



WORSHIP NOVEMBER 15, 2020
24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

In the church's year November's readings speak of the end times. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus' parable of the talents doesn't seem to be about the end of days, but calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around words of hope eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

Welcome to worship in the last Sundays of the church's liturgical year, moving to the great Sunday of Christ the King. We are one family of faith even as we worship in-house and wherever we are sheltering in place. Let us gather together in heart and spirit, encouraging, praying and caring for one another.

GATHERING: Announcements and time for prayer and preparation.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit **Amen.**

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"

and you lifted the burden of my sin.

Let the faithful pray.

O Lord, preserve me from sin.

Let us pray: Faithful God,

have mercy on us.

We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.

We turn from your loving embrace and go our own ways.

We pass judgment on one another before examining ourselves.

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,

and turn us again to life in you

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,

and through his death and resurrection, Christ has made us his own.

As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority,
I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father + Son and Holy Spirit.
Live in freedom and peace to do God's work in the world. **Amen.**

HYMN

GREETING

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

Let us pray: - *Silence*- 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. **Amen.**



THE READINGS

The first reading is from Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

⁷Be 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.

¹²At 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."

¹³Their 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.

¹⁴The 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.

¹⁵That 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, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I 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.

¹⁸Neither 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!**

Silence for Reflection

Psalm 90 is read responsively by verse.

The congregation's response is in **bold** type.

¹Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

²**Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.**

³You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."

⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;**

⁵you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

⁶**in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

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

⁹When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

¹⁰**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,
for they pass away quickly
and we are gone.**

¹¹Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?

¹²**So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. Amen.**

Silence for Reflection

The second reading is from 1st Thessalonians 5:1 - 11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When 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! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But 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. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing. The Word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

Alleluia! Beloved, we are not destined for darkness or night,
For we children of light and belong to the day. Alleluia!

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The Gospel, Matthew 25: 14-30 is read.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then 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.' ²¹His 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.' ²²And 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.' ²³His 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.' ²⁴Then 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; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is

yours.’ ²⁶But 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?’ ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For 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. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’” The Gospel of our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

TEACHING THE WORD/SERMON

HYMN

CONFESSION OF FAITH & PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

In confidence and trust, let us confess our faith:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He 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,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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 THE CHURCH

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.

Silence for reflection

Holy God, you've entrusted us with measureless treasures: salvation, mercy, the gift of creation, the church, the opportunity to witness and serve. Make us good stewards, faithful, generous in sharing, bold in witness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Tend the heart of our country. Give wisdom and patience as candidates prepare to take up or continue in office. Strengthen your followers to be examples of civility, even in disagreement,

Guard those in need, O God. Raise up faithful advocates and caretakers for those who stand in any need. Hear our prayers for those on our hearts today as we pray for:

all who need medical treatment from any and every cause,

and those unable to access or receive care...

all working to meet the needs of work and home...

those struggling and anxious for health in body, mind and finances....

Hear our needs, and the needs known only to You. Be our strength to meet the days ahead.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

We lift to you, Eternal God, the memory of our loved ones who now rest in you. Bring to mind all who have walked in faith as an example, and bring us to rejoice with them in the everlasting peace of our King of Kings. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

Guide and rule and re-form your church forever, Lord Jesus, so that we walk steadily in times peaceful and quiet, and boldly in challenging times, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you!**

However you are joining in worship at this moment, pause to share Peace with those around you in body or spirit, and offer thanks for God's gifts that sustain and bless us. Offerings can be made online by going to the website christpipersville.org, or using the QR code with your smartphone. Offerings can also be gathered and mailed.



We are grateful for your continuing support of our mission and ministry! Then continue:

:

Let us pray. *Silence* God of mercy and grace,
the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things from Your Word, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.

A Brief Silence

Praise and thanks to you, holy God,
for by your Word you made all things:
you spoke light into darkness,
called forth beauty from chaos,
and brought life into being.
For your Word of life, O God, **We give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel
to tell of your wonderful gifts:
freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey,
a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.
For your Word of life, O God, **We give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh,
you speak to us and call us to witness:
forgiveness through the cross,
life to those entombed by death,
the way of your self-giving love.
For your Word of life, O God, **We give you thanks and praise.**

Lord, now let your servant go in peace
according to Your word.
**For mine eyes have seen Your salvation;
Which you have prepared before the face of all people;**

A light to reveal You to the nations,
And the glory of Your people Israel.
**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.**

Let us pray in the words Jesus taught 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 God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The God of all grace + bless us now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN

However you have joined in worship with the family of Christ Lutheran, may you be blessed! We hope you will take time to read the announcements, and keep those on the Prayer List in your prayers.

DISMISSAL

Dwell in peace. Serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

We give thanks to God that we are able to gather in-house and wherever we are sheltering in place, and for your faithful support as we move forward serving one another and our community.

POSTLUDE



Liturgical Texts from Evangelical Lutheran Worship: Sundays & Seasons SB125957
Readings from the New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National
Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.
Used by permission. All rights reserved