

# *Salem Lutheran Church*

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## **NOVEMBER 15, 2020 ~ 24<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

*Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.*

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Holy One,

**ALL: we confess that we have sinned and 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.**

**P:** 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. **Amen.**

### **GATHERING HYMN**

*O Happy Day When We Shall Stand*

ELW 441 verses 1 & 3

Oh, happy day when we shall stand  
in heaven with the saved;  
all peoples at the Lord's right hand  
shall find their names engraved,  
shall find their names engraved.

Oh, what a mighty rushing flood  
of joy and love and peace  
will roll down over us with good  
and blessedness and grace,  
and blessedness and grace.

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## **GREETING**

**P:** The grace of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you. **All: Amen**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## **WORD**

**FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

**PSALM 90:1-8, 12**

**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

**GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30**

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on

my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'”

**P:** The Gospel of the Lord given to you. **ALL: Praise to you O Christ.**

## MESSAGE

### HYMN OF THE DAY

*O God of Every Nation*

ELW 713 verses 1 & 4

O God of ev'ry nation,  
of ev'ry race and land,  
redeem your whole creation  
with your almighty hand;  
where hate and fear divide us  
and bitter threats are hurled,  
in love and mercy guide us  
and heal our strife-torn world.

Keep bright in us the vision  
of days when war shall cease,  
when hatred and division  
give way to love and peace,  
till dawns the morning glorious  
when truth and love shall reign,  
and Christ shall rule victorious  
o'er all the world's domain.

Text: William W. Reid Jr., b. 1923

Music: Welsh tune, 19th cent.

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## APOSTLES' 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 INTERCESSION**

**PEACE**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. All: **Amen**

**PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL BLESSING**

Jesus, we believe you are present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. We love You above all things and we desire to receive You into our souls. Since we cannot now receive You sacramentally, come spiritually into our hearts. We embrace You as You are already there, and because of You we are united with You in death and in life. Never permit us to be separated from You. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG**

*You Servants of God*

ELW 825 verses 1 & 4

You servants of God, your Master proclaim,  
and publish abroad his wonderful name;  
the name, all-victorious, of Jesus extol;  
his kingdom is glorious and rules over all!

Then let us adore and give him his right,  
all glory and pow'r and wisdom and might,  
all honor and blessing, with angels above,  
and thanks never ceasing, and infinite love!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

Music: attr. Johann Michael Haydn, 1737-1806

**DISMISSAL**

Beloved of God, go in peace and serve the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

**++++++ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRAYER LIST++++++**

**A Special Thank you** to Mark Hoefler and Pastor for providing vocal accompaniment with our hymns today! And, thank you, to Carol Temple as the lector for this day!

**Thank you for continuing to support the ministries** of our congregation during these unprecedented times. As it becomes clear that we're in this phase for a longer haul, we want to say a particular thanks for your faith, your generosity, and your perseverance. Your faithful stewardship of all God's gifts is the heart of disciple-making and neighbor-loving.

**OBD Casseroles** for the month of November will be picked-up on November 18<sup>th</sup> at noon. Thank you for caring for the less fortunate and your generosity.

**Thanksgiving Meal Donations** - Once again, we are pleased to partner with Mason Dixon in collecting and donating food to families for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

**Collection bins** will be set up for non-perishable food items

**Church Narthex:** bins will be placed here for convenience when attending church services

**Outside Church Drop Off:** Large plastic bins will be placed outside of the Church on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9 am to 5 pm

**Children's Center:** Bins will be located inside at the Children's Center

Anyone interested in donating a turkey please contact Linda Brannen directly to coordinate

**LAST DAY TO DONATE: SUNDAY 11/22/2020 at 2 pm**

**Offering Envelopes** are ready for pick up and located in the Narthex beginning today, November 15, 2020.

**Annual Congregational Meeting Today ~ November 15, 2020 ~ is postponed until a December 6, 2020. Stay tuned for more information.**

**Ongoing Prayer Concerns:** Howard Kramer, James Rickman, Mike, Thelma Preisinger, Brenda Baker, Family and Friends of Dan Hess, Kimberley, Donna Glorioso, John Bragg, Barb Vogel, Jenny's mom and sister Donna, Norma Knudsen, Anne Mills, Rachel's baby girl Diana, Capt'n Jim McMahan, Pr. Dick Kiesling, Karen, Donna Miller, Laura Riley, Judy Newsome, Phil Kulinski, Bruce Greer, Debbie McDonald, Michelle Harshman, Lisa Barwick, Dorothy Portera, Nick Carmichael, Walt Karoll, Sandy Barthel, Marianna Putnam, Dawn Weaver, Joan Burleigh, Donald Rembert, Steve Sussan, Betty Burnet, Carrie Claus, Dorothy Long, Bailey Law, Pr. Myers, Maurice Grove, Nancy Roschli, Margaret and Jerry Shank, Jim McNicholas, Aunt Marie, Joan Evans, Steve Norman, Austin Phoebus, Joan & John Kusick, Robin Sealover, Kaidyn Jamison, Lennard Beecher, Jumela Beecher, Seth Bates, Steve White, Margret Krebbal, Frank Gailitz, Dan Gnau, Paula Feldman, Dolly Suiratt, Talu Elvove Arikan, Jim Bair, Craig Perry Beel, Joyce Craig, Aston Dean, Kattie Hale, Carolyn Lynch, Ray Morrison, Nicole Phelps, Kim Scott, Natalie Szparza, Pat Ward, Curtis Waters, Jason Whitney, Karen Wiley, Nick Wingate, and Jeanie Z., Will & Bernadine Boyce, Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, Bishop Bill Gohl.

*Please contact Lynn Cox or Pastor with updates concerning the prayer list.*

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