



Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Greenville

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

November 7 and 8, 2020

Welcome in the name of Our Lord Jesus Christ! If you come as a visitor today, we hope you will leave as a friend. We count it a privilege and a blessing to have you with us in worship. If you are not presently a member of any congregation, please feel welcome to gather with us around Jesus in this community of his disciples at Holy Trinity. Come and worship with us again!

Invitation to Communion: Holy Communion is the body and blood of Jesus Christ by which our Lord is truly present to forgive sin and bring life and salvation. All baptized Christians who believe this promise are welcome to commune. Parents with children are encouraged to come to the altar together. Children who do not yet receive communion will receive the blessing of the Church from the Pastor.

Procedure for Communing: We will be using a form of processional communion. An usher will release each pew to come forward at a time to avoid a long line in the aisle. Pick up a communion cup on either side at the first pew. The pastor will place a host in your open palm. Turn to either the left or right side to the deacon or communion assistant to receive wine. After consuming the host and wine, pour any remaining wine into the container, then discard your cup. Children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion should come forward for a blessing. Please maintain social distance between non-family members.

Gluten-free wafers are available; let Pastor know when you come forward to receive.

Service of Holy Communion

Significance of 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

Prelude

Assurance

(The assembly stands and turns to face the cross in procession.)

Confession

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

Amen.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

Holy One,
we confess that we are not awake for you.
We are not faithful in using your gifts.
We forget the least of our 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 coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door 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.
Amen.

(Follow the processional cross.)

Opening Hymn O God beyond All Praising

(Please be seated. We will not be singing but these words are here for your reflection.)

O God beyond all praising, we worship you today
and sing the love amazing that songs cannot repay;
for we can only wonder at ev'ry gift you send,
at blessings without number and mercies without end:
we lift our hearts before you and wait upon your word,
we honor and adore you, our great and mighty Lord.

The flow'r of earthly splendor in time must surely die,
its fragile bloom surrender to you, the Lord most high;
but hidden from all nature the eternal seed is sown—
though small in mortal stature, to heaven's garden grown:
for Christ, your gift from heaven, from death has set us free,
and we through him are given the final victory.

Then hear, O gracious Savior, accept the love we bring,
that we who know your favor may serve you as our King;
and whether our tomorrows be filled with good or ill,
we'll triumph through our sorrows and rise to bless you still:
to marvel at your beauty and glory in your ways,
and make a joyful duty our sacrifice of praise.

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.

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.

(The assembly sits.)

Word

First Reading

Amos 5:18-24

A reading from Amos:

18 Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord!

Why do you want the day of the Lord?

It is darkness, not light;

19 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.

20 Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

21 I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

22 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.

23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

24 But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 70

(The Psalm will be spoken responsively.)

- 1 Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O LORD, make haste to help me.
- 2 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.**
- 3 Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat | over me
turn back because | of their shame.
- 4 Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever,
"Great | is the LORD!"**
- 5 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:

13 But 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. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15 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. 16 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. 17 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. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation (*The assembly stands.*)

Alleluia!

**Keep awake and be ready,
for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.**

Alleluia!

Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

(The reading of the Gospel.)

1 “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ 7 Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 9 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.’ 10 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. 11 Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ 12 But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ 13 Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

(The assembly sits.)

The Sermon

Pastor Brenda Martin

(The assembly remains seated.)

Hymn of the Day

Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

(We will not be singing but these words are here for your reflection.)

Soul, adorn yourself with gladness,
leave the gloomy haunts of sadness,
come into the daylight's splendor,
there with joy your praises render.
Bless the one whose grace unbounded
this amazing banquet founded;
Christ, though heav'nly, high, and holy,
deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

Hasten as a bride to meet him,
eagerly and gladly greet him.
There he stands already knocking;
quickly, now, your gate unlocking,
open wide the fast-closed portal,
saying to the Lord immortal:
"Come, and leave your loved one never;
dwell within my heart forever."

Now in faith I humbly ponder
over this surpassing wonder
that the bread of life is boundless
though the souls it feeds are countless;
with the choicest wine of heaven
Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation,
pledge and seal of my salvation.

Jesus, source of lasting pleasure,
truest friend, and dearest treasure,
peace beyond all understanding,
joy into all life expanding:
humbly now, I bow before you,
love incarnate, I adore you;
worthily let me receive you,
and, so favored, never leave you.

(The assembly stands.)

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

A: Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need, responding, "Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great"

(Brief silence)

A: Holy God, rouse us to deep praise as we gather for worship. Enliven our worship with sincere and heartfelt song. Sustain the work of all church musicians and artists who lead us in praise and prayer, especially Maidene, our cantors and choir members. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Michael; our pastors, deacons, communion assistants, acolytes, ushers, lectors and all others who participate in our worship. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A: Holy Creator, surprise and delight us with the beauty of the world you have made. Bless the work of landscapers, architects, and artists whose work invites us into harmonious living with your creation. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A: Holy Judge, let justice roll down like waters over this world. Reign over the courtrooms of every land, in the hearts of those who guard the law and those who stand accused of crimes. Be present in cases where we long for both justice and mercy to prevail. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A: Holy Companion, console those who feel lonely or abandoned. Share the hours of those who live and eat alone. Comfort those who have few friends or who struggle with their identity and place in this world. Heal those for whom Covid-19 has taken a toll, physically, financially and emotionally. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A: Holy Protector, be with all observing Veterans Day. Guard the lives of active duty and retired military personnel. Comfort all who mourn those who have died in the line of duty. Heal the wounds, both physical and mental, experienced by service members. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A: Holy Companion, console those who feel lonely or abandoned. Share the hours of those who live and eat alone. Comfort those who have few friends or who struggle with their identity and place in this world. Heal those for whom Covid-19 has taken a toll, physically, financially and emotionally. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A: Holy and Immortal One, we pray in thanksgiving for the lives of all who have died, especially Alice, Ken, Ron and Bob. Remind us of the frailty and shortness of our own lives and inspire us to use them for the building up of your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

C. Your mercy is great.

A: Are there others for whom we should pray?

P. Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

C: **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

(The assembly sits.)

Meal

Music as the meal is prepared

Interlude

(Murray)

(The assembly stands. The deacon, on behalf of the people, prays.)

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

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 very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Holy God, mighty Lord,
gracious Father: endless
is your mercy
and eternal your reign.

You are the God of creation and all its beginnings,
God of Abraham and Sarah,
God of Miriam and Moses,
God of Joshua and Deborah,
God of Ruth and David,
God of the priests and prophets,
God of Mary and Joseph,
God of the apostles and the martyrs,
God of our mothers and fathers,
God of our children to all generations;
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Holy are you,
and blessed is your son Jesus Christ.
By the baptism
of his suffering, death and resurrection
you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant
by water and the Spirit.

In the night
in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread,
and gave thanks, broke it,
and gave it to his disciples,
saying: Take and eat;
this is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper,
 he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink,
 saying, This cup is the new
 covenant in my blood,
 shed for you and for all people
 for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this in remembrance of me.

And so, in remembrance
of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ,
we offer ourselves
in praise and thanksgiving
as a holy and living sacrifice,
in union with Christ's once for all
offering for us, as we, in this meal
proclaim the Lord's death
until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, gracious Father,
with this bread and cup
we remember the life
our Lord offered for us.

And believing the witness
of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us
the great and promised feast.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us,
gathered here, and on these gifts
of bread and wine.

Make them be for us
the body and blood of Christ,
that we may be for the world
the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

Renew our communion with all your saints,
especially those whom we have named before you.

Since we are surrounded
by so great a cloud of witnesses,
strengthen us to run with perseverance,
the race that is set before us,
looking to Jesus,
the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.
By your Spirit make us one with Christ,
one with each other,
and one in ministry to all the world,
until Christ comes in final victory
and we receive our inheritance with
all your saints in light.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers
with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them
with the ceaseless petitions
of our great high priest
until he comes
as victorious Lord of all.
Through him, with him, in him,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours,
almighty Father, now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

Breaking of Bread

There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

(The assembly sits.)

Communion of the Faithful

***Procedure for Communing:** We will be using a form of processional communion. An usher will release each pew to come forward at a time to avoid a long line in the aisle. Pick up a communion cup on either side at the first pew. The pastor will place a host in your open palm. Turn to either the left or right side to the deacon or communion assistant to receive wine. After consuming the host and wine, pour any remaining wine into the container, then discard your cup. Children who have not yet received their First Holy Communion should come forward for a blessing. Please maintain social distance between non-family members.*

(Following the Communion the assembly stands for the blessing.)

Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and preserve you unto eternal life.

Amen.

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

Amen.

Sending

Our Prayer for These Times

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you today and always.

Amen.

Dismissal

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Variation on *Munich*

(Hustaad)

(Once the pastor is at the back of the church, ushers will dismiss by row.)

Serving Tonight

Presiding Minister Pastor Brenda Martin
Pianist Maidene Hackett
Liturgical Deacon Dan Eppley

Serving Today

Presiding Minister Pastor Brenda Martin
Organist Maidene Hackett
Liturgical Deacon Marj Stubert
Communion Assistant Nancy McLaughlin
Lector Laura Chesmer
Head Usher Jim Martin
Altar Guild The Richardson family

Acknowledgments

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Pastors in residence:

The Rev. Julia Fraser, chaplain at St. Paul Homes

The Rev. Brian Riddle, Thiel College Campus Pastor

The Rev. Martin Roth, retired pastor, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

The Rev. Dr. Curtis Thompson, retired, Thiel College