



## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

**November 8, 2020**

**23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost**

**Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones    Jenny Hoffman: Lay Ministry Administrator**

**Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz    Soloist: Kyla Betts**

**Lector: Diane Matson (8:00 a.m.)    Ted Sehmer (9:15 a.m.)**

**Ushers: Dan Matson (8:00 a.m.)    Maddie Schulz (9:15 a.m.)**

**Tune your radio to FM 87.9    Technical Support: Thomas Lehr**

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. 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.

**CALL TO WORSHIP: “Let Justice Flow Like Streams” Williams/Long**

### **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: “Let Justice Flow Like Streams” #717 ELW



1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spar-king wa - ter, pure,  
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,  
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,



en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure.  
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - lat - ed in - to deed.  
and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926  
Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731–1776  
Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press

### 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: “When Morning Gilds the Sky” #853 ELW vs. 1**

**When morning gilds the skies, My heart awaking cries:**

**May Jesus Christ be praised!**

**When evening shadows fall, this rings my curfew call:**

**May Jesus Christ be praised!**

### **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: 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.**

**ANTHEM: “Lift Every Voice and Sing” Kyla Betts**

**FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24 (8:00 a.m.)**

Woe to all of you who want GOD’s Judgment Day! Why would you want to see GOD, want him to come? When GOD comes, it will be bad news before it’s good news, the worst of times, not the best of times. Here’s what it’s like: A man runs from a lion right into the jaws of a bear. A woman goes home after a hard day’s work and is raped by a neighbor. At GOD’s coming we face hard reality, not fantasy—a black cloud with no silver lining. <sup>21-24</sup> “I can’t stand your religious meetings. I’m fed up with your conferences and conventions. I want nothing to do with your religion projects, your pretentious slogans and goals. I’m sick of your fund-raising schemes, your public relations and image making. I’ve had all I can take of your noisy ego-music. When was the last time you sang to *me*? Do you know what I want? I want justice—oceans of it. I want fairness—rivers of it. That’s what I want. That’s *all* I want.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL CANTICLE: “Blessed Assurance” #638 (Refrain Only)**

**This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day long:**

**This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.**

*The Gospel is announced...*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 25<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13**

**25** <sup>1-5</sup> “God’s kingdom is like ten young virgins who took oil lamps and went out to greet the bridegroom. Five were silly and five were smart. The silly virgins took lamps, but no extra oil. The smart virgins took jars of oil to feed their lamps. The bridegroom didn’t show up when they expected him, and they all fell asleep. <sup>6</sup> “In the middle of the night someone yelled out, ‘He’s here! The bride-groom’s here! Go out and greet him!’ <sup>7-8</sup> “The ten virgins got up and got their lamps ready. The silly virgins said to the smart ones, ‘Our lamps are going out; lend us some of your oil.’ <sup>9</sup> “They answered, ‘There might not be enough to go around; go buy your own.’ <sup>10</sup> “They did, but while they were out buying oil, the bridegroom arrived. When everyone who was there to greet him had gone into the wedding feast, the door was locked. <sup>11</sup> “Much later, the other virgins, the silly ones, showed up and knocked on the door, saying, ‘Master, we’re here. Let us in.’ <sup>12</sup> “He answered, ‘Do I know you? I don’t think I know you.’ <sup>13</sup> “So stay alert. You have no idea when he might arrive.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN: “Keep Your Lamps”**

*Everyone is invited to sing along in their cars.*

**Keep your lamps trimmed and burning; keep your lamps trimmed and burning;  
keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for the time is drawing nigh.**

**Chorus: Sisters, don't grow weary; brothers, don't grow weary;  
children don't grow weary; for the time is drawing nigh.**

### **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:** 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. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**P:** 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.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**P:** Holy Judge, let justice roll down like waters over this world. Reign over the

courtrooms of every land, in the hearts of those who guard the law and those who stand accused of crimes. Be present in cases where we long for both justice and mercy to prevail. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**P:** 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. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**P:** 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.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

**P:** Holy and Immortal One, we pray in thanksgiving for the lives of all who have died. Remind us of the frailty and shortness of our own lives and inspire us to use them for the building up of your kingdom. 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: "Soon and Very Soon" #439 ELW**

**Vs. 1: Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King. (3 times)  
Hallelujah! hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King.**

**Vs. 2: No more cryin' there, we are goin' to see the King. (3 times)  
Hallelujah! hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King.**

**Vs. 3: No more dyin' there, we are goin' to see the King. (3 times)  
Hallelujah! hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King.**

**Vs. 1: Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King. (3 times)  
Hallelujah! hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King.  
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.**

**POSTLUDE: "O God Our Help in Ages Past" Croft/Porter**

Our final count on the items set to Lutheran World Relief are: 84 Quilts, 56 School Kits, 50 Health Kits and 16 New Born Kits. Thank you, Ted Sehmer for driving them up to the LWR Warehouse in South St. Paul.

We are still raising funds for the lawnmower. All donations are appreciated.

We are in the midst of our Stewardship Campaign. For the last few years our number of pledges have stayed at 125. We are hoping more of you will chose to pledge.