

November 14, 2020 ~ 5:00 p.m.
Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

WELL DONE,
—GOOD—
AND
faithful
SERVANT.

Trinity Lutheran Church & School

*Our Mission:
To Make More and Better Disciples of Jesus Christ.*

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 14, 2020 ~ 5:00 p.m.

AS WE GATHER

At this point in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus turns our attention to the "Great Day" when God will call us to account and judgment. At the same time, we acknowledge that God has given us all that we need to be prepared for the great day of the Lord. With His call to repentance, He has given us His Spirit that we may hear and believe, heed, and act in response. With the news of Christ's coming, He has reminded us that He has saved us through the blood of Christ. The great day of God's judgment is, for us, also the great day of salvation, when He will bring to fulfillment all He has promised. There is no cause for fear here, but for joy. As Christians we act not because of the threat, but because of the promise.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

RINGING OF THE BELLS

CALL TO WORSHIP *"Come With Me"* G. Wismar

WELCOME

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

Pastor: Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.

People: **You have been our good and faithful Master.**

Pastor: You have poured out blessings upon us.

People: **You have given us all we need to support this body and life.**

Pastor: We meditate on all that You have done.

People: **We ponder the work of Your hands.**

Pastor: On account of Your name, O Lord, preserve our lives.

People: **In Your righteousness, bring us out of trouble.**

HYMN

"Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus"

[Charles Wesley. Public Domain]

Come, Thou long-expected Jesus,
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us;
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation,
Joy of ev'ry longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver;
Born a child and yet a king!
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By Thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all-sufficient merit
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Our heavenly Father has done wonderful things for us. He has given us more than we could ever ask for or imagine. Yet, there have been times when we have been ungrateful for God's gifts, times when we have been lazy and selfish with what He has given us, times when we have been unfaithful servants. Yet, our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

(Silence for reflection.)

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

People: we confess that we have not been faithful with all of the good gifts You have given us. We have sinned in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have failed by our inactivity. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, O Lord, that we might be restored as Your servants.

Pastor: God hears your confession and has promised to be with you always. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen. We are forgiven. We are restored in Jesus.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, You are our good and faithful Master. Thank You for the richness of blessings You have poured into our lives. Strengthen us to serve You well and faithfully; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING: **Zephaniah 1:7–16** (*The Day of the Lord is near.*)

Be silent before the Sovereign LORD, for the day of the LORD is near. The LORD has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated those he has invited.

⁸“On the day of the LORD’s sacrifice I will punish the officials and the king’s sons and all those clad in foreign clothes.

⁹On that day I will punish all who avoid stepping on the threshold, who fill the temple of their gods with violence and deceit.

¹⁰“On that day,” declares the LORD, “a cry will go up from the Fish Gate, wailing from the New Quarter, and a loud crash from the hills.

¹¹Wail, you who live in the market district; all your merchants will be wiped out, all who trade with silver will be destroyed.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, ‘The LORD will do nothing, either good or bad.’

¹³Their wealth will be plundered, their houses demolished. Though they build houses, they will not live in them; though they plant vineyards, they will not drink the wine.”

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near—near and coming quickly. The cry on the day of the LORD is bitter; the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath—a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness—

¹⁶a day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the corner towers.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE: **1 Thessalonians 5:1–11** (*Let us live as children of the light.*)

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ²for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

⁴But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness.

⁶ So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. ⁷ For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸ But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹ For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰ He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹ Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL: *Matthew 25:14–30* (The parable of the talents)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹⁴ “Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. ¹⁵ To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. ¹⁶ The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. ¹⁷ So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. ¹⁸ But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

¹⁹ “After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. ²⁰ The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.’

²¹ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²² “The man with two bags of gold also came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.’

²³ “His master replied, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!’

²⁴ “Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. ‘Master,’ he said, ‘I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. ²⁵ So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.’

²⁶ “His master replied, ‘You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? ²⁷ Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest.’

²⁸ “So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. ²⁹ For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. ³⁰ And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY ***“Oh, Who Are We, O Lord, Our God”***

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Oh, who are we, O Lord, our God?
What word is there to say?
The heavens tremble at Your nod.
The galaxies obey.
Yet we, who are creation’s crown,
Refuse to do Your will.
We earn Your wrath and holy frown
And yet reject You still.

Oh, who are we, O Lord, our God?
What word is there to say?
You sent Your Son to walk our sod
And to create the way.
His perfect rescue made us whole;
His mission to restore
Will satisfy Your final goal
When death will be no more.

Oh, who are we, O Lord, our God?
What word is there to say?
While here on earth, we groan and plod
And wait for that Last Day.
Though darkness cowers from the time
When light will conquer all,
We long for joy and peace sublime
When we will no more fall.

SERMON: **"Well Done Good and Faithful Servant"** *Matthew 25:14–30*

STEPHEN MINISTRY: **DVD Message & Testimony**

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.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Dear heavenly Father, You have placed us in various vocations for the sake of Your people. Strengthen us when we face challenges and trials that would tempt us to abandon Your Church. Forgive us when we go astray. Bring back all those who have wandered from the faith. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, raise up good and faithful servants in Your Church, that we work together for the common good and spread the good news of Your kingdom to all nations. . Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, raise up good and faithful servants in the governments of the world, that citizens of all nations might be treated with fairness and justice. . Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord, the day of Jesus' return is drawing near. Give us patience and faith as we await His return. Embolden us to serve our neighbors and never grow weary of doing good. . Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: (Special petitions). Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

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

People: Amen.

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.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: Amen.

HYMN

"Lord, Send Us Out in Peace"

[Text: Gregory Wismar. Copyright © 2010 Concordia Publishing House. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Permission is granted to reproduce this text for use September 17–November 26, 2017.]

Lord, send us out in peace
To travel ways unsure,
With faith that Your protecting hand
Will make our paths secure.
Lord, guide our steps with hope;
Make dangers disappear.
Give confidence that finds its strength
In knowing You are near.

Lord, send us forth with love
To bless our pilgrim way
And joyfully through earthly nights
Bring us to heaven's day.

Serving Us Today

Pastor ... Rev. Dennis Krueger
Organist ... Katherine Herman
Singers ... Linda Meissner, Marie Thompson
Reader ... Colleen Kot
Altar ... Katie Willert
Deacon ... Mark Ganschow
Financials ... Steve & Robin Makosy, Ben Makosy