

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost ✠ November 8, 2020

WELCOME! *Today in the Old Testament reading, the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. In the Epistle reading, St. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. And in the Gospel reading, 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 or midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the "Marriage Feast of the Lamb in his kingdom, which has no end!"*



THE PASTORAL GREETING

THE OPENING HYMN – “God Himself Is Present” (Vss. 1-2) **LSB 907**

- 1 God Himself is present: Let us now adore Him And with awe appear before Him.
 God is in His temple; All within keep silence; Humbly kneel in deepest rev'rence.
 He alone On His throne
 Is our God and Savior;
 Praise His name forever!

- 2 God Himself is present: Hear the harps resounding; See the hosts the throne
 surrounding.
 “Holy, holy, holy!” Hear the hymn ascending, Songs of saints and angels blending.
 Bow Your ear To us here:
 Hear, O Christ, the praises
 That Your Church now raises.

THE INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

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

C: **Amen.**

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **Who made heaven and earth.**

Psalm 124:8

P: I said, I will confess my transgression unto the Lord,

C: **And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Psalm 32:5

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. 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.

C: **Amen.**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE – “God Himself Is Present”

(Vs. 3)

LSB 907

3 Fount of ev'ry blessing, Purify my spirit, Trusting only in Your merit.
Like the holy angels, Worshiping before You, May I ceaselessly adore You.
Let Your will Ever still
Rule Your Church terrestrial
As the hosts celestial.

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✠ THE WORD ✠

THE FIRST READING – Amos 5:18-24, ESV

In the days of the prophet 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.

Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why would you have the day of the Lord? It is darkness, and not light, as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

“I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE EPISTLE READING – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, ESV

Some of the Thessalonians were worried that dead Christians would be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul assures them in this reading with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

THE HYMN – “Seek Ye First”*(V.s. 3)***LSB 712**

- 3 Man does not live by bread alone
But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of the Lord, Allelu-, alleluia!

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THE HOLY GOSPEL READING – Matthew 25:1-13, ESV

[Jesus said:] “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE HYMN – “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”**LSB 733**

- 1 O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, And our eternal home:
- 2 Under the shadow of Thy throne Thy saints have dwelt secure;
Sufficient is Thine arm alone, And our defense is sure.
- 3 Before the hills in order stood Or earth received her frame,
From everlasting Thou art God, To endless years the same.
- 4 A thousand ages in Thy sight Are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night Before the rising sun.
- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream, Soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten as a dream Dies at the op’ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past, Our hope for years to come,
Be Thou our guard while troubles last And our eternal home!

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THE MESSAGE**✠ THE RESPONSE ✠****THE HYMN – “Wake, Awake for Night Is Flying”****LSB 516**

- 1 “Wake, awake, for night is flying,”
The watchmen on the heights are crying;
“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”
Midnight hears the welcome voices
And at the thrilling cry rejoices:

“Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes, awake!
Your lamps with gladness take!
Alleluia!
With bridal care
Yourselves prepare
To meet the Bridegroom, who is near.”

2 Zion hears the watchmen singing,
And all her heart with joy is springing;
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.
For her Lord comes down all-glorious,
The strong in grace, in truth victorious;
Her star is ris'n, her light is come.
Now come, Thou Blessèd One,
Lord Jesus, God's own Son,
Hail! Hosanna!
We enter all
The wedding hall
To eat the Supper at Thy call.

3 Now let all the heav'ns adore Thee,
Let saints and angels sing before Thee
With harp and cymbals' clearest tone.
Of one pearl each shining portal,
Where, joining with the choir immortal,
We gather round Thy radiant throne.
No eye has seen the light,
No ear has heard the might
Of Thy glory;
Therefore will we
Eternally
Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

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THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition will end with the words: Lord, in Your mercy, **C: hear our prayer.**

Hear us Heavenly Father, as we pray the prayer that Christ gave 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.

THE BLESSING

P: May almighty God: Father, Son ✠ and Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

C: Amen.

THE HYMN – “The Lord, My God, Be Praised”

(Vss. 1 & 4)

LSB 794

- 1 The Lord, my God, be praised, My light, my life from heaven;
My maker, who to me Has soul and body given;
My Father, who will shield And keep me day by day
And make each moment yield New blessings on my way.
- 4 The Lord, my God, be praised, My God, the ever-living,
To whom the heav'nly host Their laud and praise are giving.
The Lord, my God, be praised, In whose great name I boast,
God Father, God the Son, And God the Holy Ghost.

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✠ May God bless you and yours. ✠

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