

**Our Savior Lutheran Church
Sunday, November 15, 2020
Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost**



Thought: We don't know when Jesus is coming – but should that matter? We are speaking of the “end times,” or maybe the “beginning times” depending on how you look at it. But a commonality is that we don't KNOW when. A thief in the night says scripture or if you had known you might have stayed awake. But we don't! So what person ought we to be? Whether it is bridesmaids or servants with Talents, we live a whole life of trust and preparation or maybe fear and no trust. What do think? Guest invited to the banquet making excuses or excited to be included!

Call to Worship

A: O God, you are my God, I seek you.

C: My soul thirsts for you.

A: Because your steadfast love is better than life,

C: My lips will praise you.

A: I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

**C: For you have been my help,
and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.**

Opening Music – Soon and Very Soon

First Plymouth Church, Lincoln Nebraska, November 3, 2019.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8rBCSiQ-vyY>

Invocation and Confession

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Just as parents have compassion on their children,
so the Lord has compassion on all who fear him.

C: If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

A time of silence and reflection

P: Most gracious God,

C: We are not worthy of all the kindness and all the love which you have shown unto your children. We have responded with disobedience and indifference, neglecting to use your gifts in your service. We truly deserve your wrath and punishment. For the sake of Jesus Christ, we turn to you for forgiveness.

P: Our heavenly Father does not forsake his dear children. Jesus Christ was given to die for us so that we might escape God's wrath and enter into the joy of our Master. For his sake your sins are forgiven, and the Holy Spirit enables you to be named the children of God.

C: Let us be ready for his return! Amen.

The 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.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen and Amen!

Music of Praise – My Lord What a Morning arr. Jay Althouse

<https://youtu.be/51E9b8DwpJw>

Prayer of the Day

A: Righteous God, our merciful master,

C: 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.

The Word

Old Testament reading – Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

The Day of the Lord

⁷ Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.

¹² At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the
people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts,
“The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm.”

¹³ Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴ The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵ That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,

¹⁶ a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷ I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out
like dust, and their flesh like dung.

¹⁸ Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of
the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be
consumed; for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 90: 1-8 (9-11) 12

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

¹ Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

² **Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

³ You turn us back to dust, and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

⁴ **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.**

⁵ You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;

⁶ **in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.**

⁷ For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

⁸ **You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

⁹For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰**The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.**

¹¹Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.

¹²**So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.**

Epistle reading – 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Be alert for the day of the Lord

5 Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ² For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³ When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴ But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵ for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶ So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷ for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹ For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰ who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel – Matthew 25:14-30

Story of the Talents

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

https://youtu.be/S_6iJXZ-vig

¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵ to one he gave five talents, to another two,

to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶ The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷ In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸ But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹ After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

²⁰ Then 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.' ²¹ His 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.' ²² And 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.' ²³ His 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.' ²⁴ Then 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; ²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶ But 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? ²⁷ Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹ For 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. ³⁰ As 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.**

Children's Time – God's Almanac

<https://youtu.be/Ci242CXn0tk>

Homily – “Ready or Not, Here I Come!” – Pastor Barnes

<https://youtu.be/nLkS67CdMe8>

Music of the Day – The Day of the Lord (Judd Field)

<https://youtu.be/oFm4Ysi-cSU>

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

P: 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.

A: Lord of the church, ignite your people with the passion of your love. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, unify us across ministries, congregations, and denominations, and refine us to participate in your activity throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

A: Lord of creation, we stand in awe at the works of your hands and praise you for the beauty of nature. Bless the earth for your glory and restore its integrity where exploitation has caused ruin. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Lord of the nations, sound forth your justice in the ears of all leaders. Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable, especially as international leaders forge trade agreements and cooperate to end human rights abuses. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Lord of the stranger, stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control and open us to learn from the perspectives of others. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Lord of the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors. Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

Hear us, O God.

C: Amen.

Offering/Offertory Prayer

A: You have invested in us so richly, O God.

C: Talents are ours – and grace – and love.

A: Accept these gifts we offer – returns on your giving –

C: - trusting in your grace.

A: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

P: God prepares the table for us, offering us a feast of abundant love.

C: Our cups overflow with the bounty of grace, for our Shepherd knows us as no one else can – restoring our souls, healing our brokenness, nourishing us with bread and cup for the life of ministry.

****Since we cannot be together, take a moment during “Here Is Bread” to give thanks for the gracious gift given to all of us. Forgiveness!****

Here is Bread, Here is Wine - <https://youtu.be/w9nOWL30EP8>

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, the power and the glory,

for ever and ever.

Amen.

Closing Prayer

C: Gracious God, you created us not as empty vessels to be tucked away from all good use, instead, you chose to fill us with your Spirit and make us stewards of your creation. Open our hands and our hearts so that we may become conformed to the image of Christ and be your servants in this world. Amen.

Benediction – Numbers 6

P: Now may the Lord bless and keep you. May he make His face to shine upon you. May he lift up his countenance upon you and give to you HIS PEACE. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Closing Music –Awake, Awake for Night is Flying

St. Olaf Christmas Festival (2018)

<https://youtu.be/wdN7vC2q9Mc>

