



Worship for Sunday, November 15, 2020 - 24th Sunday after Pentecost
St. Stephen the Martyr Lutheran Church
Greendale, WI www.ssmelca.org

Introduction to the day

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

PRELUDE - "Amazing Grace" - arr. George Shearing

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: **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.**

READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 *(Read by: Norah Hooper)*

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.

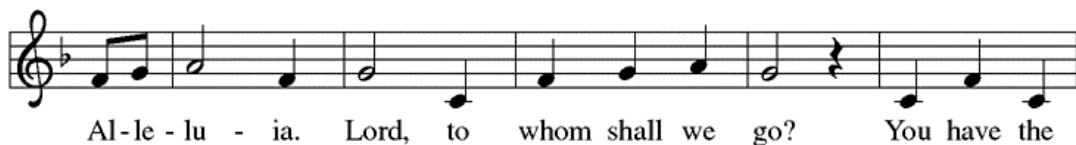
¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, 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.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew.

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

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.

[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.’”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

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

MESSAGE - "Putting on the Breastplate of Faith and Love" Rev. Maren Hooper

HYMN OF THE DAY - "O Zion, Haste"



1 O Zi - on, haste, your mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,
2 Pub - lish to ev - 'ry peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion
3 He comes a - gain! O Zi - on, ere you meet him,



to tell to all the world that God is light;
that God, in whom they live and move, is love;
make known to ev - 'ry heart his sav - ing grace;

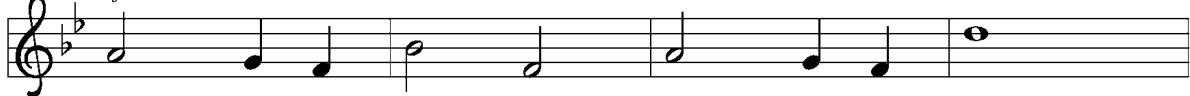


that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing
tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion
let none whom he has ran - somed fail to greet him,



one soul should per - ish, lost in shades of night.
and died on earth that we might live a - bove.
through your ne - glect, un - fit to see his face.

Refrain



Pub - lish glad tid - ings, tid - ings of peace,



tid - ings of Je - sus, re - demp-tion, and re - lease.

Text: Mary A. Thomson, 1834–1923

Music: ANGELIC SONGS, James Walch, 1837–1901

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 to see God's power in the church and in the world, responding to each petition with the words "**Hear us and help us.**"

A brief silence.

L: We pray, O God, for the church in our community and throughout the world. Raise up and sustain believers who will use their talents to be a blessing to others. O God of grace:

C: Hear us and help up

L: For the earth we pray. During this autumn season, give to plants and wild animals a time of rest. Keep the coronavirus and other pathogens away from all. O God, you are the Maker of the heavens and the earth:

C: Hear us and help up

L: For all the nation's we pray. Bring an end to war and terrorism. Cultivate a worldwide spirit of cooperation that will seek just international agreements and shared human rights.

Rescue humankind from the worship of wealth, and give a homeland to migrants.

O God, you are the Haven we seek:

C: Hear us and help up

L: For the United States we pray. Quell attempts at violence, and restore national good will. End prejudice of all kinds, and lead us into a unity that embraces diversity. Comfort those who live in fear of the future. Bless all newly elected officials with a passion for justice and a commitment to honesty. O God, you are our Mighty Fortress:

C: Hear us and help up

L: We pray for all who are in need. Visit with health and good medical care all the sick, especially the thousands who each day are contracting the coronavirus. Prepare a vaccine to save our world from COVID-19. Give food, employment, and housing to the countless who are struggling to live. O God, you are our Physician, our Nurse:

C: Hear us and help up

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We remember before you all the saints who have lived and died in the faith. At the end of time, bring us all into your peace. O God, you are the Light perpetual:

C: Hear us and help up

P: Receive these prayers, and in your gracious mercy grant your strength to our neediness, through 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 - "We all believe in one true God" by J. S. Bach BWV 680

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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	Louie Baumgartner, son-in-law of Bob Lieske
Mark Molter, uncle of Fred Ankebrant	Richard Kurcharski, father of Jenny Resterhouse
Ashton Miller, nephew of Jenny & Kurt Koeff	Robert Goist, friend of Denise Sanders
Terry Betchner, friend of Dianne Niese	Sharon Maschke, sister in law of Pam Maschke
Beth Klosinski, daughter of Linda Schmidt	Finn Morgan, great-grandson of Shirley & Bob Lieske
Tom Ervin, former father-in-law of Shelly Rosenstock	Tim Ingram, grandson of Carole & Ron Ropel
The Lynn Gillen Family, granddaughter to Fred & Carol Mueller	