

24TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 8, 2020 - 10:00 AM

Living Springs Lutheran Church

4224 Hard Scrabble Road, Columbia, SC 29223
www.livingspringscolumbia.org

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.



Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen... since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses... let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus... (Hebrews 11:1-3, 12:1-2)

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GENEROSITY MISSION MOMENT

*We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.*

Text: William W. How

We stand as able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
(Silence for reflection - we kneel as able)

Pastor: Holy One,

People: **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.**

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

We focus on the cross as it enters the sanctuary.

GATHERING SONG

"O God Our Help in Ages Past"



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

O God Our Help in Ages Past; Text: Isaac Watts; Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft

APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

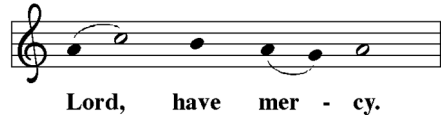
People: **And also with you.**

KYRIE & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



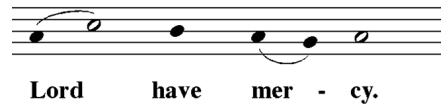
Pastor: For the peace from above
and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Pastor: For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Pastor: For this community of faith,
and all who offer their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.



Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us Gracious Lord.



Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

We are seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Dea Jones

Children, youth, and young at heart are invited for a special message. You may collect your coins or dollars at home for the bucket collection and bring them to in-person worship, to the Parking Lot Communion Distributions, or drop them off at the church office. Current collection is for the Disaster Response Fund.

For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)

For-ward in faith! (clap-clap-clap)

With our eyes on Jesus

WE'RE RUNNIN' THE RACE!

MUSIC FOR REFLECTION

"Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning"

LS Trio

African American Spiritual, arr. John Helgen

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for this work is almost done.

Children, don't get weary, for this work is almost done.

Darker midnight lies before us, for this work is almost done.

Lo, the morning soon is breaking, for this work is almost done.

Children, don't get weary, for this work is almost done.

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, for this work is almost done.

FIRST READING

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.

Lector: A reading from Amos.

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; as 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. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even 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. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. (Amos 5:18-24)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 70

Lector: Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;

O LORD, make haste to help me.

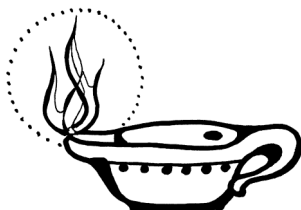
**People: Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**

Lector: Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me
turn back because of their shame.

**People: Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you;
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"**

Lector: But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.

People: You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.



SECOND READING

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

Lector: A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)

Lector: Word of God, Word of life.

People: Thanks be to God.

We stand for the reading of the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL LESSON

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But 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.' And 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. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." (Matthew 25:1-13)

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

We are seated

MESSAGE

Rev. Eric Fink



HYMN OF THE DAY

"Wake, Awake for Night is Flying"



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es, and at the



thrill - ing cry re - joic - es: "Come forth, you maid - ens! Night is past.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.

*Wake, Awake for Night is Flying; Text: Philipp Nicolai; Music: WACHET AUF, Philipp Nicolai
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WELCOME BLESSING

Pastor: Dear friends, we give thanks for the gift of baptism and for these sisters and brothers, one with us in the body of Christ, whom we welcome into the life and ministry of this congregation.

Pastor: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

People: 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.

Pastor: In baptism, we are welcomed into the body of Christ and sent to share in the mission of God. We are called to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth.

Pastor: Sisters and brothers in Christ, do you intend to continue in the covenant of your baptism among God's people in this place?

Response: *I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.*

Pastor: People of God, do you promise to support and pray for these brother and sisters in their life in Christ?

People: We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.

Pastor: Let us welcome these sisters and brothers in Christ to this community of faith.

People: We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.

A welcome basket from the congregation is presented.

WELCOME!

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Assist: 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 +

Assist: 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.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: 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.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: 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.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: Holy Companion, console those who feel lonely or abandoned, who are sick, in pain, or are grieving. Share the hours of those who live and eat alone. Comfort those who have few friends, who have lost a loved one, or who struggle with their identity and place in this world. Heal those who have injuries or illnesses. We pray especially for: *Karl Schmidt; Sue Bradham; Nancy Franck; Elizabeth Maddox; Henrietta Kaiser; Gwen Brantley; Debbie Smith; Tammy Mancuso; Ed Brennan; Margaret Blank; Charles Kauffman; Bunie Talbert; Pam Deselem; Judy Jennings; Tommy Williamson; Anthony Lotter; Kelly Koziol; Lila Bell; Wilma Bracey; Charles Levitt; Jared Vaupel; and those we name before you now, either silently or aloud...* Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: 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.

People: Your mercy is great.

Assist: 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.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

SHARING OF PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

People: And also with you.

We greet one another, with the words that the risen Jesus spoke to his disciples: "Peace be with you."



OFFERINGS ARE GIVEN

Offering may be dropped off at the office during the week or sent through the mail. For those who wish to give electronically, you may use the secure Givelify app.

Google Play



App Store



OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Let us pray.

People: 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 these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR HOLY COMMUNION

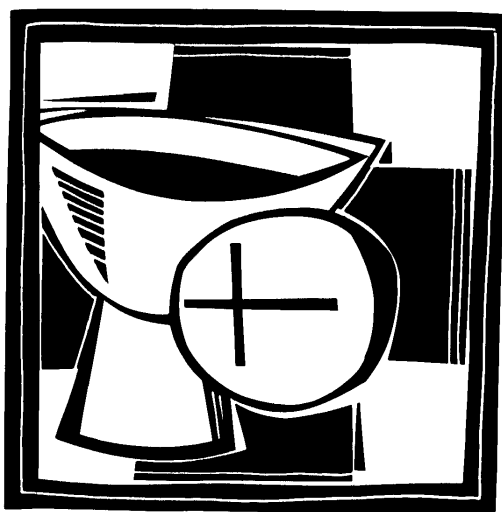
Pastor: We have been made one as the body of Christ thought the waters of baptism. In our journey of faith & life, we are fed with Christ's own body and blood. Even though we do not celebrate Holy Communion in this virtual gathering, we pause to give thanks for the gift of Holy Communion — as we anticipate, with joy, those times when we are fed at your table.

Pastor: O God most mighty, O God most merciful, O God our rock and our salvation, hear us as we offer our praise and give you thanks. When the earth was a formless void, you formed order and beauty. When Abraham and Sarah were barren, you sent them a child. When the Israelites were enslaved, you led them to freedom. Ruth faced starvation; David fought Goliath; the psalmists cried out for healing, and full of compassion, you granted the people your life. You entered our sorrows in Jesus our brother. He was born among the poor, he lived under oppression, he wept over the city. With infinite love, he conquered death and granted the people your life.

We give you thanks and praise for the gift of Holy Communion and for the blessing it brings to your people. Even though we abstain from your meal in this moment of worship, for reasons you understand, we still sense the power of your forgiveness and grace offered to us and the world through your Son. Awaiting those times when we share in this meal, we still cherish in our hearts the words which Jesus gave us:

People: 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."

We take time for prayer and reflection as we sing together, giving thanks to God for all the times we have been fed with our Lord's body & blood—and look forward to the time when we gather with others around the Lord's Table.



COMMUNION REFLECTION

"Wait for the Lord"

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.

Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Wait for the Lord". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 8/8. The lyrics are: "Wait for the Lord, whose day is near." and "Wait for the Lord: be strong, take heart!".

*Wait for the Lord; Text: Taizé Community; Music: WAIT FOR THE LORD, Jacques Berthier
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LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

People: **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.**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen**



SENDING SONG

"Blessed Assurance"

(While we sing, we turn and face the processional cross as it is carried out the center aisle.)



1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Blessed Assurance; Text: Fanny J. Crosby; Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp

DISMISSAL

Assist: Beloved of God, go in peace to run the race and move forward in faith!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

NOVEMBER "ALTAR FLOWERS" - THANK YOU!

The following have given monetary gifts in lieu of, or in addition to, the flowers at the altar for our Sunday and Tuesday in-person services:

November 8: In memory & honor of Eleanor Lummel's birthday by Karen Kranz & Jeff Lummel

November 15: In honor of our anniversary by Karen Kranz & Jeff Lummel



God's Love Shared Through You ...



One Life Deeper in 2020!

Our prayerful goal is that God will work in every LS disciple to have an impact of faith and hope in the life of one person during 2020. **What shoes might they be wearing?** It may be someone you know already—at work, at home, at school, in the neighborhood, in your daily life. It may be a stranger whom God will bring to you this year. How will the Spirit work through you to bring someone deeper in 2020? **Deeper in Christ, Deeper in Grace, Deeper in Love!**

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS: inviting, involving, mentoring, discipling relationships 1 person at a time!

BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS: for the work of God's kingdom in our community and world!

SHARING GOD'S LOVE: with those who are hurting, alone, marginalized, or feeling unloved!

SHARING GOD'S STORIES: so we do not remain silent about God's ongoing work in the world!

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST:

Invitation to Grace

The parable of the ten bridesmaids easily draws our attention to the differences in their levels of preparation. Some have enough oil to welcome the bridegroom; others do not. The ability of each bridesmaid to control her fate finds ready ears in a culture that favors independence and individual effort. Every day we see the consequences—good or bad—of our actions.

The early part of the parable speaks to a commonality among the bridesmaids. As they wait for the bridegroom, all of them become drowsy and fall asleep. Then comes the cry, "Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him." We might hear this as a command. We certainly have commands from God throughout Scripture. However, what if we heard the cry as an invitation?

God's commands are a gift that invites us to live into the reality of the ever-present and ever-coming kingdom. God does not force or compel us to follow, to be obedient, or to love. It is always framed as an invitation. The psalmists invite us to praise God. God invites the people of Israel into covenantal relationship. Jesus invites all who are weary to come to him and find rest.

If the kingdom of heaven is close to us now, of course our actions will have consequences. Whether we choose to love or hate, share or hoard, work for peace or not—all of these choices impact the people around us. And yet, God's command that we live into a way of love is not coercive, but rather an invitation to life.

In worship we gather around the sacraments of baptism and the eucharist. Neither is forced; neither is required. Both are invitations to experience what Augustine called visible signs of God's invisible grace, a gift given for each and every one of us.

November Book of the Month: Ecclesiastes & Jonah