



THE 24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST  
A SERVICE OF THE WORD  
NOVEMBER 15, 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. ✝

### ***This Sunday***

*Our readings during November speak of the end times. 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.*

*We welcome Bishop Virginia Aebischer as our preacher today while Pastor Anderson is away for the weekend. She was elected as the new Bishop of the South Carolina Synod on July 25, 2020. Welcome to Christ Lutheran this morning!*

### **November ✝ A Season Unto Itself**

*It's true that the Sundays and weeks of November are the final ones in 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 1<sup>st</sup>. The middle Sundays of this month are the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> Sundays after Pentecost. On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 27<sup>th</sup>) 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.*

---

✠ GATHERING ✠

---

**Gathering Music**

*It Is Well With My Soul*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nDIJz6zzHNU>

**Welcome + Announcements**

**We Prepare our Hearts for Worship**

*Be Still for the Presence of the Lord*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZugvUQ4m90U>

**A Psalm for Morning Prayer**

*Worshippers are invited to speak the verses in bold.*

Come, let us sing to the Lord:  
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.  
Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the Lord with psalms.

**For you, Lord, are a great God,  
and a great ruler above all gods.  
Come, let us sing to the Lord:  
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

In your hand are the caverns of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are also yours.  
The sea is yours, for you made it;  
and your hands have molded the dry land.

**Come, let us sing to the Lord:  
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.  
Come, let us worship and bow down;  
let us kneel before the Lord our maker.**

For the Lord is our God,  
and we are the people of God's pasture  
and the sheep of God's hand.

**Come, let us sing to the Lord:  
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation!**

## **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.**

✠ WORD ✠

## **The First 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.*

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When 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! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But 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. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then 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.’ <sup>21</sup>His 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.’ <sup>22</sup>And 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.’ <sup>23</sup>His 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.’ <sup>24</sup>Then 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; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>But 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? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For 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. <sup>30</sup>As 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

Hymn of the Day

*Let Streams of Living Justice*

ELW 710

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ehWSoU4PVhU>

## Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.**

## 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.*

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 our

South Carolina Synod, 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 made known here on Hilton Head Island. 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, and continue to provide our country with the justice and unity we need so desperately in these days. 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 us all, we lift up those celebrating birthdays this week, especially Chris Wilcox and Carl Lynn. We give thanks for all celebrating wedding anniversaries and for all celebrating their baptismal anniversaries, especially Paul Gerhart, Shirley Otto, and Nick Gosdin. 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.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

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.**

**Offering**

**Music at the Offering**                      *Lamb of God*                      Kuhlmanns  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHiXZDjCHK4&feature=youtu.be>

*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.*

*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.*

***Intent Cards for Our 2021 Pledges*** are still being collected. Thank you for taking a step in generosity and turning in these cards indicating your gifts for the coming year.

**Offering Prayer**

God of amazing abundance, may our gifts this day be a reflection of our gratitude for all you have given us in love. Continue to create a culture of generosity among us, shape us to be the people you desire that your blessings may be multiplied in all people everywhere. **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

Jesus, remember us in your kingdom and teach 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.**

✠ 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.**

## **Dismissal**

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

**Sending Song**

*We Are*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8cX6SHtXeE>

Worship Leaders: Silke Pyrlik, Director of Christian Life, Tami Kuhlmann  
Gospeler and Preacher: Bishop Virginia Aebischer  
Curator and Composer of Music: Tami Kuhlmann  
Zoom Producer for November: Doug Felten  
Altar Guild for November: Doris Stickel