

ONE IN CHRIST LUTHERAN PARISH

◆Bethany ◆Immanuel ◆Lunder ◆Silver Lake ◆Winnebago

When the foolish
took their lamps,
they took no oil
with them; but the
wise took flasks of
oil with their lamps.



Matthew 25:3-4, NRSV



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Ministers

Every member of the Parish

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Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 12, 2023

COME, HOLY SPIRIT!

We joyfully welcome all guests who are worshiping with us this morning.

We ask you to please sign our guest register. God's Spirit has empowered us to be an united community of faith and encourages us to be a neighbor to all.

SPIRIT, SET OUR HEARTS ON FIRE!

ORDER OF WORSHIP

Hymns are from the Green Hymnal.

(Stand as you are able)*

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

✠ GATHERING ✠

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the People of God

ANTHEM

"House of the Lord"

Sunday School Choir

*CONFESSION

We gather here to remember God's glorious deeds - recorded for all time by people whose lives were touched by divine grace.

As people of hope, they affirmed the great works of God, and the importance of keeping the commandments of God.

Let our witness be as convincing, so that generations to come will continue to honor God's holy name.

Let us worship God.

We worship you, O God, as the one in whom we have placed our hope.

We share the desire of your people of old to tell of the blessings you have effected in our lives.

When we think about the greatest blessing of all - the gift of yourself in human flesh - Jesus Christ - we joyfully acknowledge that our hope in you is not misplaced.

We choose to serve you because you chose to touch our lives so graciously in Christ.

May our faithful witness and the service of our lives reveal the depth of our love and gratitude as we worship you, O God, and as we praise and adore you

In Jesus' name and in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

God of Israel and God of Jesus Christ, we would not be here if you had not chosen to touch our lives with your love.

We cannot hide our wonder that you should choose to enter our world and our lives in person - in Jesus.

Yet we confess that we sometimes have trouble in our decision-making when faced with questions of whether we wholeheartedly serve you or not.

We are often tempted to put other than you first in our lives - when we are faced often daily, with choices which affect how we live as your faithful people - choices about how we share the gifts you have given us.

When the choices we make reflect not your glory but our own selfishness:

Forgive us

When the choices we make revolve around judging or condemning others without first listening to their stories:

Forgive us

When the choices we make contribute to our own prosperity and wellbeing while ignoring the needs of others:

Forgive us

When the choices we make diminish our awareness of you, O God, in the midst of those who suffer:

Forgive us

Gracious and loving God, strengthen us where we are weak with the renewing power of your Spirit so that the choices we make clearly reveal our identity as your faithful people, and as sincere and devoted followers of Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord

In whose name we pray. Amen .

***EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE – THE GOOD NEWS**

Out of love for the world, God chose to share our humanity in the person of Jesus Christ, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. The good news therefore is this: In Jesus Christ we are accepted, we are loved, we are forgiven.

Thanks be to God!

***OPENING SONG**

“Rise Up, O Saints of God!”

383

*Rise up, O saints of God!
From vain ambitions turn;
Christ rose triumphant that your hearts
with nobler zeal might burn.*

*Speak out, O saints of God!
Despair engulfs earth's frame;
as heirs of God's baptismal grace,
his word of hope proclaim.*

*Rise up, O saints of God!
His kingdom's task embrace;
redress sin's cruel consequence;
give justice larger place.*

*Give heed, O saints of God!
Creation cries in pain;
stretch forth your hand of healing now,
with love the weak sustain.*

*Commit your hearts to seek
the paths which Christ has trod
and quickened by the Spirit's power,
rise up, O saints of God!*

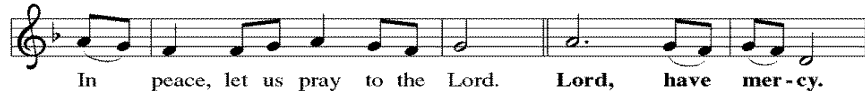
***APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

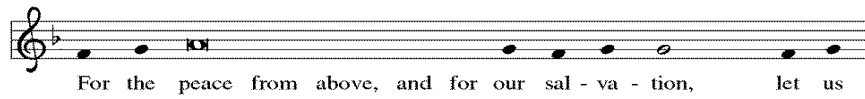
And also with you.

***SHARING THE PEACE**

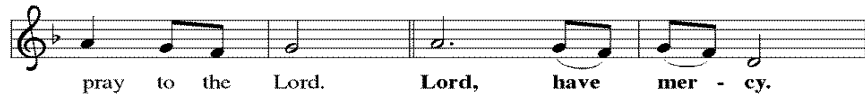
***KYRIE**



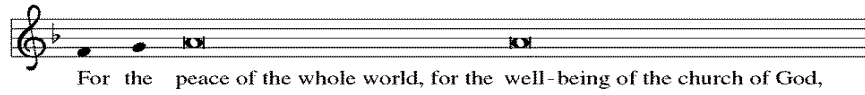
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**



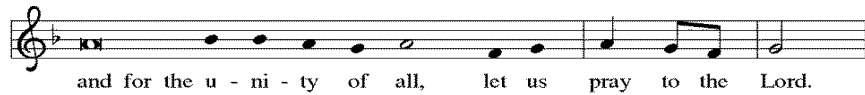
For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



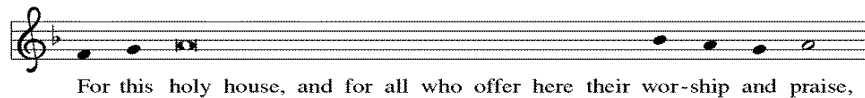
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



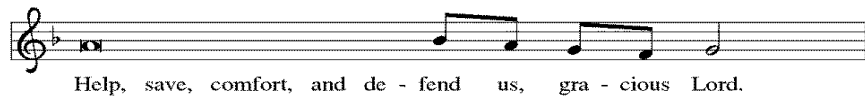
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.




A - men.

***CANTICLE OF PRAISE** "Glory to God..."

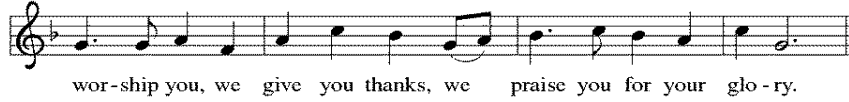
Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



1 Lord God, heav-en - ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we




wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.

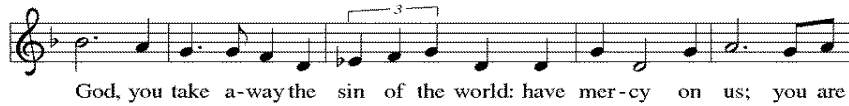
Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



2 Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us; you are

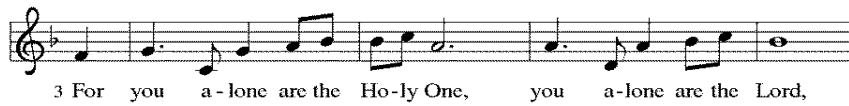


seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.

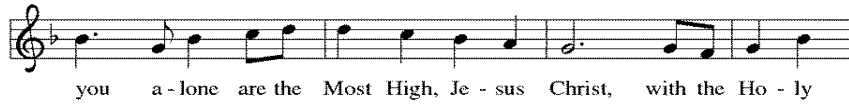
Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



3 For you a - lone are the Ho-ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly



Spir-it, in the glo-ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

Refrain



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

✠ **WORD** ✠

God speaks to us in scripture, reading, preaching, and song

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

SCRIPTURE READING

Amos 5:18-24

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, not light;
¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear;
or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,
and was bitten by a snake.
²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,
and gloom with no brightness in it?
²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,
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 offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SCRIPTURE READING

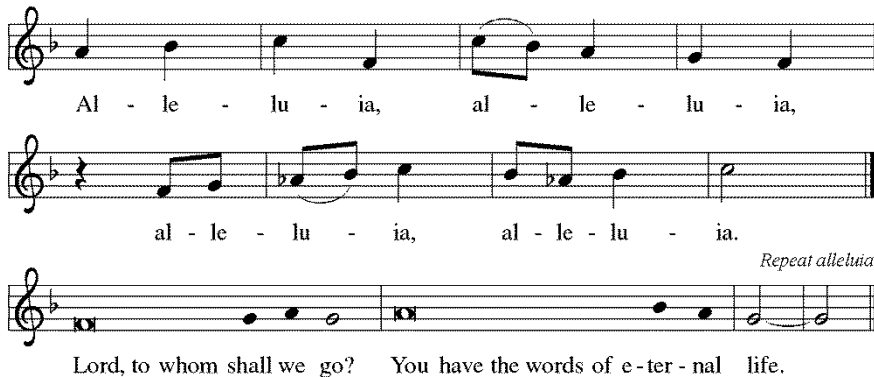
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so 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 died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Repeat alleluia
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When 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, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

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

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Randy Baldwin

SONG OF THE DAY “*Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying*”

31

*Wake, awake, for night is flying,
the watchmen on the heights are crying;
awake, Jerusalem, at last.
Midnight hears the welcome voices,
and at the thrilling cry rejoices:
“Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.
The bridegroom comes! Awake;
your lamps with gladness take!”
Alleluia!*

*Prepare yourselves to meet the Lord,
whose light has stirred the waiting guard.*

*Zion hears the watchmen singing,
and in her heart new 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 ris’n; her light is come.*

*Oh, come, you Blessed One,
Lord Jesus, God’s own Son.
Sing hosanna!*

*We go until the halls we view
where you have bid us dine with you.*

*Now let all the heav’ns adore you,
and saints and angels sing before you.
The harps and cymbals all unite.
Of one pearl each shining portal,
where, dwelling with the choir immortal,
we gather round your dazzling light.*

*No eye has seen, no ear
has yet been trained to hear,
what joy is ours!
Crescendos rise; your halls resound;
hosannas blend in cosmic sound.*

***APOSTLES' CREED**

**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.**

***PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY**

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

... Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

✠ THANKSGIVING ✠

God invites us to respond to His grace

OFFERING

***OFFERTORY SONG** *"Create in Me..."*

ELW # 186

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

✠ SENDING ✠

God blesses us and sends us in mission in the world

***BLESSING**

***THREE-FOLD AMEN**

***RINGING OF THE BELL**

*Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who, from our mothers’ arms,
has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.*

*Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.*

*All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heav’n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.*

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1829-1878

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude



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enough and never enough

Both the harsh words of the prophet Amos and the parable of the bridesmaids are scenes of anger—not pointless, misdirected frustration, but a prophetic call for change, a passionate plea that we redirect our focus. Sometimes, Amos says, anger is a result of not being heard. And sometimes, Jesus says, anger comes from fear of not being enough, not having enough, not doing enough. But being a child of God comes as a gift from God, who has poured out God’s justice and righteousness on us in abundance so that we may care about those who are lacking.

What good is worship, Amos asks, if it doesn’t change your lives—or that of your neighbors? What good is worship if it does not spur us to make justice happen for our siblings? The anger we encounter in Amos is of the righteous kind, the kind intended to call us to action.

In contrast, the anger expressed in the parable of the bridesmaids is that born of fear. Who ever said that the bridegroom would not admit maidens who ran out of oil? Both the bridesmaids described as wise and those described as foolish are angry because of fear of missing out. Jesus is the light of the world, and so are you, he says (John 8:12; Matthew 5:14). But when your light grows dim and tired, exhausted and weary, and you cannot see the road ahead, his light will guide the way.

How different this parable might be if the bridesmaids with oil had shared their oil. *If you are not ready*, they might have said, *let us show you how to be prepared*. What good is the kingdom of heaven if we have not lived our lives in such a way as to light the pathway for others? What good is worship if we leave the building unmoved by the cries for justice all around us?