



November 12, 2023

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Rev. Ken Bersche

*Janis Lapham, Organist  
Maggie Kent, Secretary*

## Prelude

### Processional Hymn *Please Stand*

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus”

♪ What a friend we have in Jesus, All our sins and griefs to bear!  
What a privilege to carry Ev’rything to God in prayer!  
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear—  
All because we do not carry Ev’rything to God in prayer!

♪ Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?  
We should never be discouraged—Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Can we find a friend so faithful Who will all our sorrows share?  
Jesus knows our ev’ry weakness- Take it to the Lord in prayer.

♪ Are we weak and heavy laden, Cumbered with a load of care?  
Precious Savior, still our refuge—Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
Do thy friends despise, forsake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.  
In His arms He’ll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a solace there.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 770 - Text: Joseph M. Scriven 1819-86; Tune: Charles C. Converse 1832-1918;  
Setting: The Hymn Book 1971; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

## Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

*Matthew 28:19b*

**Amen.**

Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD?

**Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?**

*Amos 5:18, 20*

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

**For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God.**

*1 Thessalonians 4:13, 16*

At midnight there was a cry, “Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.”

**The bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.**

*Matthew 25:6, 10*

## Confession and Absolution

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

**But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Let us then confess our sins to God our Father. Merciful Lord, as we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient as we wait.

**We become distracted by the things of this world that do not last, and have given our attention and even devotion to things not beneficial to our faith. Forgive us.**

As we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient with others.

**We have sinned against others and You in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved You with our whole heart, nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us.**

As we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient with You.

**We come to think the day will never come when You make all things new, and have let our earthly circumstances cause faith to waiver, despair to increase, and doubts to arise. Forgive us.**

But let justice roll down like waters,

**And righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.**

And so we will always be with the Lord.

**Therefore encourage one another with these words.**

In His parable, Jesus reminds His people to “watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.” In our watch and in our waiting, the Lord remains faithful to His promises of provision, and assurance of grace and forgiveness. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## **The Prayer**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His Bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **Old Testament Reading** *Please Be Seated*

Amos 5:18–24

<sup>18</sup>Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why would you have the day of the LORD? It is darkness, and not light,

<sup>19</sup>as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him,

or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him.

<sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

<sup>21</sup>“I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup>Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them.

<sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen.

<sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## The Epistle

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

<sup>13</sup>But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gradual Hymn

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

♪ Precious Lord, take my hand, Lead me on, let me stand; I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.  
Through the storm, through the night, Lead me on to the light.  
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

♪ When my way grows drear, Precious Lord, linger near, When my life is almost gone,  
Hear my cry, hear my call; Hold my hand lest I fall.  
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

♪ When the darkness appears And the night draws near And the day is almost gone,  
At the river I stand; Guide my feet, hold my hand,  
Take my hand, precious Lord; lead me home.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 739 -Text & Tune: Thomas A. Dorsey 1899-1993

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## Holy Gospel *Please Stand*

Matthew 25:1–13

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ.**

## Apostles' Creed

### Children's Message *Please Be Seated*

#### The Hymn

“Abide With Me”

- ♪ Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens;  
Lord, with me abide. When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.
- ♪ I need Thy presence ev'ry passing hour; What but Thy grace can  
Foil the tempter's pow'r? Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be?  
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.
- ♪ Come not in terrors, as the King of kings, But kind and good, with  
Healing in Thy wings; Tears for all woes, a heart for ev'ry plea.  
Come, Friend of sinners, thus abide with me.
- ♪ Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; Earth's joys grow dim, its  
Glories pass away; Change and decay in all around I see;  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.
- ♪ I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless; Ills have no weight  
And tears no bitterness. Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still if Thou abide with me!
- ♪ Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes; Shine through the gloom,  
And point me to the skies. Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 878 -Text: Henry Lyte 1793-1847; Tune: William H. Monk 1823-89;  
Setting: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1949; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

#### Proclamation of the Word

“Eternal Vigilance”

Matthew 25:1–13

#### Offering and Musical Offering

##### Prayer of the Church *Please Stand*

As the Lord invites us to come to Him with petitions and supplications, we commonly close our prayers with “Amen.” Derived from a Hebrew verb, *amen* means “certainty” or “to confirm.” As Martin Luther put it, *amen* means, “Yes, yes, it shall be so.” As we await the day of the Lord, we pray in confidence as Scripture closes with the words: “He who testifies to these things says, ‘Surely I am coming soon.’ Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!”

**We, in our wait, come to our Lord in prayer, proclaim our “amens,” and confidently invite Him to come.**

Let us pray for the people of God in the Bridegroom, Christ Jesus; His Bride, the Church; and for all people according to their needs.

**Heavenly Father, grant to us all things needful and dissuade us from all things harmful.**

Fill the oil in our lamps, strengthen and nourish our faith, that united, together we as Your Church and as Your people confidently and courageously shine Your light to our neighbors, our community, and the world. Amen.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Heavenly Father, keep us ready in our waiting for the promised day to come when the door is opened and we are welcomed to the wedding feast.

**In our wait, keep us from earthly distractions that would lead us away from You.**

By Your Holy Spirit, keep us prepared to welcome Jesus when He comes in all His glory at the hour and the day You have set, as we remain trusting in Your promises made, promises fulfilled, and promises to come. Amen.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Heavenly Father, You have already called faithful servants from this life as they are in Your glorious care and await the resurrection. For we who remain on this earth, give comfort and hope to those who struggle with health of mind or sickness of body, grant healing according to Your will and lasting peace in light of affliction.

*Special Intercessions*

For all those whose needs are known only to You and for all who face the afflictions of this life while awaiting the Last Day at Your time, grant patience. Amen.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

## Lord's Prayer

### Benediction

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*2 Corinthians 13:14*

**Amen.**

### Recessional Hymn *Please Be Seated*

“God Bless Our Native Land”

♪ God bless our native land; Firm may she ever stand Through storm and night.

When the wild tempest rave, Ruler of wind and wave,

Do Thou our country save By Thy great might.

♪ So shall our prayers arise To God above the skies; On Him we wait.

Thou who art ever nigh, Guarding with watchful eye,

To Thee aloud we cry: God save the state!

Lutheran Service Book, Hymn 965-Text: Charles T. Brooks 1813-83, v. 1; John S. Dwight 1813-93, v. 2  
Tune: Thesaurus Musicus, London c. 1740; Public Domain; LSBHymnLicense.net #100012386.

## Postlude