



Worship for Sunday, November 8, 2020 - 23rd Sunday after Pentecost
St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church
Greendale, WI www.ssmelca.org

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.

PRELUDE - "If You but Trust in God to Guide You" arr. Helmut Walcha

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.

C: Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One,

**C: we confess that we are not awake for you
we are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of your siblings.
We do not see your beautiful image in one another.
We are infected by sin
that divides your beloved community.
Open our hearts to your community,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.**

P: Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the doors to us.
Through † Jesus you are forgiven,
by Jesus you are welcome,
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world.

C: Amen.

GREETING

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

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

C: **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.**

FIRST READING: Wisdom of Solomon 6:17-20 (Read by: Amy Billman)

¹⁷The beginning of wisdom is the most sincere desire for instruction,
and concern for instruction is love of wisdom,
¹⁸and love of wisdom is the keeping of wise laws,
and giving heed to wise laws is assurance of immortality,
¹⁹and immortality brings one near to God;
²⁰so the desire for wisdom leads to a kingdom.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (Read by: Amy Billman)

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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

[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.”

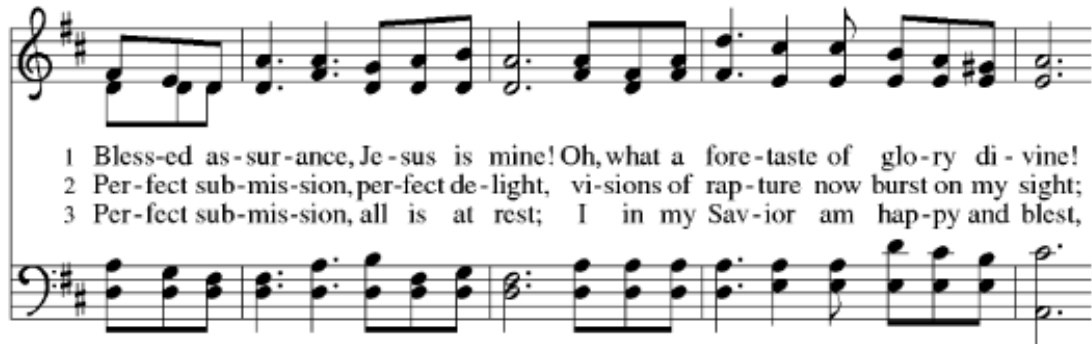
P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

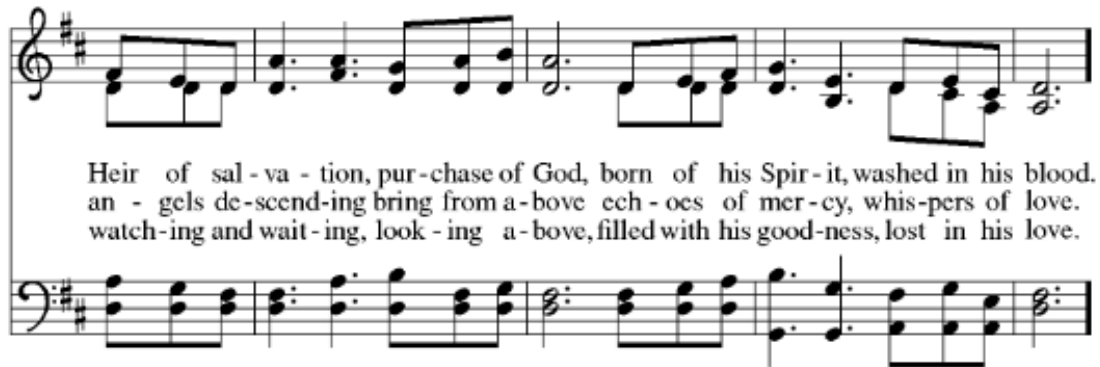
MESSAGE - "Bright"

Rev. Brian Hooper

HYMN OF THE DAY - "Blessed Assurance"

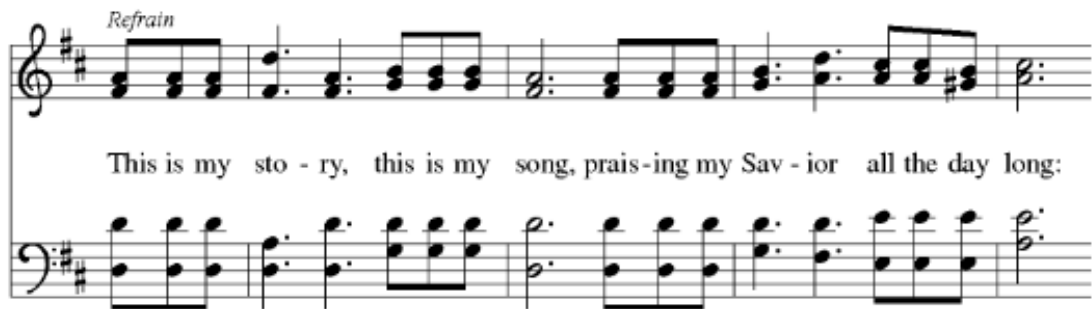


1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

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 INTERCESSION

L: Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for God's power upon the church, the world, and all in need, responding to each petition with words, "**Hear our prayer.**"

A brief silence.

L: 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. Lord in your mercy.

C: hear our prayer.

L: 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. Lord in your mercy.

C: hear our prayer.

L: Holy Sovereign, grant that all newly elected officials of government will work faithfully for the common good. Give them wisdom, honesty, and humility. Illumine their convictions with a spirit of cooperation. Lord in your mercy.

C: hear our prayer.

L: Holy Protector, bless the observance of Veterans Day. Bring peace 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. Lord in your mercy.

C: hear our prayer.

L: Holy Healer, bring health and wholeness to those who are sick, those who live with chronic pain, and the thousands who daily contact 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 those who we name here before you...Lord in your mercy.

C: hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: 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. At the end, bring us with them to be with our Lord forever. Lord in your mercy.

C: hear our prayer.

P: Receive our prayers in the name of him who lived, died, and rose for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**C: 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.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERTORY *(Thanks for sharing your gifts. Offering envelopes can still be mailed to the church, you can use the GIVE + app found on the resource tab at ssmelca.org or you may wish to sign up for Simply Giving to have your offering scheduled on an automatic basis.)*

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your every self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: 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.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE - Praeludium in D Major by D. Buxtehude BuxWV139

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KEEP THESE SSM MEMBERS IN PRAYER

Melissa Cooper, Joyce Gagliano, Greg Guiliani, Sue Herman, Sue Jarchow, Lynda Johnson, Ken & Carolyn Kahl, Vic & Sandy Peterson, Teri Peterson, Patrick Rafalski, John Rech, Joan Retzlaff, Dean Rockstad, Rob Rutzen, Richard Sontvedt, John Winter.

PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY

| | |
|--|--|
| Roberta Henrichs, sister-in-law of Joan Retzlaff | Dawn Salopek, sister of Karen Miller |
| Laurence Freemont, friend of SSM | Janet Heino, great aunt of Stephanie Falksen |
| Katie Stull, granddaughter of Phil & LaVerne Morgan | Tinsley Marie, great granddaughter of Sue Herman |
| Jane Janicki, sister of the Winter Family | Cameo Abifarin, friend of Julie Herman |
| Jerelie Caston, daughter of Joan Retzlaff | Cathy & Mark Kossow, friends of Lynda Johnson |
| Nancy & Mike Andritsch, sister/brother in law of Barbara & Dan Davies | Tippecanoe's "Larry under the bridge", friend of the Homeless |
| Josh Knapp, friend of Amy Billman | Katie Manzeck, friend of Carol Manning |
| Linda Radike, friend of Julie Herman | Susan White, sister of Sally Kowalewski |
| Karen Stolz, neighbor of Julie Herman | Jon Kowalewski, husband of Susan Kowalewski |
| Roger & Kathy Blanchard, cousin of Bob Lieske | Lauryn Ramintho, great-granddaughter of Karen Miller |
| Billy Waters, husband of Darlene Waters & Stepdad of Lori Salas | Lucy Copeland, granddaughter of Dianne Niese |
| Mike Derrick, nephew of Ron & Carole Ropel | Liane Guthrie, daughter of Dianne Niese |
| Daniel Kilimann, son of Joy Kilimann | Leroy Robinson, father of Linda Schmidt |
| Carson Wudtke, grandson of Dan & Barb Davies | Maria Hill, friend of Lynda Johnson |
| Sharon West, friend of Lynda Johnson | Steve, son of Louise Becker |
| Ted P., brother-in-law of Gail Jakus | Ann Scorzynski, friend of LaVerne Morgan |
| Jay Lessing, friend of LaVerne Morgan | Kristin White, daughter of Sue Herman |
| Jeanne Jimenez, daughter of Shirley Rau | Laura Sussman, mother of Kimberly Carroll |
| Cindy Molter, mother of Fred Ankebrant | Diane Schauer, friend of Carol Manning |
| Mark Molter, uncle of Fred Ankebrant | Louie Baumgartner, son-in-law of Bob Lieske |
| Ashton Miller, nephew of Jenny & Kurt Koeff | Richard Kurcharski, father of Jenny Resterhouse |
| Terry Betchner, friend of Dianne Niese | Robert Goist, friend of Denise Sanders |
| Beth Klosinski, daughter of Linda Schmidt | Sharon Maschke, sister in law of Pam Maschke |
| Tom Ervin, former father-in-law of Shelly Rosenstock | Finn Morgan, great-grandson of Shirley & Bob Lieske |
| The Lynn Gillen Family, granddaughter to Fred & Carol Mueller | Tim Ingram, grandson of Carole & Ron Ropel |