

# Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 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      Wake, Awake for Night is Flying**

**1. "Wake, awake, for night is flying,"  
The watchmen on the heights are crying;  
"Awake, Jerusalem, arising!"  
Midnight hears the welcome voices  
And at the thrilling cry rejoices:  
"Oh, where are ye, the virgins wise?  
The Bridegroom comes, awake!  
Your lamps with gladness take!  
Alleluia!  
With bridal care Yourselves prepare  
To meet the Bridegroom, who is near."**

**2. Zion hears the watchmen singing,  
And all her heart with joy is springing;  
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.  
For her Lord comes down all-glorious,  
The strong in grace, in truth victorious;  
Her star is risen, her light is come.  
Now come, Thou Blessed One,  
Lord Jesus, God's own Son,  
Hail! Hosanna!  
We enter all The wedding hall  
To eat the Supper at Thy call.**

**3. Now let all the heavens adore Thee,  
Let saints and angels sing before Thee  
With harp and cymbals' clearest tone.  
Of one pearl each shining portal,  
Where, joining with the choir immortal,  
We gather round Thy radiant throne.  
No eye has seen the light,  
No ear has heard the might  
Of Thy glory;  
Therefore will we Eternally  
Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!**

**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 Lord God, heavenly Father,  
send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church,  
that with You as our ruler and guide  
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.

**Congregation Amen.**

## READINGS

*Old Testament Reading: Amos 5:18-24*

- <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.

*After the reading:*

Lector This is the Word of the Lord

**Congregation      Thanks be to God.**

**Epistle Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

<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.

*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 one.



## **Congregation 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.

*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**     *Sing with All the Saints in Glory*

- 1. Sing with all the saints in glory,  
Sing the resurrection song!  
Death and sorrow, earth's dark story,  
To the former days belong.  
All around the clouds are breaking,  
Soon the storms of life time shall cease;  
In God's likeness we awaken,  
Knowing everlasting peace.**
- 2. Oh, what glory, far exceeding  
All that eye has yet perceived!  
Holiest hearts for ages pleading  
Never that full joy conceived.  
God has promised, Christ prepares it;  
There on high our welcome waits.  
Every humble spirit shares it,  
Christ has passed the eternal gates.**
- 3. Life eternal! Heav'n rejoices:  
Jesus lives who once was dead.  
Shout with joy, O deathless voices!  
Child of God, lift up your head!  
Life eternal! Oh, what wonders  
Crowd on faith; what joy unknown,  
When, amid earth's closing thunders,  
Saints shall stand before the throne!**

## **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 *Jerusalem the Golden***

- 1. Jerusalem the golden, With milk and honey blest,  
The promise of salvation, The place of peace and rest--  
We know not, oh, we know not What joys await us there:  
The radiance of glory, The bliss beyond compare!**
- 2. Within those walls of Zion Sounds forth the joyful song,  
As saints join with the angels And all the martyr throng,  
The Prince is ever with them; The daylight is serene;  
The city of the blessed Shines bright with glorious sheen.**
- 3. Around the throne of David, The saints, from care released,  
Raise loud their songs of triumph To celebrate the feast.  
They sing to Christ their leader, Who conquered in the fight,  
Who won for them forever Their gleaming robes of white.**
- 4. O sweet and blessed country, The home of God's elect!  
O sweet and blessed country That faithful hearts expect!  
In mercy, Jesus, bring us To that eternal rest  
With You and God the Father And Spirit, ever blest.**

## **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** - For the month of November 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.