

St. Mark's Lutheran Church
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Sunday, November 15, 2020
The Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00 a.m.

PRELUDE "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" by Stralsund Gesangbuch, Arr. Robert D. Vandall
Priscilla Abraham and Caroline Tyree, 4-Hand Piano
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WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, Father, Son ✠, Holy Spirit, one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, 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 Savior, opens the door to us.

Through ✠ Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice!

Amen.

HYMN 858 "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty", Vs 1 & 4

1 Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation!
O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation!
Let all who hear now to his temple draw near,
joining in glad adoration!

4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me adore him!
All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him!
Let the amen sound from his people again.
Gladly forever adore him!

Text: Joachim Neander, 1650-1680; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.; Music: Elrnwerten Gesangbuch, Part II, Stralsund, 1665

Let us pray: 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.

PSALM 90:1-8, 12 (Psalm Refrain "O God, Our Help in Ages Past" Vs 1, 4, 5, 6)

*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home:*

¹Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

²Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.

³You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth." **R**

*A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.*

⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past
and like a watch in the night;
⁵you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:
⁶in the morning it is green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried up and withered. **R**

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

⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.
⁸Our iniquities you have set before you,
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.
¹²So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. **R**

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

1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When 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! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But 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. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – Caroline Tyree

GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25:14-30

Dramatic Presentation by Mindy Arndt, Tony Arndt, Allison Kraft, Tommy Lyons, and Robert Rhyne

SERMON

HYMN 670 "Build Us Up Lord"

1 Build us up, Lord, build us up; set in us a strong foundation.
Lead us to do your holy will; form and shape your new creation.
Build us up, Lord, build us up; as we guide and teach each other,
help us to share your love with the world: ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother.

Refrain

Growing in Christ, we plant seeds for the kingdom; we follow in faith what's begun!
Lord, set in our hearts the pow'r of your word to spread the news of your Son!

2 Build us up, Lord, build us up; let our lives reflect your glory.
Cast away all our doubts and fears; help us tell the world your story.
Build us up, Lord, build us up; help us bear good fruit for you,
Lord, give us vision and keep us sure. Grant us faith that's steadfast and true. *Refrain*

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PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lord of Lords and King of Kings, 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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of creation, we stand in awe at the works of your hands and praise you for the beauty of nature. Bless the earth for your glory and restore its integrity where exploitation has caused ruin. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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. Today we lift up to you for healing . . . Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.



OFFERING - Today's Gospel is Jesus' "Parable of the Talents." The word talent meant money, a lot of it, like receiving gold for this month's paycheck that will last you the next twenty years! This is a parable though, not an example story. The "talents" might remind us of dispensations of grace that belong to God and come only from God. What is being invested then is God's grace. We share that grace, not hoard, hide, or bury it. We share that grace, like we do our money, for ministry and for love of God and neighbor.

ANTHEM – "God's God the Whole World" – African American Spiritual

Arranged and adapt. Mark A. Miller; Virtual Choir Video by the Duke Chapel Choir; Directed by Zeb Highben; Video used with permission. Music: Mark A. Miller (BMI), newly composed; Copyright 2020 Ione Press, Inc. a division of ESC Publishing Group

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.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

LORD'S PRAYER

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

COMMUNION

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

BENEDICTION

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.