



Keep your lamps trimmed and burning.

THE 23RD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST
A SERVICE OF WORD AND MEAL
NOVEMBER 8, 2020

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
HILTON HEAD ISLAND, SC

*We are Disciples of Jesus.
Growing in Faith, Serving our Community and Connecting Others to Christ.*

✝ This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here. ✝

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

November ✝ A Season Unto Itself

It's true that the Sundays and weeks of November are the final ones of the half-year-long Pentecost season. But November has its own themes and flavors. The first Sunday of November is always All Saints' Sunday because it's the closest Sunday to November 1st. The middle Sundays of this month are the 23rd and 24th Sundays after Pentecost. On November 22nd, we celebrate the final Sunday of the church year that we have called Christ the King Sunday since the 1960s. This year, the first Sunday of Advent will also fall in November (on the 27th) as the new church year begins.

November's themes focus on the end—the end of the church year, the end times, and the end of our earthly lives. The readings include topsy-turvy language and vivid images of judgment. But for listeners from all times and places who see with the eyes of faith, they also provide solid ground for hope. The apostle Paul wrote, "We do not want you to be uninformed . . . about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope" (1 Thessalonians 4:13). November is a time to honor grief and to preach hope. Where Jesus is, there is hope for the faithful.

Wake, Awake for Night is Flying ✝ Bach's Famous Cantata

If you have sung in a traditional Lutheran choir, you have no doubt sung at the beginning of Advent Bach's cantata "Wachet auf." It is based on Matthew 25, The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids, which is our gospel for this day. Bach, who often wrote cantatas around the scriptures and themes for particular Sundays as the hymn of the day for his choir to sing, composed this cantata for Sunday, November 25, 1731. Because it focuses on the themes of expectation, waiting, and preparation; we usually use it as the "opening song" for the First Sunday of Advent. Bach based his cantata on the hymn by Philipp Nicolai first published in 1599 which is still a staple in our Evangelical Lutheran Worship and will be our Sending Song today.

✠ GATHERING ✠

Gathering Music *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*

[a Negro Spiritual based on the gospel parable today]

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PzkAF1S-m-g>

*Well mother don't you stop prayin'
Father keep right on prayin'
Don't you stop prayin' for this old world is almost done
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning
For this old world is almost done
Brother don't you stop prayin'
Sister keep right on prayin'
Don't you stop prayin' for this old world is almost done
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning
Keep your lamps trimmed and burning
For this old world is almost done
Keep our lamps trimmed and...*

Welcome + Announcements

Building a Culture of Generosity: A Report on our Intent Cards

We Prepare our Hearts for Worship *Let My Heart Be Quiet*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AgThST2lvcl>

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

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

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.

✝ WORD ✝

The First Reading: 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading: Psalm 70

¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;

O LORD, make haste to help me.

²Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.

³Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me
turn back because of their shame.

⁴Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the LORD!”

⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4s0Zb189Sco>

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

The 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.

Holy God, rouse us to deep praise as we gather for worship. Enliven our worship with sincere and heartfelt song. Sustain the work of all church musicians and artists who lead us in praise and prayer, especially, Tami, David, Doug, Elsa, our Handbell choir, our Worship Team, and all who lift their voice in song. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Creator, surprise and delight us with the beauty of the world you have made. Bless the work of landscapers, architects, and artists whose work invites us into harmonious living with your creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Judge, let justice roll down like waters over this world. Guide the people of this nation, our President, Congress, and all in local government to support the welfare, freedom, and justice of all people. Make us faithful global partners committed to the common good of all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Companion, console those who feel lonely or abandoned. Share the hours of those who live and eat alone. Comfort those who have few friends or who struggle with their identity and place in this world. Give healing and protection to all who long for healing, especially Nancy McCleskey and her sister, Cyndie, Jim Condor, Connie Simon, all on our prayer list and all we name before you...Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Protector, be with all observing Veterans Day. Guard the lives of active duty and retired military personnel. Comfort all who mourn those who have died in the line of duty. Heal the wounds, both physical and mental, experienced by service members. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Lifegiver, we lift up all celebrating birthdays this week, especially Sarah DeMaria, Nan Stafford, Mike Conklin, Hunter Julseth, and Lynn Baglyos. We give thanks for Joe and Barbara celebrating their 45th wedding anniversary and for all celebrating their baptismal anniversaries, especially Danny Wheeler. May these milestones of our living fill us with gratitude for all good gifts, and remind us that you go with us every step of the way. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Spirit, we pray for our congregation in these weeks of expectation as we continue to prepare for a new pastor and as we receive our financial pledges for the coming year. Guide us in all our discernment, conversation, and decision-making as we move forward in the mission to which you have called us. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Holy and Immortal One, we pray in thanksgiving for the lives of all who have died, especially Rita Hungate, Kathy Mork's father, Jack Keller, and all others we have loved and lost. Remind us of the frailty and shortness of our own lives and inspire us to use them fully for the building up of your kingdom. 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.

While we are in these Zoom meetings, we will provide a time for worshipers to prepare an offering to be mailed in, to go to our website to make a contribution, or take time to pray and consider how God is calling each of us to share our resources with the church and the world.

Thank You! for all your offerings and gifts given to CLC and to the wider church this week. Your generosity is the fuel for our ministry in this place.

Visitors in our worship today are encouraged to go to our website <https://clchhi.org/> and send us an email letting us know you were worshipping with us today. If we can support you in any way, please share your need with us.

If you have not already done so, use this time to finish setting your home table for communion.

Offering Music

Create In Me

music by Tami Kuhlmann

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hmkZFbcbsOE>

After our gifts of offerings, pledges, and bread and wine are brought forward, we pray:

Offering Prayer

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 the many gifts from your abundance
and this bread and wine from the earth,
we may feast upon your very self
and care for all that you have made,
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.
Amen.

Dialog

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer for November

With all the saints of Africa and Asia, India and the islands, Europe and the Americas, we praise you, O God, for you create the worlds.

With all the baptized, the old and the young, the weak and the strong, the famous and the forgotten,
we bless you, O God, for you provide us with water and food.

With all the faithful in cities and on farms, in mansions and huts, past and present,
we worship you, O God, for you shelter the generations.

With all your holy people, those who ministered in the church, those who served the poor, and all who walked the way of the cross,
we glorify you, O God, for in Jesus you journeyed with us on earth.

With Paul and the evangelists, we remember the meal of your Son:
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.

With Peter and all the martyrs, we honor Christ's death, saying Amen.
Amen!

With Mary Magdalene and all the apostles, we proclaim his resurrection,
shouting Amen.
Amen!

With John and all the theologians and mystics, we look for his returning,
pleading Amen. **Amen!**

With the Virgin Mary and all who sang of your greatness,
we pray for the power of the Spirit.
Visit this gathering, this bread and this cup,
with the presence of the body and blood of Christ.
Form us into a communion of service,
and infuse your earth with the wholeness we seek.

With grandparents and godparents, with the church universal,
and especially with all our beloved saints loved and lost,
lead us to a future we cannot yet see,
and at the end draw all humanity to yourself.

Now with all of the family you saved by your love,
we shout:
blessing
blessing,
glory
glory,
wisdom
wisdom,
thanksgiving
thanksgiving,
honor
honor,
power
power,
might
might,
be to our God forever and ever. Amen.
Amen!

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.**

Invitation to the Table

There is a place for you at the banquet.
Come and feast at Jesus' table.
Thanks be to God!

Distribution of Communion

After the pastor says: "The body of Christ given for you, all at home may commune those in their household. Then the pastor will say, "The blood of Christ shed for you" and all may share the wine at home.

✠ SENDING ✠

Prayer after Communion

Lord Jesus,
in this simple meal you have set a banquet.
Sustain us on the journey,
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts
as we meet you on the way.
Amen.

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

Saints of God,
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sending Song

Wake, Awake for Night is Flying

ELW 436

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMmSxiZZ5LA>

- 1 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.

- 2 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.

3 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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Presiding Minister – Pr. Mary W. Anderson
Assisting Minister – Silke Pyrlik, Director of Christian Life
Zoom Producer for November – Doug Felten
Curator of our Music Offerings – Tami Kuhlmann
Baker of the Communion Bread and Altar Guild for November – Doris Stickel

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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