

THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

A Month of Being

Saturday, November 14, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.

St. Matthew Lutheran Church

4101 Washington Street NE

Columbia Heights, MN 55421

+ CONNECT +

OPENING SONG: "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"



1. I want to walk as a child of the light.
2. I want to see the bright - ness of God.
3. I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
I want to look at Je - sus.
I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world. The
Clear sun of right - eous - ness shine on my path, And
When we have run with pa - tience the race, We



star of my life is Je - sus.
show me the way to the Fa - ther.
shall know the joy of Je - sus.



In him there is no dark - ness at all. The



night and the day are both a - like. The



Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

("I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light", by Kathleen Thomerson, copyright 1970, 1975 Celebration, CCLI Lic. #921494.)

INVOCATION:

L: Our worship begins the way our lives in Christ begin in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Zephaniah 1:7-16

Be silent before the Sovereign LORD, for the day of the LORD is near. The LORD has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated those he has invited. "On the day of the LORD's sacrifice I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all those clad in foreign clothes. On that day I will punish all who avoid stepping on the threshold, who fill the temple of their gods with violence and deceit. On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will go up from the Fish Gate, wailing from the New Quarter, and a loud crash from the hills. Wail, you who live in the market district; all your merchants will be wiped out, all who trade with silver will be destroyed. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, 'The LORD will do nothing, either good or bad.' Their wealth will be plundered, their houses demolished. Though they build houses, they will not live in them; though they plant vineyards, they will not drink the wine." The great day of the LORD is near—near and coming quickly. The cry on the day of the LORD is bitter; the Mighty Warrior shouts his battle cry. That day will be a day of wrath—a day of distress and anguish, a day of trouble and ruin, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and blackness—a day of trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the corner towers.

CONFESSION OF OUR SINS:

L: Our God provides a way for us to avoid a day like that. He promises that if we confess our sins, He will cleanse us from all unrighteousness. So let's confess our sins to our God of grace.

C: **Lord of mercy and justice, you have given us so many talents and gifts to be used in your world. You have given us these gifts because you trust us to use them well — and you will be with us in all our work.**

L: But we disappoint you when we denigrate the value of the talents or become so fearful of failure that we don't believe that we are capable of helping in this world.

C: **Lord, forgive us. Help us to trust in the gifts you have given to us and to trust in your guidance in using them. Forgive us when we are fearful, stubborn, apathetic, indifferent to the needs around us. Give us hearts for serving you all our days. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.**

FORGIVENESS IS ANNOUNCED

MEDITATION ON THE SONG OF PRAISE

SONG OF PRAISE: "This is the Feast"

**REFRAIN: This is the feast of vict'ry for our God,
For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign, Alleluia!**

**Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
Whose blood set us free to be people of God;
Power, riches, wisdom and strength,
And honor, blessing and glory are His. REFRAIN:**

**Sing with all the people of God
And join in the hymn of all creation;
"Blessing, honor, glory and might
Be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen." REFRAIN:**

("This Is the Feast" from "Services – The Holy Communion", copyright 1970 LCA, SELC, ALC, ELCC, LCMS, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518.)

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

C: **O Lord, we gratefully acknowledge the gifts you have given to each of us for service in your world. Gifts of teaching, healing, inspiring, challenging and creating are all among the myriad of things you have placed in our lives. Direct our lives to use these gifts as we reach out to our neighborhood and nation, witnessing to your love and your healing mercy. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.**

+ NURTURE +

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

MEDITATION ON THE WORD OF GOD

EPISTLE LESSON: I Thessalonians 5:1-11

Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

HOLY GOSPEL:

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter 25.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

"Again, it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted his wealth to them. To one he gave five bags of gold, to another two bags, and to another one bag, each according to his ability. Then he went on his journey. The man who had received five bags of gold went at once and put his money to work and gained five bags more. So also, the one with two bags of gold gained two more. But the man who had received one bag went off, dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those servants returned and settled accounts with them. The man who had received five bags of gold brought the other five. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with five bags of gold. See, I have gained five more.' His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' The man with two bags of gold also came. 'Master,' he said, 'you entrusted me with two bags of gold; see, I have gained two more.' His master replied, 'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' Then the man who had received one bag of gold came. 'Master,' he said, 'I knew that you are a hard man, harvesting where you have not sown and gathering where you have not scattered seed. So I was afraid and went out and hid your gold in the ground. See, here is what belongs to you.' His master replied, 'You wicked, lazy servant! So you knew that I harvest where I have not sown and gather where I have not scattered seed? Well then, you should have put my money on deposit with the bankers, so that when I returned I would have received it back with interest. So take the bag of gold from him and give it to the one who has ten bags. For whoever has will be given more, and they will have an abundance. Whoever does not have, even what they have will be taken from them. And throw that worthless servant outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

L: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ!

MEDITATION ON THE SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

Lord of glory, you have bought us With your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice;
And with that have freely given Blessings countless as the sand
To th'unthankful and the evil With your own unsparing hand.

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you Gladly, freely of your own.
With the sunshine of your goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by you, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

Wondrous honor you have given To our humblest charity
In your own mysterious sentence, "You have done it all to me."
Can it be, O gracious Master, That you deign for alms to sue,
Saying by your poor and needy, "Give as I have giv'n to you"?

Yes, the sorrow and the suff'rings Which on ev'ry hand we view
Channels are for gifts and off'rings Due by solemn right to you;
Right of which we may not rob you, Debt we may not choose but pay
Lest that face of love and pity Turn from us another day.

Lord of glory, you have bought us With your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust you boldly, Hope to stay our souls on you;
But, oh, best of all your graces, With your love our love renew.

("Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us", setting copyright 1982 Concordia Publishing House, Lutheran Service Book Hymn License #100014518)

MESSAGE: "Be At Risk – Pastor Bill Hugo

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

+ EMPOWER +

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN: "Come, O Long-Expected Jesus"

**Come, O long-expected Jesus, born to set your people free;
From our fears and sins release us by your death on Calvary.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope to all the earth impart,
Dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

**Born your people to deliver, born a child and yet a king;
Born to reign in us forever, now your gracious kingdom bring,
By your own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
By your all-sufficient merit raise us to your glorious throne.**

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Lay Minister: Bob Nehring

Altar Guild: Pat & Duane Rosenberg