

+ Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost +

“A YEAR OF FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE”

15 November 2020

Trinity Lutheran Church + McPherson, Kansas

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.

GATHERING MUSIC

LITANY

Psalm 90

Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.

You turn us back to the dust and say, “Turn back, O children of earth.”

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;

You sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:

In the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.

For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.

Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

CALL TO WORSHIP

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.**

READINGS:

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

ANTHEM

GOSPEL

The gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Matthew 25:14-30

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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

O 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**

HYMN

“O God Our Help in Ages Past”

in bulletin

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

in bulletin

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all. **And also with you.**

Worshippers are invited to greet one another with a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

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.**

HOLY COMMUNION

in bulletin

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, Spirit, be with you today and always. **Amen.**

DISMISSAL

God is here! **Spread the word!**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God.**

SENDING MUSIC

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, our Bread of Life and Table of endless abundance spread before us. You have dined with and fed your people throughout the ages as a sign of your never-failing presence. In fulfillment of your promise, you sent your Son Jesus to eat with sinners and to become food for the world.

If you are communing virtually at home, hold up your bread and wine at the appropriate times during the words of institution below.

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.**

Remembering, therefore, the sacrifice of Jesus' life and death for us, and the victory of his resurrection, we await with all the saints his loving redemption of our suffering world. Through him, with him, in him, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

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.

There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.

Amen! Thanks be to God!

*At home, share this meal eating and drinking, saying these words to others or yourself:
The body of Christ, given for you / me! The blood of Christ, shed for you / me!*

Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

Amen.

PRAYERS FOR SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2020

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.

Lord of the church, ignite your people with the passion of your love. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, unify us across ministries, congregations, and denominations, and refine us to participate in your activity throughout the world. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Lord of creation, we stand in awe at the works of your hands and praise you for the beauty of nature and these plains and prairies that we call home. Bless the earth for your glory and restore its integrity where exploitation has caused ruin. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Lord of the nations, sound forth your justice in the ears of all leaders. Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable, especially as international leaders forge trade agreements and cooperate to end human rights abuses. Lord, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing. Bring peace and wholeness to all who struggle and suffer, especially those we name before you now, aloud or in our hearts...

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Lord of the stranger, stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control and open us to learn from the perspectives of others. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Time of silence for reflection and additional prayer.

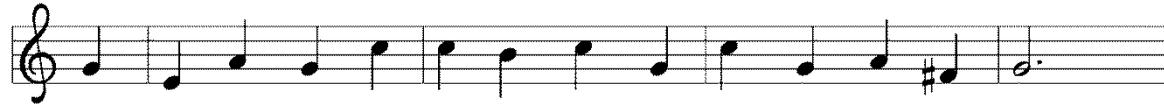
Lord of the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors. Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love. Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

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.

Amen.

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.

5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
bears all our years away;
they fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.
Music: St. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727



**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.**

Matthew 25:29