**24th sunday after pentecost- november 12, 2023**

**zion, philipsburg**

**GATHERING**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Welcome to worship on this 24th Sunday after Pentecost, November 12, 2023.

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, in whose image we are made,

who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.** *Silence*

Holy One,

**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.**

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 SONG*Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying* (ELW 436)**

1 Wake, awake, for night is flying,  
the watchmen on the heights are crying;  
awake, Jerusalem, at last.  
Midnight hears the welcome voices,  
and at the thrilling cry rejoices:  
"Come forth, you maidens! Night is past.  
The bridegroom comes! Awake;  
your lamps with gladness take!"  
Alleluia!  
Rise and prepare the feast to share;  
go, meet the bridegroom, who draws near.  
  
2 Zion hears the watchmen singing,  
and all her heart with joy is springing.  
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.  
Her dear friend comes down, all glorious,  
the strong in grace, in truth victorious:  
her star is ris'n; her light is come.  
Now come, O Blessed One,  
Lord Jesus, God's own Son.  
Sing hosanna!  
Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,  
and follow to the banquet hall.  
  
3 Gloria! Let heav'n adore you!  
Let saints and angels sing before you,  
with harp and cymbal's clearest tone.  
Gates of pearl, twelve portals gleaming,  
lead us to bliss beyond all dreaming,  
with angel choirs around your throne.  
No eye has caught the light,  
no ear the thund'ring might  
of such glory.  
There we will go: what joy we'll know!  
There sweet delight will ever flow.

**GREETING (ELW p. 213)**

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

**KYRIE (ELW p. 213)**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE (ELW p. 213)**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 215)**

Let us pray.

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.**

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24**

A reading from Amos.

*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.*

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**

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

*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.*

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.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 216)**

**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 (ELW p. 217)**

*The assembly is seated.*

*Silence for reflection follows the sermon.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers* (ELW 244)**

1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,  
and let your lights appear;  
the evening is advancing,  
and darker night is near.  
The bridegroom is arising  
and soon is drawing nigh.  
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;  
at midnight comes the cry.  
  
2 The watchers on the mountain  
proclaim the bridegroom near;  
go forth as he approaches  
with alleluias clear.  
The marriage feast is waiting;  
the gates wide open stand.  
Arise, O heirs of glory;  
the bridegroom is at hand.  
  
3 The saints, who here in patience  
their cross and suff'rings bore,  
shall live and reign forever  
when sorrow is no more.  
Around the throne of glory  
the Lamb they shall behold;  
in triumph cast before him  
their diadems of gold.  
  
4 Our hope and expectation,  
O Jesus, now appear;  
arise, O Sun so longed for,  
o'er this benighted sphere.  
With hearts and hands uplifted,  
we plead, O Lord, to see  
the day of earth's redemption  
that sets your people free!

**CREED (ELW p. 217)**

With the whole church let us confess our faith

**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**

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need. *A brief silence.*

O God for whom we wait, come quickly to your people, bring your salvation, and center us in hope found only in you. Deepen our faith through meaningful worship and send us out with your justice and truth. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we watch, we glimpse your power in rushing water and your beauty in the darkening night. Restore this creation, and provide clean water to all people and animals. Save us from foolish, wasteful living. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we long, let justice roll down like waters on all nations. Bless citizens with wise leaders; save your children from war. Bless our observance of Remembrance Day. Bring peace to areas of conflict and keep safe the military who serve in harm’s way. Give to all the armed forces a dedication to defend the common good. Heal the wounds, both physical and emotional, experienced by active and retired service members. Comfort all who mourn those who have died in the line of duty. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, in whom we hope, we pray for all who are in need. Provide for those who experience homelessness or hunger, support the under- or unemployed, and comfort any who are suffering this day from illness or injury. We especially remember Sarah, Chris, John, Vivian, Felix, Gary, Erin, Elizabeth, Zoli, Donna, Beatty, Nick, Alea, our members in long term care Robert, Rob and Evelyn, and those we name out loud or in the silence of our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we listen, inspire the music ministry of our congregation. Fill our worship with songs to proclaim your greatness. Help us to sing and dance with joy and tell boldly of your salvation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

O God, in whom we remain, we remember our loved ones who have died and now live in you Norma Hammer. Bring comfort and the assurance of new life to all who grieve. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

**PEACE (ELW p. 217)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**THANKSGIVING**

**OFFERING (ELW p. 217) LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL**

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.  
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with the prayers we offer now.  
Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

**CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING (ELW p. 219)**

**THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD (ELW p. 220)**

Holy God,

our Sovereign, our Wisdom, our Judge, as nature in the north cycles towards dormancy and death, we thank you for the sustenance of your Word.

For your Word of life, we give thanks.

We praise you for speaking through Christ your Word, in whom is your authority, your truth, and the justice of your ways. When we are threatened by dangers and surrounded by evil, you speak to us of life that comes through Christ’s death.

For your Word of promise, we praise you.

Grant us the endurance of the Spirit of your Son. Upheld by the voice of your Word,

may we persevere with courage, energy, and joy, serving our neighbors faithfully until the end of our days. For your Word of power, we plead.

Abide with us in your Word, O God, that we may speak your blessing to others,

today and forever. Amen.

**LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 221)**

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

**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.**

**SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**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*Blessed Assurance* (ELW 638)**

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!  
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,  
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.  
  
Refrain  
This is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior, all the day long:  
this is my story, this is my song,  
praising my Savior all the day long.  
  
2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,  
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
angels descending bring from above  
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. Refrain  
  
3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;  
I in my Savior am happy and blest,  
watching and waiting, looking above,  
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. Refrain

**DISMISSAL**

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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