



# November 12, 2023

## 24th Sunday after Pentecost

An asterisk \* invites you to stand in body or in spirit,  
and you are invited to read aloud responses found in **bold**.

We welcome you to First Lutheran Church!

## we GATHER

**Prelude** — “Keep Your Lamps”

Setting by Benjamin A. Tucker  
Handbell Choir; Steve Kidder, djembe

*This Gathering Hymn comes from the “Trust, Guidance” section of our hymnal. We put our trust in Jesus through all times of our lives, not worrying about “the day nor the hour” when Christ will come again.*

**Words of Welcome**

**\*Gathering Hymn** — no. 770

“Give Me Jesus”

Stanza 1: Leader    Stanzas 2-5: All

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

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

**Open our hearts to your coming,  
open our eyes to see you in our  
neighbor,  
open our hands to serve your creation.  
Amen.**

**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.**

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.**

**\*Apostolic Greeting & Kyrie** — from *ELW Setting Four, front of hymnal, pg. 147*

**\*Canticle of Praise** — from *ELW Setting Four, front of hymnal, pg. 149* “This Is the Feast”

**\*Prayer of the Day**

May God be with you. **And also with you.** 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.**

**Stewardship Sharing Story**

Malcolm McHugh

# we LISTEN and RESPOND

## A Reading from Amos — Amos 5:18-24

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord!

Why do you want the day of the Lord?  
It is darkness, not light;  
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.  
Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not  
light, and gloom with no brightness in it  
I hate, I despise your festivals,

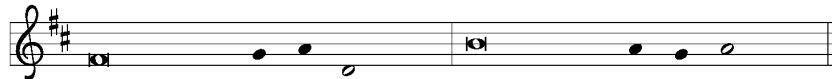
and I take no delight in your solemn  
assemblies.

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.

Take away from me the noise of your songs;  
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.  
But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing  
stream.

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

## Psalm 70 — sung responsively by verse



Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;

O Lord, make | haste to help me.

**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.**

Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat | over me

turn back because | of their shame.

**Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;**

**let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great | is the Lord!”**

But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God.

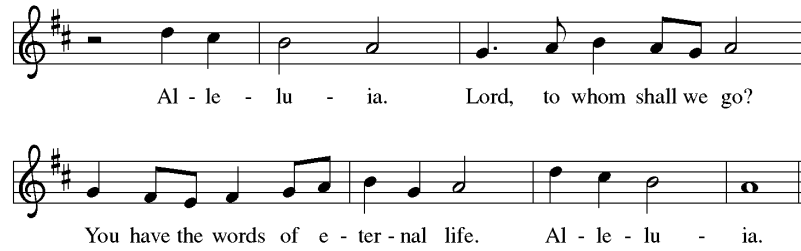
You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, | do not tarry.

## A Reading from Paul’s First Letter to the Thessalonians — I Thessalonians 4:13-18

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

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

## \*Gospel Acclamation — from *ELW Setting Four, front of hymnal*



**\*Gospel — Matthew 25:1-13**

The Gospel of Matthew, the 25th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Recalling this morning's prelude, we sing this African American Spiritual, which directly references today's gospel lesson.*

**Sermon**

Pastor Chris Culuris

**\*Hymn — no. 949, from *All Creation Sings***

“Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning”



1 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your  
 2 Dark-er mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er  
 3 Lo, the morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the  
 4 Keep your lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your



lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps  
 mid - night lies be - fore us, dark - er mid - night  
 morn - ing soon is break - ing, lo, the morn - ing  
 lamps trimmed and burn - ing, keep your lamps



trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.  
 lies be - fore us, for this work's al - most done.  
 soon is break - ing, for this work's al - most done.  
 trimmed and burn - ing, for this work's al - most done.



*Refrain*  
 Chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry; chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry;



chil-dren, don't grow wea - ry, for this work's al - most done.

**\*The Apostles' Creed**

P: Let us confess our faith together:

*In this Advent text from the All Creation Sings hymnal, the poetry points to preparation for the coming of the Christ child. "Earth from slumber wakes to listen to the stirring, faint within: seed of promise, deeply planted, child to spring from Jesse's stem!"*

**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 power of 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: 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.

O God for whom we watch, we glimpse your power in rushing water and your beauty in the darkening night. Restore this creation, and provide clean water to all people and animals. Save us from foolish, wasteful living. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we long, let justice roll down like waters on all nations. Bless citizens with wise leaders; save your children from war. We pray for the veterans of this community, that they are supported and loved. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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- or unemployed, and comfort any who are suffering this day. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we listen, inspire the music ministry of our congregation. Fill our worship with songs to proclaim your greatness. Help us to sing and dance with joy and tell boldly of your salvation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, in whom we remain, we remember our loved ones who have died and now live in you. Bring comfort and the assurance of new life to all who grieve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## Offering

*Music During Offering*

"Now the Heavens Start to Whisper"

Setting by Anne Krentz Organ  
Handbell Quartet

*We will observe  
continuous  
communion this  
morning - the  
ushers will guide  
you forward.*

## \*Offering Prayer

A: 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.**

# we SHARE the meal

\***The Great Thanksgiving** — from *ELW Setting Four, front of hymnal, pg. 152*

\***"Holy, Holy, Holy"** — from *ELW Setting Four, front of hymnal, pg. 153*

*In this rousing  
Sending Hymn,  
we sing with hope  
of a place with  
"no more cryin"  
and "no more  
dyin," loudly  
proclaiming  
"Hallelujah, we're  
goin' to see the  
King!"*

## \*Words of Institution and Lord's Prayer

P: 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 for the 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 for the remembrance of me.

We remember Christ, our Savior, who taught us to pray: **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.**



### Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris  
Director of Music: Emily Bruflat  
Audio/Video: Rachel Ribar, Caitlyn Krueger  
Musician: Handbell Choir;  
Handbell Quartet

Assisting Minister: Nancy Nelson  
Greeter: Laird Bly  
Reader: Cole Buffington  
Ushers: Tom Thorkelson

Communion Preparers: Mary Thompson, Sylvia Perron  
Communion Servers: John Bipes, Sharon Domeier, Nancy Timm  
Bread Bakers: Cheryl Kautt, Michelle Doose  
Acolytes: Colton and Kinley Janovsky

### Announcements

- We welcome Ellis Jones's family to worship today. Thanks to his great-granddaughter, Gwendolyn Feltes for singing and to Karen Wojahn for accompanying her this morning!
- Flowers this morning are given by the Ribar Family in memory of Gale Ribar. Thank you!
- There will be a First Forum following worship today in the Gathering Space regarding the BWCA trip that our youth went on this past year.
- Today's organ recital was postponed. The next organ recital will be presented by David Lim on Dec 10 at 4:00 p.m.
- Due to changes in staffing, the church office will be open from 9:00 a.m. – noon, Monday through Friday. You may leave a voicemail message at: 507-934-3060. Please email us at: [flcstpoffice@gmail.com](mailto:flcstpoffice@gmail.com). We will get back to you as soon as possible. Thank you for your patience and understanding during this time of transition.
- Reminder: Active Shooter Awareness training here at FLC from 10am-1pm next Sat., Nov. 18th. You must register in advance. FLC members use code "FLCSTPETER" when registering.
- Dollars for Scholars Dinner Fundraiser: Thurs., Nov. 16, 5:15-6:15 p.m. at the SPHS. Cost: \$10 under 18/over 65 and \$15 for other ages. If interested in securing tickets, contact Nancy Thorkelson: [nancy.thorkelson@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.thorkelson@gmail.com) or 507-327-1887. All proceeds will fund a scholarship for a Saint Peter High School student.
- The local chapter of MN Interfaith Power and Light is sponsoring a forum called "YOU Are a Piece of the Puzzle" on Thursday, Nov 16 at 7:00 p.m. at the Community Center in Gym A. Learn about the many ways you can save money by going green - from local programs like Solar Choice to federal programs like the Inflation Reduction Act.
- Next Sunday, we continue The Generosity Project with worship in the Dining Hall. You are invited to wear a "Live Generously" t-shirt - if you don't have one, we have lots of free ones to give away. Pick one up after church today!
- Calleigh Carlson has an announcement to share regarding Confirmation Mentors.

### Prayers

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Erika Schuldt, Ursula McRostie, Karen Wendroth, Allen Storkson, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson, Claire Cardwell, Ella Twaddle, Tim Schwartz, Carol Peterson, Sarah Smith, Gretchen Bray, Bob and Kay Moline, Takhmina White, Allison Ellingson, Jim Wendroth and Ruth Edberg.
- We pray for the family of Gene Roemhildt, who died on Oct 15. His funeral was held on Nov 9 at FLC.
- We pray for Shanon Nowell and her family at the death of her father-in-law, Allen Storkson, who died on Nov. 1.