

Old Testament Reading:

Amos 5:18-24

¹⁸Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord!

Why would you have the day of the Lord?

¹⁹It is darkness, and not light, 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.

²⁰Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹"I hate, I despise your feasts, 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 peace offerings of your fattened animals,

I will not look upon them.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;

to the melody of your harps I will not listen.

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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

Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

¹Jesus said: "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³For when 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, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹²But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' ¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

*Ten virgins...
took their
lamps and
went to
meet the
bridegroom
Matthew 25:1*



Pentecost

About the Cover: The Bridegroom is coming. This is a time to be vigilant and ready. As we near the end of the Church Year, Jesus' parable is a call to be prepared for His second coming. We do not know the time. But we have the Word of the Lord to guide us in the truth as we wait. His Word has illuminated His promises of life and salvation to us.

TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 8, 2020

The HYMNS are from the Lutheran Service Book (Maroon Book), unless indicated otherwise. Please stand at the appropriate times.

THE ORGAN PRELUDE

THE WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN NO. 516 - "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"
(Please stand to sing stanza 3)

THE INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His only Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE INTROIT (Pastor and Congregation chant alternately)

P: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may / lay her young.*
at Your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King / and my God.
C: **How lovely is Your / dwelling place,* O / LORD of hosts!**

P: Behold our shield, / O God,* look on the face of Your a- / nointed!
C: **For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand / elsewhere.***
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.*
No good thing does He withhold from those who walk up- / rightly.

C: **O / LORD of hosts,* blessed is the one who / trusts in You!**

P: Glory be to the Father and / to the Son* and to the Holy / Spirit;
as it was in the be- / ginning,* is now, and will be forever. / Amen.

C: **Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may / lay her young,***
at Your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King / and my God.

THE KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: **Amen.**

THE HYMN OF PRAISE - "To God Be the Glory" (See page 3)

To God Be the Glory

Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

William H. Doane, 1832-1915

1. To God be the glo - ry, great things he hath done;
 2. O per - fect re - demp - tion, the pur - chase of blood,
 3. Great things he hath taught us, great things he hath done,

So loved he the world that he gave us his Son,
 To ev - 'ry be - liev - er the prom - ise of God;
 And great our re - joic - ing through Je - sus the Son;

Who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin
 The vil - est of - fend - er who tru - ly be - lieves,
 But pur - er and high - er and great - er will be

And o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.
 That mo - ment from Je - sus a par - don re - ceives.
Refrain
 Our won - der, our trans - port, when Je - sus we see.

Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the earth hear his voice!
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, Let the peo - ple re - joice!

Oh, come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son,
 And give him the glo - ry, great things he hath done.

THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT

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. (Be seated)**

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Amos 5:18-24

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE GRADUAL (Pastor and Congregation chant alternately)

P: These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- / lation. *
 They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood / of the Lamb.

C: **Blessed are those whose strength is / in you, *
 in whose heart are the highways to / Zion.**

THE EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Stand)

THE ALLELUIA VERSE

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?
 You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia.

THE GOSPEL ACCOUNT: Matthew 25:1-13

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

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 Ghost, 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 sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen.

(Please be seated after making confession of our faith)

THE SERMON HYMN NO. 508 - "The Day Is Surely Drawing Near"

(Please stand to sing stanza 7)

THE SERMON - "Playing With Fire,"

Text: Matthew 25:1-13

(Stand)

THE OFFERTORY

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence;
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation;
and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

After each petition the pastor will say "Lord, in Your mercy."
Congregation to respond with "Hear our prayer."

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
C: Amen. (Please be seated)

THE CLOSING HYMN NO. 515 - "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers!"

**HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE CELEBRATED
FOLLOWING THE CLOSE OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE.**

**THOSE WHO WISH TO RECEIVE COMMUNION WILL BE
ASKED TO COME FORWARD AFTER PASTOR DISMISSES
THE REST OF THE CONGREGATION. IF YOU ARE LEAVING,
PLEASE DO SO AS QUIETLY AS POSSIBLE.**

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- The Presiding Minister - Rev. James A. Haugen, Jr.
- The Assistant - John Gallagher
- The Organist - Karen Kostelnik
- The Head Usher - Steve Szucs
- Caring for the Altar - Louise Allen and Martha Prok

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