



WORSHIP NOVEMBER 8, 2020
23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Today Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids, calling the church to be ready. But for what? And how? We are to be ready for the Dominion of God, a Kingdom of justice flowing like a mighty cleansing, renewing stream. The church Paul urges, must encourage one another with the promises of God. As we look forward may hearing the Word, our prayer and praise give us hope, and strengthen us to be prepared to shine for the Kingdom.

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.**

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*- 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. **Amen.**



THE READINGS

The first reading is from Amos, the 5th chapter.

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

¹⁹as 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.

²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even 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.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.
The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Silence for Reflection

Psalm 70 is read responsively by verse.
The congregation's response is in **bold type**.

¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O LORD, make | haste to help me.
²**Let those who seek my life be put to shame;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune and be disgraced.**
³Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me
turn back because of their shame.
⁴**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"**
⁵But 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! **Amen.**

Silence for Reflection

The second reading is from 1st Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words. The Word of the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

Alleluia! Let justice roll down like waters!
And righteousness like a mighty stream, Alleluia!

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

The Gospel, Matthew 25: 1-13 is read. It concludes:

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish,

and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But 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.' ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹²But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'" The Gospel of our Lord! **Praise to you, O Christ!**

TEACHING THE WORD/SERMON

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

Just and holy Judge, let justice roll down like a cleansing stream for the nations. May light shine into the courtrooms of every land, and upon all who long for both justice and mercy to prevail. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations: Be with all who have been newly elected and those who will be continuing in office and give them hearts to strive for justice, for right governance for all.

God of Sabaoth, be with all observing Veterans Day. Guard the lives of active duty and retired military personnel. Comfort all who mourn those who have died in the line of duty. Heal the wounds, both physical and mental, experienced by service members. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Silence for offering our own prayers silently or aloud follows each petition.

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 care from any and every cause,

and those unable to access or receive care...

families 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**

Be with those who grieve a loved one gone, who mourn hope lost, who fear the future. Comfort us in grief, O God, restore our hope, and strengthen us for the days ahead. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer**

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. **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 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.**

DISMISSAL

Go 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 out community.*

POSTLUDE



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