

SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
November 7 & 8, 2020 – 23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Ministers: Every Member of Spirit of Grace
Pastor Scott Hackler – Pastor Gary Benson

OUR VISION

“To help our congregation and community know Christ and grow in faith, so we can run the race of life with grace, hope, peace, and joy.”

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK: Advent Giving Tree Deborah Frusciano

CALL TO WORSHIP: “Above All” Fred Bornhoeft

INVOCATION

P: We worship in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit!

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: “O God, Our Help in Ages Past”

O God, our help in ages past, / our hope for years to come, / our shelter from the stormy blast, / and our eternal home.

Under the shadow of your throne / your saints have dwelt secure; / sufficient is your arm alone, / and our defense is sure.

Time, like an ever-rolling stream, / bears all our years away; / they fly forgotten, as a dream / dies at the op'ning day.

O God, our help in ages past, / our hope for years to come, / still be our guard while troubles last / and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748, alt. Public Domain.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Holy One,

C: 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.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE: “This Is the Day”

This is the day, this is the day / that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made; / we will rejoice, we will rejoice / and be glad in it, and be glad in it. / This is the day that the Lord has made; / we will rejoice and be glad in it. / This is the day, this the day that the Lord has made.

Text: Psalm 118:24. Public Domain.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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

SPECIAL MUSIC: “Friends” Stephen Coffman

THE FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24 Larry Branen

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; 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. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your festivals, 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 offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

THE SECOND READING: Psalm 70 Larry Branen

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O Lord, make haste to help me. 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. Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me turn back because of their shame. Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the Lord!” 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.

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 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, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 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.’ 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. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY: “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

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.

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!

Text: Laurentius Laurentii, 1660-1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907, alt. Public Domain.

APOSTLES' CREED

C: 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 into hell. 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

THE LORD'S SUPPER: WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Let us pray: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he come to us in his holy supper.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

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 for the 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 for the remembrance of me.

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord Jesus, you teach us to pray:

C: 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.

DISTRIBUTION

BLESSING AND PRAYER

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Let us pray,

Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN: “Blessed Assurance”

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! / Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine! / Heir of salvation, purchase of God, / born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song, / praising my Savior, all the day long: / this is my story, this is my song, / praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, / visions of rapture now burst on my sight; / angels descending bring from above / echoes of mercy, whispers of love. **Refrain**

Perfect submission, all is at rest; / I in my Savior am happy and blest, / watching and waiting, looking above, / filled with his goodness, lost in his love. **Refrain**

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915. Public Domain.

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you!

C: Thanks be to God.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Hymn vocalists: Karen Boeck, Ken Carnes, Stephen Coffman, Sue Wilterdink

Audio & Lighting: Jim Miller

Producer & Editor: Jerry Huston

RUNNING THE RACE

“Forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 3:13-14