

23rd Sunday After Pentecost



Messiah Lutheran Church, ELCA

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*The mission of Messiah Lutheran Church is to
Glorify Christ by Nurturing our Faith, Sharing His
Love, and Teaching His Word.*

November 8, 2020

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Please stand as you are able*

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen.**

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

C **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

***GATHERING HYMN**

“In Heaven Above”

ELW 630

1 In heav'n above, in heav'n above,
where God our Father dwells:
how boundless there the blessedness!
No tongue its greatness tells.
There face to face, and full and free,
the ever-living God we see,
our God, the Lord of hosts!

2 In heav'n above, in heav'n above,
what glory deep and bright!
The splendor of the noonday sun
grows pale before its light.
The mighty sun that goes not down,
before whose face clouds never frown,
is God, the Lord of hosts!

3 In heav'n above, in heav'n above,
no tears of pain are shed,
for nothing there can fade or die;
life's fullness round is spread,
and like an ocean, joy o'erflows,
and with immortal mercy glows
our God, the Lord of hosts!

4 In heav'n above, in heav'n above,
God has a joy prepared,
which mortal ear has never heard,
nor mortal vision shared,
which never entered mortal thought,
in mortal dreams was never sought,
O God, the Lord of hosts!

***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.**

***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.**

FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the
LORD? It is darkness, not light; ¹⁹as 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. ²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no
brightness in it? ²¹I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your
solemn assemblies. ²²Even 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. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 70

¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me.

²**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.**

³Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.

⁴**Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the LORD!”**

⁵But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

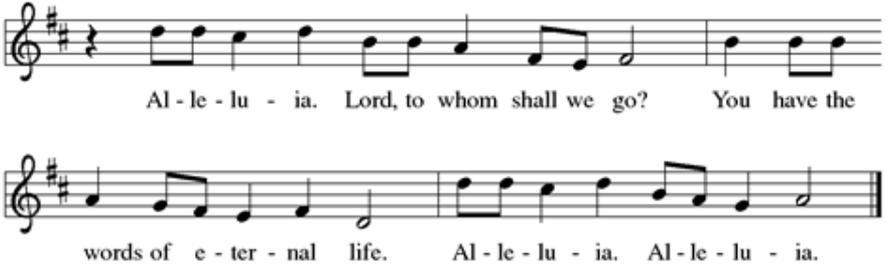
¹³We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by 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. ¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷Then 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. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION, p. 142



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

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But 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.’ ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand* (ELW 773)

1 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:

Refrain

Take my hand, precious Lord,
 Lead me home.

2 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:

Refrain

3 When the darkness appears
And the night draws near,
And the day is past and gone,
At the river, I stand,
Guide my feet, hold my hand:

Refrain

CREED (ELW p. 206)

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 INTERCESSION**

Petitions conclude saying "Hear us, O God," and the congregation is invited to respond, "Your mercy is great."

PRAYER RESPONSE

Hear Our Prayer
Prayer Response

The musical notation is written on three staves in a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#). The melody is simple and consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are: "Hear our prayer, hear our prayer, Lord, make us whole: peace to all peo - ple, hope for each soul. God of grace, in this place, hear now our prayer."

Text and music: Paul Andress, b. 1956
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***PEACE**

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

***OFFERING** “Create In Me A Clean Heart **ELW p. 206**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free Spirit.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

P Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen.**

LORD’S PRAYER, p. 145

**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.**

***BLESSING**

P The God of steadfastness and encouragement
grant you to live in harmony with one another,
in accordance with Christ Jesus.
The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
The God of all grace ✚ bless you now and forever.

C **Sung: Three-fold Amen**

***SENDING SONG**

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine: Leaning on the Everlasting Arms” (ELW 774)

1 What a fellowship, what a joy divine,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,
leaning on the everlasting arms.

Refrain

Leaning, leaning, (Leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,)
safe and secure from all alarms;
leaning, leaning, (leaning on Jesus, leaning on Jesus,)
leaning on the everlasting arms.

2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,
leaning on the everlasting arms;
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,
leaning on the everlasting arms. **Refrain**

3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear,
leaning on the everlasting arms?
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,
leaning on the everlasting arms. **Refrain**

***DISMISSAL (ELW p. 209)**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

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