cast before him  
their diadems of gold.

Our hope and expectation,  
O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for,  
o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted,  
we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption  
that sets your people free!

#### **GREETING**

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

#### **SONG OF PRAISE**

*"This is the Feast"*

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**This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,  
whose blood set us free to be people of God.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,  
and honor, and blessing, and glory are his.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

**Sing with all the people of God,  
And join in the hymn of all creation:  
Blessing, honor, glory, and might**

be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign.  
Alleluia.  
This is the feast of victory for our God.  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** O God of justice and love,  
**G** 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!

#### SPECIAL MUSIC

*“Lamb of God”*  
Phil Lewis, harmonica

Twila Paris

**FIRST READING** – Marilyn Hunt, reading

**Amos 5:18-24**

*In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.*

<sup>18</sup>Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

<sup>19</sup>as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

<sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

<sup>21</sup>I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup>Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

<sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

<sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

#### **Reflection**

*We've encountered the phrase “the day of the Lord” before. (verse 18) What it presumably means to the people of Israel, who “desire the day of the Lord,” is the time when the Lord will come once more and rescue Israel from the threats of war, exile, and destruction. What does*

*Amos say about their desire for the day of the Lord? (verses 18-20) What does Amos say the day of the Lord will be like? Why did the Israelites think the Lord would be pleased with them and come and save them? (verses 21-22) What does God reject that they think will please God? (verses 22-23) What does God want from them? (verse 24) One of the things that we are dealing with as a congregation is, what will life be like for us after the pandemic? As I've reflected on this, one of the things I wonder is if this pandemic is something God is using to call us to think about justice and righteousness, just as Amos is calling the people of Israel to do. There is no question in my mind that things will change for us—we won't just go back to the way things were before. The question is, who is God calling us to be, and how will we respond. What do you think?*

**Psalm 70** – read together with Howard Harmsen

<sup>1</sup>Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;  
O LORD, make haste to help me.

<sup>2</sup>Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;  
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.

<sup>3</sup>Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me  
turn back because of their shame.

<sup>4</sup>Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;  
let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the LORD!”

<sup>5</sup>But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.  
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

### **Reflection**

*What is the psalmist praying for? (verse 1) What's going on in the psalmist's life? (verses 2-3) I know people for whom this could be a real prayer—women (and some men) whose partners threaten and beat them, children who are abused, Black people who have been killed by White people and who get no justice.... I think this psalm was written by someone who had very real enemies, who were seeking the psalmist's life and who “gloated over” the psalmist's misfortune. What/who does the psalmist want those people to seek? (verse 4) Is it possible to seek the Lord and love God's salvation while also wishing ill on your enemies? Who does the psalmist seek, and what does s/he want? (verse 5) If you don't need this help, who do you know who is lowly and needs the help of God?*

**SECOND READING** – Karri Chladek, reading

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

*Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.*

<sup>13</sup>We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from

heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

### **Reflection**

*I don't know about you, but I've thought about death lately. There are people we know who have gotten very ill, and who may die. I think this is probably true about the people in the Thessalonian congregation. We know from Paul's letter to them that they were being persecuted for their faith. Perhaps they all expected to be alive when Jesus returned in glory. (verse 14) And yet, Paul feels as though he needs to encourage them about "those who have died." (verse 13) What is the difference between grieving "as those who have no hope" and grieving as believers in Jesus? (verse 14) What will happen to those who have died? (verses 15-16) How do we know that we will be with the Lord when we die? (verses 14 & 17) How does this help those who grieve? (verse 18) What do you need if you are frightened and anxious about this pandemic and afraid of dying? How can you get what you need?*

### **GOSEPL ACCLAMATION**

***"With a Voice of Singing"***  
Sharmyn Thompson, soprano

Martin Shaw

*With a voice of singing,  
declare ye this and let it be heard,  
Alleluia.*

### **GOSPEL**

**Matthew 25:1-13**

*Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' <sup>12</sup>But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

### **Reflection**

*Here is another parable about the kingdom of heaven. Who are the main characters in this parable? (verse 1) What is the difference between them? (verse 2) What did they do differently? (verses 3-4) We've heard other parables about the need to "stay awake." (verse 13) That's not the difference here. (verse 5) How did they greet the bridegroom? (verses 6-10) What do you think it means to be ready? Is being ready something we do, or is it being willing*

to accept the gift of “readiness” from God? It’s not as though the foolish bridesmaids didn’t want to greet the bridegroom. (verse 11) What did they lack? How will we be ready, do you think?

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

Kris Langdon

**SERMON**

Rev. Keith Hohly

**SONG OF THE DAY**

*“Seek Ye First”*

Seek ye first the kingdom of God  
And His righteousness  
And all these things  
Shall be added unto you  
Allelu alleluia

Ask and it shall be given unto you  
Seek and ye shall find  
Knock and the door  
Shall be opened unto you  
Allelu alleluia

**PRAYER SONG**

*“Open Our Eyes”*

Open our eyes Lord  
We want to see Jesus  
To reach out and touch Him  
And say that we love Him  
Open our ears Lord  
And help us to listen  
Open our eyes Lord  
We want to see Jesus

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION** – led by Rev. Keith & Deb Hohly

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*We remember in our prayers*

*Steven and Katie Newman ( Dave Newman’s son & daughter-in-law), Rachael Kinney, Betty Lenander (Pastor Roger’s mother), Bonnie Hall, Janet, Marge & Roy (friends of Sharmyn Thompson), Pamma Williams, Sonny Thompson, Marlene Hebb, , Scott Correa (Sharon Gray’s son-in-law), Lynn Ann Flora (friend of Laurel Goforth), Kira and Kaitlyn Wall (great-nieces of Irene Wall), Andy Wilson (friend of Sharon Gray), Reed Nelson, Nancy Reder, Dorothy Masteller, Phil Lewis, Dee Rasmussen, those affected by the wildfires in the western United States, those affected by the storms in the Gulf.*

*Longing for Christ’s reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God’s power on the church, the world, and all in need.*

*A brief silence.*

*Holy God, rouse us to deep praise as we gather for worship. Enliven our worship with sincere and heartfelt song. Sustain the work of all church musicians and artists who lead us in praise and prayer. Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

*Holy Creator, surprise and delight us with the beauty of the world you have made. Bless the work of landscapers, architects, and artists whose work invites us into harmonious living with your creation. Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

*Holy Judge, let justice roll down like waters over this world. Reign over the courtrooms of every land, in the hearts of those who guard the law and those who stand accused of crimes. Be present in cases where we long for both justice and mercy to prevail. In the midst of a global crisis, we look to you for strength, hope and help in fighting the coronavirus pandemic. We pray for those stricken with this disease and those who are treating them, for those mourning the loss of life and those facing death, and for those who urgently work to find effective treatments for cure. We lift up to you those in our faith community needing your care: Steven, Katie, Rachael, Betty, Bonnie, Janet, Marge, Roy, Pamma, Sonny, Marlene, Scott, Lynn Ann, Keira, Andy, Reed, Nancy, Dorothy, Phil, Dee, those affected by the wildfires in the western United States, those affected by the storms in the Gulf, and those we name aloud or silently in our hearts. Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

*Holy Companion, console those who feel lonely or abandoned. Share the hours of those who live and eat alone. Comfort those who have few friends or who struggle with their identity and place in this world. Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

*Holy Protector, be with all observing Veterans Day. Guard the lives of active duty and retired military personnel. Comfort all who mourn those who have died in the line of duty. Heal the wounds, both physical and mental, experienced by service members. Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

*Holy and Immortal One, we pray in thanksgiving for the lives of all who have died. Remind us of the frailty and shortness of our own lives and inspire us to use them for the building up of your kingdom. Hear us, O God.*

**Your mercy is great.**

*Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.*

**Amen!**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

**☩ Amen!**

**P** *Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.*

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** *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!**

**P** *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!**

#### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P** *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

**☩ And also with you!**

#### **DIALOGUE**

**P** *The Lord be with you.*

**☩ And also with you.**

**P** *Lift up your hearts.*

**☩ We lift them to the Lord.**

**P** *Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.*

**☩ It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

#### **PREFACE**

**P** *It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,*

*with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

**SANCTUS**

***“Holy, Holy, Holy”***

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**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**P** *In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread  
and gave thanks, broke it,  
and gave it to his disciples,  
saying: Take and eat;  
this is my body, given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper,  
he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink,  
saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people  
for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this in remembrance of me.*

**LORD'S PRAYER**

**☩ Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen!**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** *There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table. All are welcome.*

## COMMUNION

### BLESSING

**P** *May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.*

**C** **Amen!**

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P** *Lord Jesus,*

**C** **in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. Amen!**

### BENEDICTION

**P** *May the God of all creation,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved,  
who strengthens us for service,  
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!  
The blessing of God,  
Sovereign,  $\dagger$  Savior, and Spirit,  
be with you today and always.*

**C** **Amen!**

### SENDING SONG

***"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"***

**Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
for this work's almost done.**

#### ***Refrain***

**Children, don't grow weary,  
children, don't grow weary,  
children, don't grow weary,  
for this work's almost done.**

**Darker midnight lies before us,  
darker midnight lies before us,  
darker midnight lies before us,  
for this work's almost done. *Refrain***

Lo, the morning soon is breaking,  
lo, the morning soon is breaking,  
lo, the morning soon is breaking,  
for this work's almost done. *Refrain*

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,  
for this work's almost done. *Refrain*

**DISMISSAL** – Jeff Langdon

☞ *Go in peace. Serve the Lord.*

☞ **Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**

***“Praise Him! Praise Him!”***  
Sharon Gray, piano

ChesterAllen/arr. Mark Hayes

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Rev. Keith Hohly, Interim Pastor

**Instruments:** Drums – Bruce Taylor | Piano and Organ – Sharon Gray | Guitar – Jim Pierce

**Song leaders and vocal talents:** Sharmyn Thompson, Rev. Keith Hohly, Deb Hohly,  
Dave Newman, Jeff Langdon, Phil Lewis, Nancy Lewis, Jim Pierce, Juel Pierce, Jim Bunge  
and Carol Bunge

**Reflections on Today's Readings** written by Rev. Juel Pierce

**Music and Liturgy:**

*"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" ELW #244 | CCLI Song # 3739583*  
K. Lee Scott | Laurentius Laurentii Laurinus | Sarah Borthwick Findlater  
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*"Open Our Eyes, Lord" | CCLI Song # 1572 | Bob Cull*  
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