



**24th Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2020**

REV. BARB SPAULDING, PASTOR

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 eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

(* please stand as you are able) **(Congregation reads bold print)**

Note: Hymns are printed on pages 8-10.

Welcome

***Confession and Forgiveness**

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.

Opening Hymn "Rise Up, O Saints of God!"

***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**

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.**

First Reading: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
"The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do harm."

¹³Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry

against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.

¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: Psalm 90:1-8, 12

¹Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.
²Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.
³You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."
⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;
⁵you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:
⁶in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered.
⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.
⁸Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

¹²**So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

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 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.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Kids' Time (especially for our livestream viewers)

Special Music "Take My Life and Let It Be" -*projected* (Keaton family reunion)

***Gospel Acclamation** (spoken)

P: Alleluia. All: Abide in me as I abide in you; those who abide in me bear much fruit. P: Alleluia. (John 15:4, 5)

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 25th Chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord.**

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

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:] ¹⁴For 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.'”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Message

Hymn of the Day “O Christ, the Same”

***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**

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. *A brief silence.*

Lord, ignite your people with the passion of your love. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, refine us in response to the challenges and opportunities of this present time. Direct the hearts of your people here throughout our nominations process. (silence) Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord, we praise you for the beauty of nature, especially where we have seen it personally. Bless the earth and restore it for your glory. (silence) Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord, let your justice ring in the ears of all leaders. Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable, especially in trade agreements and efforts to end human rights abuses. (silence) Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord, scatter the heavy clouds of depression, anxiety, illness, grief, addiction unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing to those on our prayer list and on our hearts. (silence) Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord, stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love beyond our comfort zone. Open us to learn from the experiences and perspectives of others. (silence) Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord, guide our President and President-elect, our Governor, and all who serve with them, for the sake of families, schools, communities and the good of all. (silence) Hear us, O God; **Your mercy is great.**

Lord, we give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors. Move us to live by their example, that those who follow us may also know your love. (silence) Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

***Peace**

Offering (Your gifts are received in the basket on the usher's table)

Offering Prayer

Gracious God, receive these gifts from the labor of our hands along with the offering of our lives. Nourish us with the life of your Son, that we might be his body in the world, making known your abundant mercy in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Lord's Prayer**

***Sending 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,
Sovereign, ✚ Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn "O, Zion, Haste"

Dismissal

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

Thanks be to God.

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This Week's Events: Nov 15-21

- Sun. *Volunteers:*** Rebecca Brockhaus and Denny Bain
9:00am 24th Sunday after Pentecost- Worship with Social Distancing
Followed by Nominating Committee meeting
11:00am NO ZOOM Fellowship
- Tues.** 7:00pm AA (Contact person is Larry S. 712-251-4207)
- Wed. After school 'til 5:00 Kids' Zone here**
**5:45 "Chosen Together" confirmation downstairs—learners and
parents use the door by the bell tower**
- Fri.** *Office closed*
- Sat.** 10 am Community Basket at Kingsley

Next Week's Events: Nov 22-28

- Sun. *Volunteers:*** Rebecca Brockhaus and Cindy Ploen
9:00am Christ The King- Worship with Communion & Social Distancing
10:30am Individual Communion by appointment
11:00am Fellowship on Zoom. Drop in to check in!
- Tues.** 7:00pm AA (Contact person is Larry S. 712-251-4207)
- Wed. NO Kids' Zone**
NO "Chosen Together" confirmation
- Thurs. A Blessed Thanksgiving!**
*We won't gather for worship, but Pastor's Thanksgiving message will be
available on our You Tube channel, and our Facebook page and the text
posted on our website. Thanksgiving offerings go to the general fund.*
- Fri.** Office closed

Worship is livestreamed weekly on FB. Our thanks to Rebecca for streaming and projection help today.

Communion in worship will be on Nov. 22nd and 29th. It will also be available those Sundays in the entryway at 10:30. Number limited to 8. Please contact the office if you wish to attend.

Pastor's sermons are posted (see "Sermons" tab at the bottom of the homepage) weekly—on Mondays--on the TLC website.

Baptized believers sent into God's world to share God's love and grace.

Rise Up, O Saints of God!

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) in the key of D major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It consists of two systems of music. The first system contains five verses of lyrics. The second system contains the concluding lines of the hymn. The melody is primarily in the soprano part, with the bass part providing a steady harmonic accompaniment. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
4 Give heed, O saints of God! Cre - a - tion cries in pain;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
stretch forth your hand of heal - ing now, with love the weak sus - tain.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825-1893
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O Christ the Same

1 O Christ the same, through all our sto - ry's pag - es—
 2 O Christ the same, the friend of sin - ners, shar - ing
 3 O Christ the same, se - cure with - in whose keep - ing

our loves and hopes, our fail - ures and our fears;
 our in - most thoughts, the se - crets none can hide;
 our lives and loves, our days and years re - main;

e - ter - nal Lord, the king of all the a - ges,
 still as of old up - on your bod - y bear - ing
 our work and rest, our wak - ing and our sleep - ing,

un - chang - ing still a - mid the pass - ing years:
 the marks of love in tri - umph glo - ri - fied:
 our calm and storm, our plea - sure and our pain:

O liv - ing Word, the source of all cre - a - tion,
 O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heav - en—
 O Lord of love, for all our joys and sor - rows,

who spread the skies and set the stars a - blaze;
 O Prince of life, in all your sav - ing power;
 for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;

O Christ the same, who wrought our whole sal - va - tion,
 O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are giv - en:
 O Christ the same, be - yond our brief to - mor - rows,

we bring our thanks for all our yes - ter - days.
 we bring our thanks for this the pres - ent hour.
 we bring our thanks for all that is to be.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926
 Music: LONDONDERRY AIR, Irish tune

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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 Welch, 1837-1901



GIVING TREE 2020 Project

CAA -- 40 names / wrap gifts

LSI -- 10 names / do not wrap gifts

Interested donors, please contact Gloria: Call (873-5107) or text (870-1406) or email

healyfarms@wiatel.net. She will make suggestions considering the donor's wishes (siblings, family units, boy/girl, etc.) and reply with name/gift information.

Please have gifts at church any time up to Sunday, December 13.

For LSI, unwrapped gifts can be brought in a box or shopping bag with name of child. For CAA, gifts can be wrapped with the name/code.

Rather not shop? Gloria is willing to shop online for gifts using gift cards or cash from you—WalMart or per her suggestions. **Rather not wrap?** For those not wanting to wrap the gifts for CAA, a 'wrapping' party is an option (using supplies from the youth fundraiser)

In Our Prayers:

Active military: for friend of TLC, Adam Wiskus, deployed in Africa, and his wife Kasey and daughter Danika; for Bryce Butters and Brady Butters.

CHRISTMAS CARE PACKAGES FOR THE THREE ABOVE SERVICE MEMBERS WILL BE SENT BY DEC. 1. Please check with the office for details if you wish to include a non-perishable snack, gift or greeting. A box is labeled for your donations. Thank you!

We also pray for Reed Mitchell at Basic Training in San Antonio.

For those in ongoing cancer treatment: Denise Arpino; Joel Bryan; Doug & Eve Dahlke; "Freddie" Dahmer (Becky Butters' mom)-radiation; Mike Hannah (recovering from and facing more brain surgery); Coni Latimer (Scoop's mother)-radiation; Ryan Mahoney; Staci McNett (Dave Schweder's sister); Lee Novak (Diane Dreves' brother-in-law); Marj Sanderson (weekly treatments)

We also pray for Amber Bock; Carla Boggs; Barb Kunkel; Teresa Linn; Drake Malm; Tucker Malm; Kelly Martin; those in addictions/recovery, all who are grieving, victims of Covid 19—Skip & Janice Stoddard-- and other illnesses, of natural disasters, and of violence and human trafficking; TLC's nominations process; our local, state and national elected officials

Birthdays this week: 16-Kaleb Brosamle, Mary Malm, Gene Wink; 17- Ruth Chartier, John Erdmann, Joe Phillips, Jeff Powell, Laurie Schmidt; 21-Cody Kennedy, Ray Ruberg

Anniversaries this week: Today-Jeremy & Megan Cross

Teresa's office hours are: Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9-2

The building will be closed for disinfecting weekly. A sign will be posted on the front door during these closures.

November Worship Assistants

Scripture Reader: Kim Steffen
Organist: Ruth Chartier

Altar Guild: Cindy & Gail Ploen
Accountants: Kim Steffen & Denny Bain

I would like to thank everyone for cards and prayers during the past couple of weeks. It has meant so much.-- Teresa

Ongoing recycling project: The Community Basket is collecting any size plastic lids from bottles or food containers. (except **black**) The Elks Club turns them into picnic tables. A box is labeled by the coat rack in the entryway, or drop them off at the thrift shop on Main St. during their posted hours. Thank you!

Note: If you have any notes/messages for the bulletin, please submit them to the church office by Thursday morning at 10 a.m. Thank you!

On Ushers' Table:

- Basket for offerings
- Christ in Our Home devotionals October-December

God's work. Our gifts.— Our budget needs each week.... \$2,816.00

General Offerings	\$ 2,955.00
Electronic Giving	\$ 180.45
Mission Support	\$ 25.00
Our gifts to God—Total	\$ 3,160.45

Thank you to all who support with prayers and gifts the ministry we share!

