

# Sunday, November 8, 2020

## 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost

### ELW Service of the Word



#### ***Introduction to the day***

*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.*

## **GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Faithful God,

**have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we are captive to sin  
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace  
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another  
before examining ourselves.**

**We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.**

**We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.**

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,  
and turn us again to life in you  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,  
and through his death and resurrection,  
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ.

Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness  
to do God's work in the world.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

## **CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

**Glory to God in the highest;  
and peace to God's people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King,  
almighty God and Father,**

**we worship you,  
we give you thanks,  
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord Jesus Christ,  
only Son of the Father,  
Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world:  
have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:  
receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One,  
you alone are the Lord,  
you alone are the Most High,  
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,  
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.**

## **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.*

## **FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24**

A reading from Amos.

<sup>18</sup>Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

<sup>19</sup>as 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.

<sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

<sup>21</sup>I hate, I despise your festivals,

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 offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

<sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

<sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

### **PSALM: Psalm 70**

<sup>1</sup>Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;

O LORD, make haste to help me.

<sup>2</sup>**Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;**

**let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**

<sup>3</sup>Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me  
turn back because of their shame.

<sup>4</sup>**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;**

**let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the LORD!”**

<sup>5</sup>But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.

You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

### **SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

<sup>13</sup>We 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. <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 died. <sup>15</sup>For 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. <sup>16</sup>For 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. <sup>17</sup>Then 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. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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

### **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia, alleluia.**

### **GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>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, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' <sup>9</sup>But 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.' <sup>10</sup>And 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. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' <sup>12</sup>But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.'"  
The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

### **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father;  
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary  
and became truly human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.**

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for God's power to come upon the church, the world, and all in need, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "O Lord, make haste to help us." *A brief silence.*

Holy God, rouse us to prayer and praise, both when we gather for worship and when we cannot. Sustain all those who help us to worship at this time. *A brief silence.*  
Be pleased, O God, to deliver us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Holy Creator, delight us with the autumn beauty of your earth. At this change of seasons, give the animals what they need for survival. *A brief silence.*  
Be pleased, O God, to deliver us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Holy Peacemaker, give peace to our conflicted nation. Quell all attempts at violence and halt the desire for retribution. Cure our nation from prejudice of every kind. Teach us how to abide together as one diverse people. Restore families and friendships torn apart by political differences. *A brief silence.*  
Be pleased, O God, to deliver us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Holy Sovereign, grant that all newly elected officials of government will work faithfully for the common good. Give them wisdom, honesty, and humility. Illuminate their convictions with a spirit of cooperation.

*If the next president has been named:* Bless especially President-elect *name*. Pour upon him and upon all his advisors a right spirit of dedication to justice and truth.

*If the next president has not yet been named:* Give to our nation patience as it awaits the presidential election results.

*A brief silence.*

Be pleased, O God, to deliver us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Holy Protector, bless the observance of Veterans Day. Bring armistice to areas of conflict and keep safe the military who serve in harm's way. Give to all the armed forces a dedication to defend the common good. Heal the wounds, both physical and emotional, experienced by active and retired service members. *A brief silence.*

Be pleased, O God, to deliver us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Holy Healer, bring health and wholeness to those who are sick, those who live with chronic pain, and the thousands who daily contract COVID-19. Console those who feel lonely or abandoned. Protect those living in resettlement camps. Uphold medical care workers, especially in third-world countries. We pray especially for those we name here before you... *A brief silence.*

Be pleased, O God, to deliver us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Holy Beloved, form us into a people close to your heart, and receive now our silent petitions:

*A longer period of silence.*

Be pleased, O God, to deliver us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Holy and immortal One, we remember before you all who have died in the faith, especially the military and the civilians who died in armed conflicts, and those we name before you here.... At the end, bring us with them to be with our Lord forever. *A brief silence.*

Be pleased, O God, to deliver us. **O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Receive these prayers for the same of him who lived, died, and rose for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

As forgiven and reconciled people, we offer ourselves and our gifts to God. **Amen.**

## **Why I give**

There seem to be a lot of reasons why I give to my church and most of them are reasons that have been ingrained within me all my life from the time my father used to give me a quarter to drop in the offering plate each Sunday.

Over time, my realizations about the need to give back became more tied to responsibility and an acknowledgement that all things come from God. We came from nothing and we leave the same way. Everything else is shared by God and, because it is not a one-way street. God shares with us to help us grow and we return that gift by helping spread His word by supporting the church, locally and within the greater diocese (or synod) or beyond that to a national and international level.

There are times when it is more difficult to give back than it in other times, but my promise is to do all I can. I always think of a sermon I heard years ago as reassurance that will be okay no matter what financial condition I am in and that is if I think first about my pledge to the church (to God), everything else will fall into place. I will be taken care of in some way. Things will be alright. Being imperfect, I slip from time to time but make up for it nonetheless, but that message remains with me always.

Peace in God, Beth Shelly

## **How to give**

You can give an offering to Peace in Christ by mailing it to PO Box 2098, Elizabeth, CO, 80107 or by giving on line through [tithely.com](https://tithely.com/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/318181) [https://tithely.com/give\\_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/318181](https://tithely.com/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/318181)

## **Prayer**

**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

## **THANKSGIVING**

### **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those**

**who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**

**and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours,**

**now and forever. Amen.**

## **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BIRTHDAY PRAYER** (Travis, Tom)

Watch over your child(ren)\_\_\_\_, O Lord as (his/her/their) days increase; bless and guide (him/her/them) wherever (he/she/they) may be. Strengthen (him/her/them) when (he/she/they) stand(s); comfort (him/her/them) when discouraged or sorrowful; raise (him/her/them) up if (he/she/they) fall(s); and in (his/her/their) heart(s) may your peace which passes understanding abide all the days of (his/her/their) life (lives); through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **BAPTISMAL REMEMBRANCE** (Tessa)

Name, when you were baptized, you were marked with the cross of Christ forever. Remember your baptism with thanksgiving and joy.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we thank you for the new life you give us through holy baptism. Especially, we ask you to bless name on the anniversary of *her/his* baptism. Continue to strengthen name with the Holy Spirit, and increase in *her/him* your gifts of grace: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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