

Sunday Worship
The 24th Sunday after Pentecost
November 15th, 2020 A.D.

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 100)

L: Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all you lands! Serve the Lord with gladness; come into God's presence with a song.

C: Know that the Lord is God, our maker to whom we belong; we are the Lord's people and the sheep of God's pasture.

L: Enter the gates of the Lord with thanksgiving and the courts with praise; give thanks and bless God's holy name.

C: Good indeed is the Lord, whose steadfast love is everlasting, whose faithfulness endures from age to age.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

L: Siblings in Christ, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father.

Silence for self-reflection and examination.

L: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: who made heaven and earth.

L: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C: And you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

L: Gracious God,

C: we acknowledge that we are sinners and we confess our sins—those known to us that burden our hearts, and those unknown to us but seen by you. Frees us from the captivity of sin, liberate us from the bondage of guilt, work in us that which is pleasing in your sight; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

L: With a heart full of mercy and compassion, God saves us and forgives us all our sins. Christ, the dawn from on high, shines upon us, and by the light of the Holy Spirit guides our feet into the way of peace. **C: Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
“The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm.”

¹³Their wealth 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.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath,
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,
¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.

¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

R: *So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)*

L: Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation | to another.

C: Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.

L: You turn us back to the dust and say,
“Turn back, O children of earth.”

C: For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night; R

L: you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

**C: in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

L: ⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

**C: Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance R**

L: When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end like a sigh.

**C: The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly
and we are gone.**

L: Who regards the power of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your indignation?

**C: So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. R**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL: Saint Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

The holy gospel according to St. Matthew the twenty-fifth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

This is the gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Silence for reflection.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come 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.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

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.

A brief silence.

Lord of the church, ignite your people with the passion of your love. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, unify us across ministries, congregations, and denominations, and refine us to participate in your activity throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of creation, we stand in awe at the works of your hands and praise you for the beauty of nature. Bless the earth for your glory and restore its integrity where exploitation has caused ruin. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the nations, sound forth your justice in the ears of all leaders especially during this time of transition. We pray for our president Donald Trump, our vice president Mike Pence and our president-elect Joe Biden and vice president-elect Kamala Harris. Increase in us a concern for those who are most vulnerable, especially as international leaders forge trade agreements and cooperate to end human rights abuses. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing; we especially pray for (*see prayer list*) Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the stranger, stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control and open us to learn from the perspectives of others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors. Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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.**

LORD'S PRAYER

SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

Eternal Father, I offer up to you my intellect, that I may learn to know you alone.

Sweetest Jesus, I offer up to you my memory, that it may remember you alone.

Holy Spirit, spirit of charity, I offer up to you my will, that you may inkindle and warm it by your divine love. Adorn my soul with your 7 gifts and let me become your pure temple. Fill me with your grace and prepare my heart to receive spiritually my God. Jesus My God, as I am unable to receive you sacramentally, do now receive me into your heart and unite me so perfectly with it that nothing will be able to separate me for a moment from you. Engulf my misery and my nothing in the abyss of your mercy that I change into you. May I henceforth live only for you, by you and in you. Come, therefore, my only satisfactions, come to take possession of this heart, which belongs to you and cannot live one moment without you. **C: Amen.**

BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

L: The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus. **C: Amen.**

L: 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. **C: Amen.**

L: The God of all grace + bless you now and forever. **C: Amen.**