

November 8, 2020 • 23rd Sunday After Pentecost

GATHERING MUSIC

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Wake awake for night is flying
The watchmen on the heights are crying
Awake Jerusalem at last
Midnight hears the welcome voices
And at the thrilling cry rejoices
Come forth you maidens Night is past
The bridegroom comes Awake
Your lamps with gladness take
Alleluia
Rise and prepare the feast to share
Go meet the bridegroom who draws near

Zion hears the watchmen singing
And all her heart with joy is springing
She wakes she rises from her gloom
Her dear friend comes down all glorious
The strong in grace in truth victorious
Her star is ris'n her light is come
Now come O Blessed One
Lord Jesus God's own Son
Sing hosanna
Oh hear the call come one come all
And follow to the banquet hall

Gloria let heav'n adore you
Let saints and angels sing before you
With harp and cymbal's clearest tone
Gates of pearl twelve portals gleaming
Lead us to bliss beyond all dreaming
With angel choirs around your throne
No eye has caught the light
No ear the thund'ring might
Of such glory
There we will go what joy we'll know
There sweet delight will ever flow

*Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556-1608; tr. composite
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GREETING

PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

A READING FROM AMOS 5:18-24

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

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

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

¹⁹as 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.

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

and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even 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.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

R: Word of God. Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

A READING FROM 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

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.

R: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

A READING FROM 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.

SERMON

Pastor Amy Stewart

When peace like a river attendeth my way
When sorrows like sea billows roll
Whatever my lot thou hast taught me to say
It is well it is well with my soul

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
It is well it is well with my soul

Though Satan should buffet though trials should come
Let this blest assurance control
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate
And has shed his own blood for my soul

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul,)
It is well it is well with my soul

He lives--oh the bliss of this glorious thought
My sin not in part but the whole
Is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more
Praise the Lord praise the Lord O my soul

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul,)
It is well it is well with my soul

Lord hasten the day when our faith shall be sight
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend
Even so it is well with my soul

It is well (it is well)
With my soul (with my soul)
it is well it is well with my soul

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

P: 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.

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

Offerings can be made online or mailed to the church office. Thank you for your continuous support to our ministry during this time.

THE 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

P: 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,
Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.
C: Amen.

Rejoice rejoice believers
And let your lights appear
The evening is advancing
And darker night is near
The bridegroom is arising
And soon is drawing nigh
Up pray and watch and wrestle
At midnight comes the cry

The watchers on the mountain
Proclaim the bridegroom near
Go forth as he approaches
With alleluias clear
The marriage feast is waiting
The gates wide open stand
Arise O heirs of glory
The bridegroom is at hand

The saints who here in patience
Their cross and suff'rings bore
Shall live and reign forever
When sorrow is no more
Around the throne of glory
The Lamb they shall behold
In triumph cast before him
Their diadems of gold

Our hope and expectation
O Jesus now appear
Arise O Sun so longed for
O'er this benighted sphere
With hearts and hands uplifted
We plead O Lord to see
The day of earth's redemption
That sets your people free

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

SENDING MUSIC

Vocal Leader: *Jamie De Geer*

Musician: *Marcus De Geer*

Reader: *Jamie De Geer*

Video & Audio: *Brandon Wade*

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