
☞ Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost ☞
ORDER OF WORSHIP • NOVEMBER 12, 2023 • 9:00 AM

✠ Indicates the congregation should stand as able.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & GREETING

✠ OPENING HYMN AWAKE, MY SOUL, AND WITH THE SUN
LBW #269, stanzas 1-4

✠ INVOCATION

WL: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

✠ CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

WL: Let us confess our sins to God, who loves us with an unending love, whose presence calms our fears, and whose word brings life.

a time of silence for reflection

WL: Holy One,

All: **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.

WL: Siblings in Christ, God hears our cry and sends the Spirit to turn us and renew us. In ✠ Christ, your sins are forgiven. In Christ, **our** sins are forgiven. On this very morning we are called, raised up, and empowered to follow Christ, our Savior. We share his death, and, with him, we are reborn to life eternal. Go now and serve our risen Savior with joy!

All: Amen!

✠ HYMN OF PRAISE AWAKE, MY SOUL, AND WITH THE SUN
LBW #269, stanza 5

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;

Praise him, all creatures here below;

Praise him above, ye heav'nly host;

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

FIRST LESSON

AMOS 5:18-24

R: Our First Lesson for this Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost is from the fifth chapter of Amos.

Woe to you who long for the day of the Lord!

Why do you long for the day of the Lord?

That day will be darkness, not light.

It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear,
as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall
only to have a snake bite him.

Will not the day of the Lord be darkness, not light—
pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness?

“I hate, I despise your religious festivals;
your assemblies are a stench to me.

Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings,
I will not accept them.

Though you bring choice fellowship offerings,
I will have no regard for them.

Away with the noise of your songs!

I will not listen to the music of your harps.

But let justice roll on like a river,
righteousness like a never-failing stream!

WL: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND LESSON

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18

R: Our Second Lesson is from the fourth chapter of First Thessalonians.

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

WL: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

✠ ALLELUIA VERSE

Be not afraid, sing out for joy! Christ is risen, alleluia!

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✠ HOLY GOSPEL LESSON

MATTHEW 25:1-13

WL: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

All: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

“At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

“Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’

“‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

“But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

“Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

“But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’

“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

WL: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to You O Christ!**

TODAY’S MESSAGE

✠ MESSAGE HYMN

THROUGH THE NIGHT OF
DOUBT AND SORROW
LBW #355

✠ PROFESSION OF FAITH

Apostles' Creed

WL: With the church throughout the ages, let us boldly confess our faith, using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

WL: Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

a brief silence

WL: O God for whom we wait, come quickly to your people, bring your salvation, and center us in the hope found in you. Deepen our faith and send us out with your justice and truth. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

WL: O God for whom we watch, we glimpse your power in rushing water and your beauty in the darkening night. Empower us to restore your creation and save us from foolish, wasteful living. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

WL: O God for whom we long, let justice roll down like waters on all nations. Bless citizens with wise leaders; lead us into paths of peace. Help us to support and love the veterans who are among us. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

WL: O God, in whom we hope, we pray for all who are in need. Provide for those who experience homelessness or hunger, support the under- and unemployed, and comfort all who are sick, suffering, or in special need on this day, (*especially those we name before you now . . .*). Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

WL: O God, in whom we remain, we remember our loved ones who have died and now live in you (*especially*). Bring comfort and the assurance of new life to all who grieve. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

WL: We offer our spoken prayers and the prayers held in our hearts, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

GATHERING OF TITHES & OFFERINGS

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

✠ PREFACE

WL: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

WL: Lift up your hearts.

All: **We lift them to the Lord.**

WL: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

✠ THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

✠ THE LORD'S PRAYER

WL: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

All: **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.

✠ PAX DOMINI

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

All: **Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

COMMUNION HYMN

BREAD OF LIFE FROM HEAVEN

REFRAIN

**Bread of life from heaven, your blood and body given,
we eat this bread and drink this cup until you come again.**

- 1 Break now the bread of Christ's sacrifice;
giving thanks, hungry ones, gather round.
Eat, all of you, and be satisfied;
in Christ's presence the loaves will abound. *REFRAIN***
- 2 Seek not the food that will pass away;
set your hearts on the food that endures.
Come, learn the true and the living way,
that the fullness of life may be yours. *REFRAIN***
- 3 Love as the one who, in love for you,
gave himself for the life of the world.
Come to the one who is food for you,
that your hunger and thirst be no more. *REFRAIN***
- 4 Dwell in the one who now dwells in you;
make your home in the lifegiving Word.
Know only Christ, Holy One of God,
and believe in the truth you have heard. *REFRAIN***
- 5 Drink of this cup and declare his death;
eat this bread and believe Easter morn;
trust his return and, with ev'ry breath,
praise the one in whom you are reborn. *REFRAIN***

✠ DISMISSAL

WL: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart in peace.

All: **Amen.**

✠ CLOSING PRAYER

WL: Let us pray. We give you thanks, most gracious God, that you have fed us with the bread of heaven and given us a foretaste of Paradise. Enliven us to be your body in the world and to joyfully serve those who are in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

HONORING OUR VETERANS

WL: I ask you to be seated now as we honor our veterans on this Veterans Day Weekend with prayer and image and song.

VIDEO PRESENTATION – “A VETERANS DAY PRAYER”

PRAYERS FOR OUR VETERANS

WL: People of God, as you send us now into a world in great need, we remember those who have served and are currently serving our nation in the armed forces. We give thanks for their willingness to lay down their lives for others. We give thanks for the love they have shown and the sacrifices they have made.

I ask them to stand as they are able, while we pray.

Gracious God, we ask for blessings on all those who have served their country in the armed forces. We ask for healing for the veterans who have been wounded, in body and soul, in conflicts around the globe. We pray for those who come home with injured bodies and traumatized spirits. Bring solace to them, O Lord; may we pray for them when they cannot pray. May we become a part of their healing. With them and with all veterans we ask for an end to wars and the dawning of a new era of peace.

Have mercy on all our veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, and other conflicts. Bring peace to their hearts and peace to the regions in which they served. Bless all those who served in non-combatative posts. May their calling to service continue to bring blessings to them and to all.

Loving God, give us all the creative vision to see a world which, grown weary with fighting, moves to affirming the life of all your creation and so moves beyond war. Hear our prayer, O Prince of Peace, Príncipe de Paz.

All: Amen.

✠ SENDING HYMN ETERNAL FATHER, STRONG TO SAVE

**Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm hath bound the restless wave
Who bade the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to thee for those in peril on the sea!**

**Oh, Watchful Father, who dost keep eternal vigil while we sleep,
Guide those who navigate on high, who through grave unknown perils fly.
Receive our oft-repeated prayer for those in peril in the air.**

**O Trinity of love and power, our soldiers shield in danger's hour;
From rock and tempest, fire and foe, protect them whereso'er they go;
Thus evermore from all the free shall rise glad hymns of praise to thee.**

✠ BLESSING

WL: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

All: Amen.

✠ SENDING

WL: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

All: Thanks be to God.

TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY

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BE NOT AFRAID

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BREAD OF LIFE FROM HEAVEN

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