



Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost Sunday, November 15, 2020

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude — “Partita on HYFRYDOL: Movements 2 and 3”

Setting by Charles Callahan

Welcome

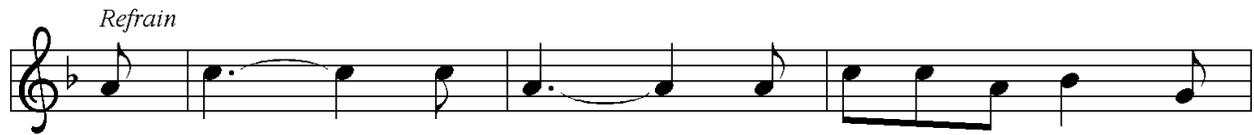
Confession and Forgiveness

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.**

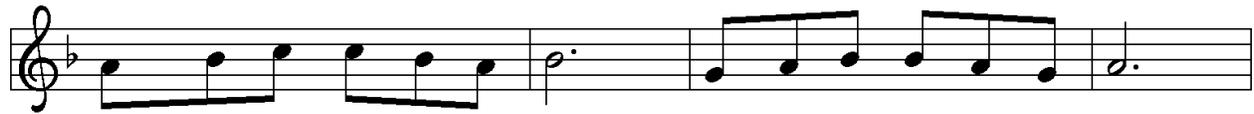
Beloved, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.
Through † Jesus you are forgiven,
by Jesus you are welcome,
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!
Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world.
Amen.



Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show



us how to serve the neigh-bors we have from you.



- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Kneels at the feet of his friends, | si - lent - ly wash - es their feet, |
| 2 | Neigh-bors are wealth-y and poor, | var - ied in col - or and race, |
| 3 | These are the ones we will serve, | these are the ones we will love; |
| 4 | Kneel at the feet of our friends, | si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet: |



mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
 neigh-bors are near - by and far a - way.
 all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
 this is the way we will live with you.

Refrain

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.
 Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin
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Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

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.**

Hearing & Responding to God's Word

A Reading from Hebrew Scripture — Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

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.

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 child- | ren 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.

12So teach us to num- | ber our days
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.

A Reading from the Epistles — 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

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.

Gospel Acclamation — no. 262, sung twice

“Wait for the Lord”

The musical score is written for two staves, Treble and Bass clef, in the key of D major (one sharp). The first system contains the lyrics: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." The second system contains the lyrics: "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!" The music consists of simple chords and single notes, suitable for a congregational or choir setting.

Text: Taizé Community
Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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Gospel — Matthew 25:14-30

The Gospel of the Lord according to the 25th chapter of Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

[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.'"

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

Sermon — "The Three R's of Stewardship"

Rev. Bill Nelsen, Interim Pastor &
 Rev. Bob Stenson, Chair of the Stewardship Committee

Hymn — no. 707

"Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

- | | |
|--|--|
| <p>1 Lord of glory, you have bought us
 with your lifeblood as the price,
 never grudging for the lost ones
 that tremendous sacrifice;
 and with that have freely given
 blessings countless as the sand
 to the unthankful and the evil
 with your own unsparing hand.</p> | <p>3 Wondrous honor you have given
 to our humblest charity
 in your own mysterious sentence,
 "You have done it all to me."
 Naked, sick, in prison, hungry—
 in the least, your face we view,
 saying by your poor and needy,
 "Give as I have giv'n to you."</p> |
| <p>2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you
 gladly, freely, of your own.
 With the sunshine of your goodness
 melt our thankless hearts of stone
 till our cold and selfish natures,
 warmed by you, at length believe
 that more happy and more blessed
 'tis to give than to receive.</p> | <p>4 Lord of glory, you have bought us
 with your lifeblood as the price,
 never grudging for the lost ones
 that tremendous sacrifice.
 Give us faith to trust you boldly,
 hope, to stay our souls on you:
 but, oh, best of all your graces,
 with your love our love renew.</p> |

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.

Lord of the church, ignite your people with the passion of your love. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, unify us across ministries, congregations, and denominations, and refine us to participate in your activity throughout the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of creation, we stand in awe at the works of your hands and praise you for the beauty of nature. Bless the earth for your glory and restore its integrity where exploitation has caused ruin. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the nations, sound forth your justice in the ears of all leaders. Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable, especially as international leaders forge trade agreements and cooperate to end human rights abuses. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the stranger, stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control and open us to learn from the perspectives of others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors. Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Offering

Please remember to give financially to support our ministry.

You can write a check and mail it to the church office or give online at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=283920>.

Departing to Serve God's World

Announcements

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.**

Dismissal

Be good stewards of all that God has given you. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sending Hymn — no. 632

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”



- 1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
- 2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
- 3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
- 4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

- 5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.
- 6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.

Music: St. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

Acknowledgements

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Pastor Bill Nelsen
Cantor Emily Bruflat
Lector/Assistant: Aileen Bipes

Announcements

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Our tradition of an ecumenical worship service continues this year! Trinity, FLC, Union Presbyterian, Church of Saint Peter, and Church of the Holy Communion Episcopal are joining together for a virtual service! It will air on Facebook AND SPPA at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25 and again on SPPA Thanksgiving Day at 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. See more times in the newsletter. Please tune in for this special event as we give our thanks and praise to God as a community of believers!

From the Stewardship Committee Thanks to all our members who have returned their “estimate of giving cards” for 2021. We are encouraged by so many who have increased their pledge amounts over the current year.

Wednesday Meditation During November: During the month of November, Pastor Bill will be sharing special meditations under the theme “Thanksgiving and Thanksliving: Guidance from the Psalms.” These brief meditations will use the wisdom of several favorite psalms to speak to our challenging times and to find hope and inspiration for future days. The meditations can be accessed at 10:00 a.m. on Wednesdays on our Facebook page, or later to fit with your schedules.

Childcare Needed: My name is Elizabeth Vine, and my husband, Zach, and I are looking for childcare beginning in mid-March for our newborn daughter. If you are a stay-at-home mom interested in extra income or know of someone who'd be interested, please let us know! I can be reached by phone at 701-412-3084 or email evine@gustavus.edu. Thank you for your consideration!

Seeking New Council Members: The nominating committee is seeking new members to serve on the Church Council. We are seeking four adult members and one youth member to serve. This is a promising time in the life of our congregation and your willingness to make a contribution is significant and appreciated. Please contact Mary Spear by email (majsppear@gmail.com) or phone (507-317-1817) if you have any questions or are interested in serving.

Twelve Days of Family: FLC invites you to let us into your home this holiday season by sharing with us a holiday tradition (ie singing a song, cooking a meal, decorating, making a snow person, etc) of yours! Sign up, record your tradition, and submit it to Calleigh. All videos will be organized and released on our Facebook page throughout the Twelve Days leading up to Christmas! For more information email Calleigh, cc.flcstp@gmail.com.

Red Cross Blood Drive: It's been some time since we've been able to hold a drive, but on December 1st from noon until 6:00pm we will be holding our first since the pandemic began. Obviously, there will be extremely strict precautions in place to protect workers and donors alike, but if you are able please take the time to sign up and donate. This drive is by appointment only and you can call **1-800-Red Cross** or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](https://www.RedCrossBlood.org) and enter First Lutheran, St Peter or the zip code to find the location and schedule an appointment.

Prayer Concerns: We are called to remember one another in prayer. We pray for the family and friends of those who have recently passed away: Irene Jongeling (grandmother of Emily Bruflat), Margie Krause (mother of Barb Regner), and Shirley Biddle (mother of Doug Schuldt)