

SPIRIT OF GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH
November 14 & 15, 2020 – 24th 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

CALL TO WORSHIP: “I Worship You, Almighty God” Fred Bornhoeft

INVOCATION

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

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: “All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name!”

All hail the pow'r of Jesus' name! / Let angels prostrate fall; / bring forth the royal diadem / and crown him Lord of all. / Bring forth the royal diadem / and crown him Lord of all.

Let ev'ry kindred, ev'ry tribe / on this terrestrial ball / to him all majesty ascribe / and crown him Lord of all. / To him all majesty ascribe / and crown him Lord of all.

Oh, that with yonder sacred throng / we at his feet may fall! / We'll join the everlasting song / and crown him Lord of all. / We'll join the everlasting song / and crown him Lord of all.

Text: Edward Perronet, 1726-1792, sts. 1-5; J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, sts. 6-7. 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: 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.

C: Amen

SPECIAL MUSIC: “The Wayfaring Stranger” Fred Bornhoeft

THE FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18 Laurel Branen

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

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

THE SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 Laurel Branen

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 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! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who are drunk, get drunk at night. 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. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God!

THE GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 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.’ 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.’ 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.’ 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.’ 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; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ 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? 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. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 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. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’”

P: The Gospel of the Lord,

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: “Endings and in the Meantime!” *Pastor Gary Benson*

HYMN OF THE DAY: “I Love to Tell the Story”

I love to tell the story / of unseen things above, / of Jesus and his glory, / of Jesus and his love. / I love to tell the story, / because I know it's true; / it satisfies my longings / as nothing else would do.

Refrain

I love to tell the story; / I'll sing this theme in glory / and tell the old, old story / of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story: / how pleasant to repeat / what seems, each time I tell it, / more wonderfully sweet! / I love to tell the story, / for some have never heard / the message of salvation / from God's own holy word.

Refrain

I love to tell the story, / for those who know it best / seem hungering and thirsting / to hear it like the rest. / And when, in scenes of glory, / I sing the new, new song, / I'll sing the old, old story / that I have loved so long. **Refrain**

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911. 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

COMMUNION HYMN: “As We Break the Bread”

..... Ken Carnes, Phil Nelson, Sue Nelson, Sue Wilterdink

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: “Soon and Very Soon”

Soon and very soon / we are goin' to see the King, / soon and very soon / we are goin' to see the King, / soon and very soon / we are goin' to see the King. / Hallelujah, hallelujah, / we're goin' to see the King!

No more cryin' there, / we are goin' to see the King, / no more cryin' there, / we are goin' to see the King, / no more cryin' there, / we are goin' to see the King. / Hallelujah, hallelujah, / we're goin' to see the King!

No more dyin' there, / we are goin' to see the King, / no more dyin' there, / we are goin' to see the King, / no more dyin' there, / we are goin' to see the King. / Hallelujah, hallelujah, / we're goin' to see the King! / Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.

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DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:

Cantor: Ken Carnes

Hymn vocalists: Phil Nelson, Sue Nelson, Dave Seaburg, 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