

**Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMS)**

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*"Equipping Disciples to Make Disciples for Jesus"*

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**TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST**

**Sunday, November 8, 2020**

## As We Gather

We hear today these words from the apostle Paul concerning everlasting life: "We will always be with the Lord." Our Lord makes His presence known today in His Word and in the Lord's Supper. You have the assurance that when Jesus returns, you will spend everlasting life in His gracious presence.

### PREPARATION

## Opening Hymn

*Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service*

**LSB #848**

**Lord, whose love through humble service  
Bore the weight of human need,  
Who upon the cross, forsaken,  
Offered mercy's perfect deed,  
We, Your servants, bring the worship  
Not of voice alone, but heart,  
Consecrating to Your purpose  
Ev'ry gift that You impart.**

**Called by worship to Your service,  
Forth in Your dear name we go,  
To the child, the youth, the aged,  
Love in living deeds to show;  
Hope and health, goodwill and comfort,  
Counsel, aid, and peace we give,  
That Your servants, Lord, in freedom  
May Your mercy know and live.**

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## Invocation

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** Amen.

## Opening Sentences

- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver us!  
**C** O Lord, make haste to help us!
- P** May all who seek the Lord rejoice and be glad in Him!  
**C** May we say evermore, "God is great!"

**P** For Christ is coming soon.  
**C** **Soon, He will descend from the heavens.**

**P** Soon, He will raise the dead.  
**C** **And we will always be with the Lord.**

**P** He is our help and our deliverer.  
**C** **O Lord, do not delay!**

## Confession and Absolution

**P** Indeed, Christ is coming soon to raise the dead and bring us into everlasting life with Him. Yet there are times when we have lived as if Christ's return was not important and not imminent. Yet, our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection.*

**P** Heavenly Father,  
**C** **we confess that we have ignored You and our neighbors in need. We have sinned in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have failed by our inactivity. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, O Lord, that we might be encouraged by Your presence and forgiven of our sin.**

**P** God hears your confession and has promised to always be with you. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the  $\text{✠}$  Son and of the Holy Spirit.  
**C** **Amen. We are forgiven. We look for the return of Jesus.**

## WORD

### Introit

*Psalm 84:1, 9–12; antiphon: v. 3*

**P** Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,

**C** **at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.**

**P** How lovely is your dwelling place,

**C** **O LORD of hosts!**

**P** Behold our shield, O God;

**C** **look on the face of your anointed!**

**P** For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

**C** I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

**P** For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor.

**C** No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

**P** O LORD of hosts,

**C** blessed is the one who trusts in you!

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son**

**and to the Holy Spirit;**

**as it was in the beginning,**

**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

**P** Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,

**C** at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

### Prayer of the Day

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

### Old Testament Reading

*Amos 5:18–24 (ESV)*

*The day of the Lord is coming*

<sup>18</sup> 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, <sup>19</sup> 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. <sup>20</sup> Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? <sup>21</sup> "I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. <sup>22</sup> 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. <sup>23</sup> Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. <sup>24</sup> But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

### Epistle

*1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 (ESV)*

*We will always be with the Lord*

<sup>13</sup> 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. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**L** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## Holy Gospel

*Matthew 25:1–13 (ESV)*

*The parable of the ten virgins*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup> but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup> But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' <sup>7</sup> Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' <sup>9</sup> 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.' <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' <sup>12</sup> But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' <sup>13</sup> 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.**

## Apostles' Creed

**C** **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.

**Song of the Day**

*Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray*

**LSB #663**

**Rise, my soul, to watch and pray;  
From your sleep awaken!  
Be not by the evil day  
Unawares o'ertaken;  
For the foe,  
Well we know,  
Is a harvest reaping  
While the saints are sleeping.**

**Watch against yourself, my soul,  
Lest with grace you trifle;  
Let not self your thoughts control  
Nor God's mercy stifle.  
Pride and sin  
Lurk within,  
All your hopes to shatter;  
Hed not when they flatter.**

**But while watching, also pray  
To the Lord unceasing.  
God protects you day by day,  
Strength and faith increasing,  
So that still  
Mind and will**

**Shall unite to serve Him  
And forever love Him.**

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**Sermon**

*Why Wait?*

**Matthew 25:1-13**

**Prayer of the Church**

**P** Lord Jesus Christ, through You all things were made. You have entrusted us with the care of all creation. Embolden us to be good and faithful stewards of all that You have made until You return to dwell with us again. For until Your return, we pray,

**C** **come quickly, Lord Jesus.**

*Brief silence*

**(Each petition will close with; Lord in Your mercy... and the congregation replies: Hear our prayer. Prayer requests are listed in the *Tidings*)**

**P** Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

**Benediction**

## Closing Hymn

*Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise*

**LSB #917**

**Savior, again to Thy dear name we raise  
With one accord our parting hymn of praise;  
Once more we bless Thee ere our worship cease,  
Then, lowly bending, wait Thy word of peace.**

**Grant us Thy peace throughout our earthly life,  
Our balm in sorrow and our stay in strife;  
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our conflict cease,  
Call us, O Lord, to Thine eternal peace.**

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