

# Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2020



At Home Worship  
St. Paul's Lutheran Church  
Closter, New Jersey

Our service today is taken from *Hymnal Supplement '98*.

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

### PREPARATION

#### INVOCATION

Pastor In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Congregation**      **Amen.**

#### CONFESSION

Pastor If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins,

**Congregation**      **O Lord, who could stand?**

Pastor But with You there is forgiveness;

**Congregation**      **therefore You are feared.**

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.*

Pastor O almighty God, merciful Father,

**Congregation**      **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.**

## **ENTRANCE HYMN *There is a Name I Love to Hear***

- 1. There is a name I love to hear;  
I love to sing its worth.  
It sounds like music in my ear,  
The sweetest name on earth.**

***Refrain:* Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus!  
Oh how I love Jesus, because He first loved me!**

- 2. It tells me of a Savior's love,  
Who died to set me free.  
It tells me of His precious blood,  
The sinner's perfect plea. *Refrain.***
- 3. It tells me what my Father hath  
In store for every day  
And though I tread a dark-some path  
Yields sunshine all the way. *Refrain.***
- 4. It tells of one whose loving heart  
Can feel my deepest woe,  
Who in each sorrow bears a part  
That none can bear below. *Refrain.***

**KYRIE** Lord, have mercy on us; Christ have mercy on us;  
Lord, have mercy on us.

**GLORIA IN EXCELSIS**

Glory to God, we give You thanks and praise;  
Of heavenly joy and earthly peace we sing.  
We worship You, to You our hearts we raise,  
Lord God, almighty Father, heavenly King.

Lord Jesus Christ, the Father's only Son,  
You bore for us the load of this world's sin.  
O Lamb of God, Your glorious victory won,  
Receive our prayer, grant us Your peace within.

Alone, O Christ, You only are the Lord,  
At God's right hand in majesty most high:  
Who, with the Spirit worshiped and adored,  
With all the heav'nly host we glorify.

## **SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY**

Pastor The Lord be with you.

**Congregation And with your spirit.**

Pastor Almighty and ever-living God,  
You have given exceedingly great and precious promises  
to those who trust in You.  
Dispel from us the works of darkness  
and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ,  
that our faith may never be found wanting;  
through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**Congregation Amen.**

## READINGS

### *Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 1:7-16*

- 7 Be silent before the Lord God!  
For the day of the LORD is near;  
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice  
and consecrated his guests.
- 8 And on the day of the LORD 's sacrifice---  
"I will punish the officials and the king's sons  
and all who array themselves in foreign attire.
- 9 On that day I will punish  
everyone who leaps over the threshold,  
and those who fill their master's house  
with violence and fraud.
- 10 "On that day," declares the LORD,  
"a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,  
a wail from the Second Quarter,  
a loud crash from the hills.
- 11 Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!  
For all the traders are no more;  
all who weigh out silver are cut off.
- 12 At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,  
and I will punish the men  
who are complacent,  
those who say in their hearts,  
'The LORD will not do good,  
nor will he do ill.'

- 13 Their goods 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."
- 14 The great day of the LORD is near,  
near and hastening fast;  
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;  
the mighty man cries aloud there.
- 15 A day of wrath is that day,  
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,
- 16 a day of trumpet blast and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.

*After the reading:*

Lector This is the Word of the Lord

**Congregation**

**Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you.<sup>2</sup> For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.<sup>3</sup> While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.<sup>4</sup> But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief.<sup>5</sup> For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness.<sup>6</sup> So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober.<sup>7</sup> For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night.<sup>8</sup> But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.<sup>9</sup> For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>10</sup> who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him.<sup>11</sup> Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

*After the reading:*

Lector This is the Word of the Lord

**Congregation Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

**These things are written that you may believe**

**That Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.**

**Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Pastor The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter twenty-five beginning at verse fourteen.



## Congregation Glory to You, O Lord.

<sup>14</sup>"For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property.<sup>15</sup> To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.<sup>16</sup> He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more.<sup>17</sup> So also he who had the two talents made two talents more.<sup>18</sup> But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money.<sup>19</sup> Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them.<sup>20</sup> And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.'<sup>21</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'<sup>22</sup> And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.'<sup>23</sup> His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.'<sup>24</sup> He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed,<sup>25</sup> so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'<sup>26</sup> But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed?<sup>27</sup> Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest.'<sup>28</sup> So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents.'<sup>29</sup> For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away.<sup>30</sup> And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

*After the reading:*

Pastor     This is the Gospel of the Lord  
**Congregation Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **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 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.**

## **HYMN OF THE DAY *Amazing Grace***

- 1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see!**
- 2. The Lord has promised good to me,  
His Word my hope secures;  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.**
- 3. Through many dangers, toils, and snares  
I have already come;  
His grace has brought me safe thus far,  
His grace will lead me home.**
- 4. Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail  
And mortal life shall cease,  
Amazing grace shall then prevail  
In heaven's joy and peace.**
- 5. When we've been there ten thousand years,  
Bright shining as the sun,  
We've no less days to sing God's praise  
Than when we'd first begun.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*after each portion of the prayer:*

Pastor Lord, in Your mercy,

**Congregation hear our prayer.**

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

**Congregation Amen.**

## **LITANY** (Sung)

Pastor In peace let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor 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.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For Pastor Holsten, our Pastor in Christ, for all the servants of the church and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For our public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need let us pray to the Lord.

**Congregation Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ Let us give thanks to the Lord.

**Congregation Alleluia.**

Pastor Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

*(Silence for meditation)*

Pastor Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ, our Lord.

**Congregation To You, O Lord.**

Pastor O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, God forever.

**Congregation Amen.**



Pastor Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

Pastor Let us bless the Lord.

**Congregation Thanks be to God.**

### **PRAYER**

Pastor Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us and Your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Congregation Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

Pastor The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

**Congregation Amen.**

## **CLOSING HYMN** *Here I Am, Lord*

- 1. "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard My people cry.  
All who dwell in deepest sin My hand will save.  
I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.  
Who will bear My light to them? Whom shall I send?"**

***Refrain*** Here I am, Lord, Is it I, Lord?  
I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.  
I will hold your people in my heart.

- 2. "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne My people's pain.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn away.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.  
I will speak My Word to them. Whom shall I send?" *Refrain.***
- 3. "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.  
Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied,  
I will give My life to them. Whom shall I send?" *Refrain.***

## **IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK**

We remember our nation and many nations, as terrorism remains a threat, and service in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan continues to be a danger. We pray for the safety of both soldiers and civilians in Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, and around the world. We pray for peace in the Mideast. We pray for God's help and protection for persecuted Christians throughout the world. We pray for victims of natural disasters throughout the world. We pray for victims of violence (and their loved ones) around the world. We pray for our nation and world as we continue in care in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

We pray for our church leaders and their loved ones, and our sister churches and their outreach: Rev. Matthew Harrison, our Synod President; Pastor Anthony Iovine, Rev. Dr. Tony Steinbronn, our District President; and the African Immigrant congregations and missions. We pray for Rev. Dan Fenco and the Camino De Fe mission, Rev. Matt and Nyssa Lytikainen and Mile Square Church in Hoboken, Rev. Matthew Hass (pastor of Village Lutheran Church in Lanoka Harbor, NJ), and Naomi Vogt (serving as a teacher in Shanghai). We pray for Rev. Bob and Kristi Roegner, missionaries in Israel. We pray for the Comfort Dog Ministry at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Old Bridge. We pray for Lutheran Hour Ministries. We pray for St. Paul's families. We pray for St. Paul's youth and their parents. We pray for St. Paul's Sunday School. We pray for St. Paul's Bible Studies. We pray for those suffering from addiction.

We pray for those serving in the military: Capt. John Beddoe, Capt. Mark Buckman, Maj. Jake Butz, Cmdr. Jeff Dermody, Brian Grotz, Rolly Jarmin, Capt. Timothy Kuppler, Cmdr. Jeffrey Morin, T. Sgt. Ruth Presto, Laura Scott, Capt. Rance Thompson, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. John Trainor, Lt. David West and Shane Wojnar, serving with the Armed Forces (and all who serve in the Armed Forces).

We pray for our college and graduate students: Arianna Cavalli, Valerie Costeniuc, Sam del Corral, Lauren Graesser, Megan Hamlett, Alison Keil, David Keil, Kylie Keil, Casey and Courtney Luikert, Giulia Nicolai, Matthew Rojas, Brianna Ross, Emily Sposa, Brittany and James Steindl.

We pray for help, healing and God's loving care in the lives of our loved ones: Delaney Westenhiser, Doris Lange, Linda Sue Olsen; Christopher Huss; Donald Scheetz, Danielle Potocek, Pastor John and Susan Welge, Marilyn Grieco, James Steindl, Anna Zulli, Dennis Bujas, Audrey Huss, Kate Sposa, June Kuhn, Lois Lake, Fran Lelkendey, Gary Lopes, Ruth McReynolds, Jose Rojas, Gloria Rubner, and Irma Schmuck. We pray for Beau, a friend of the Henshaw family, undergoing chemotherapy for a brain tumor.

**ST. PAUL'S MISSION OF THE MONTH** is Family Promise. We are collecting gift cards during the month that Family Promise will distribute to deserving families to enable family members to do Christmas shopping for their loved ones. Suggested gift cards: Target; Bed, Bath and Beyond; Visa; Home Depot; Lowes; Macy's; Old Navy; TJ Maxx and Shoprite or Stop & Shop. Cards can be deposited in the collection box in the Narthex.