

Stewardship 2021



United in Christ: Hope Now! Hope Always!

“Wait, Israel, for God! Wait with hope! Hope now! Hope always! Psalm 131:3

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

November 15, 2020

24th Sunday after Pentecost

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones Jenny Hoffman: Lay Ministry Administrator
Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz Soloist: Kyla Betts, Kathy Henry, Wendy Olson
Lector: David Selbo (8:00 a.m.) Ted Sehmer (9:15 a.m.)
Ushers: Jerry Graffin (8:00 a.m.) Nora Knoploh (9:15 a.m.)
Tune your radio to FM 87.9 Technical Support: Thomas Lehr

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. 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. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.

CALL TO WORSHIP: “Wings of a Dove”

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Loving God,

C: We confess that we have turned from your way to follow our own ways.

Forgive us for the times we have spoken or acted too quickly; we have not spoken or acted at all; we have hurt those closest to us; we have hurt those we have yet to know; we have thought more about ourselves than others; we have thought less of ourselves than we ought. Turn us around, and give us a fresh start, so that we can live as your children. Amen.

P: Even when we have done wrong, God makes us right. Even when we have messed up, God puts us together. God's love never runs out. God never tires of calling us beloved children. Hear God say to you now: "Your sins are forgiven, for the sake of + Jesus Christ our Savior."

C: Amen.

HYMN: "Are You Walkin' and A-Talking' For the Lord"

**Vs. 1: Would you lend a helping hand to some poor sin-ner man,
Are you walk-in' and a talk-in' for the Lord?**

**Would you stop and try to save on your journey to the grave,
Are you walk-in' and a talk-in' for the Lord?**

Refrain: Are you walkin', (are you walk-in',) Are you talk-in (are you talk-in',)

Are you walk-in and a talk-in' for the Lord?

Are you trav-'ling in His light every day and ev-'ry night,

Are you walk-in' and a talk-in for the Lord?

Vs. 2: If your soul said, "Tes-ti-fy," would the world hear your reply,

Are you walk-in' and a talk-in' for the Lord?

Would you stop and shout His name or bow your head in shame,

Are you walk-in you walk-in' and a talk-in' for the Lord? Refrain...

Vs. 3: When the time has come to go, will your road be white as snow,

Are you walk-in' and a talk-in' for the Lord?

Will He take you by the hand and lead you to that promised land,

Are you walk-in' and a talk-in' for the Lord? Refrain...

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Honk your horns to greet one another.

LITANY FOR PENTECOST

P: The word is near you,

C: on your lips and in your heart.

P: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

P: Faith comes from what is heard.

C: and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

HYMN OF PRAISE: "Just a Little Talk with Jesus" Verse 1

I once was lost in sin, but Jesus took me in,
And then a little light from Heaven filled my soul.
It bathed my heart in love and wrote my name above,
And just a little talk with Jesus made me whole.

**Refrain: Now let us have a little talk with Jesus,
Let us tell Him all about our troubles,
He will hear our faintest cry and He will answer by and by.
Now when you feel a little pray'r wheel turning,
And you know a little fire is burning,
You will find a little talk with Jesus makes it right.**

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Honk your horns to greet one another.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: 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.

ANTHEM: “Down to the River to Pray” Kathy Henry

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7-18

“Quiet now! Reverent silence before me, GOD, the Master! Time’s up. My Judgment Day is near: The Holy Day is all set, the invited guests made holy. On the Holy Day, GOD’s Judgment Day, I will punish the leaders and the royal sons; I will punish those who dress up like foreign priests and priestesses, who introduce pagan prayers and practices; and I’ll punish all who import pagan superstitions that turn holy places into hellholes. Judgment Day!” GOD’s Decree! “Cries of panic from the city’s Fish Gate, Cries of terror from the city’s Second Quarter, sounds of great crashing from the hills! Wail, you shopkeepers on Market Street! Moneymaking has had its day. The god Money is dead. On Judgment Day, I’ll search through every closet and alley in Jerusalem. I’ll find and punish those who are sitting it out, fat and lazy, amusing themselves and taking it easy, Who think, ‘GOD doesn’t do anything, good or bad. He isn’t involved, so neither are we.’ But just wait. They’ll lose everything they have, money and house and land. They’ll build a house and never move in. They’ll plant vineyards and never taste the wine. “The Great Judgment Day of GOD is almost here. It’s countdown time: . . . seven, six, five, four . . . Bitter and noisy cries on my Judgment Day, even strong men screaming for help. Judgment Day is payday—my anger paid out: a day of distress and anguish, a day of catastrophic doom, a day of darkness at noon, a day of black storm clouds, a day of bloodcurdling war cries, as forts are assaulted, as defenses are smashed. I’ll make things so bad they won’t know what hit them. They’ll walk around groping like the blind. They’ve sinned against GOD! Their blood will be poured out like old dishwater, their guts shoveled into slop buckets. Don’t plan on buying your way out. Your money is worthless for this. This is the Day of GOD’s Judgment—my *wrath!* I *care* about sin with fiery passion—A fire to burn up the corrupted world, a wildfire finish to the corrupting people.”

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL CANTICLE: “Family Bible”

There’s a family Bible on the table, its pages torn and hard to read.

But the family Bible on the table will ever be my key to memory.

I can see us sitting ‘round the table, As from the family Bible Dad would read.

And I can hear my mother softly singing,

“Rock of Ages, Rock of Ages cleft for me.”

The Gospel is announced...

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 25th Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

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.’ ”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN: "I Saw the Light"

**Vs. 1: I wandered so aimless life filled with sin.
I wouldn't let my dear Savior in.
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night.
Praise the Lord I saw the Light.**

**Refrain: I saw the Light, I saw the Light.
No more darkness, No more night.
Now I'm so happy, no sorrow in sight.
Praise the Lord I saw the Light.**

**Vs. 2: Just like a blind man I wandered along.
Worries and fears I claimed for my own.
Then like the blind man that God gave back his sight.
Praise the Lord I saw the Light. Refrain...**

**Vs. 3: I was a fool to wander and stray.
Straight is the gate and narrow the way.
Now I have traded the wrong for the right.
Praise the Lord I saw the Light. Refrain...**

APOSTLE'S 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 INTERCESION

P: 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.

Honk your horns three times after each petition.

P: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Your mercy is great.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

Honk your horns to greet one another.

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.

ANOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

P: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Sending Hymn: "Precious Memories"

**Vs. 1: Precious mem'ries, unseen angels, Sent from somewhere to my soul;
How they linger, ever near me, and the sacred past unfold.**

**Refrain: Precious memories, how they linger, How they ever flood my soul;
In the stillness of the midnight, Precious sacred scenes unfold.**

**Vs. 2: Precious father, loving mother, Fly across the lonely years;
To old home scenes of my childhood, with fond memories appear. Refrain...**

**Vs. 3: As I travel on life's pathway, I know not what life shall hold;
As I wander, hopes grow fonder, precious mem'ries flood my soul. Refrain...**