

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Ready or Not

November 8 & 9, 2014

5:00pm & 8:00am

Veterans, please gather prior to the service in the Narthex

AS WE GATHER

We are nearing the end of the Church Year, and the readings ask us to consider the end of time. It will come, ready or not. The people in Amos's day weren't ready, for they were ignoring the poor and downtrodden. Jesus continued the warning to the people of His day. But Paul reminds us that Christ has made us ready by giving us faith to trust in His death and resurrection. We might be surprised when our Lord returns, but He has provided the oil of faith which we need to welcome Him. So wake up and give Him thanks!

WELCOME

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. (Romans 3:22-24, NIV)

(Rise)

PROCESSIONAL

"America the Beautiful"

W & R #727

O beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain,
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

O beautiful for pilgrim feet, whose stern, impassioned stress
a thoroughfare for freedom beat across the wilderness!
America! America! God mend thine every flaw,
confirm thy soul in self-control, thy liberty in law!

O Beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!
America! America! May God thy gold refine,
till all success be nobleness, and every gain divine!

O beautiful for patriot dream that sees beyond the years
thine alabaster cities gleam, undimmed by human tears!
America! America! God shed his grace on thee,
and crown thy good with brotherhood from sea to shining sea!

+ PREPARATION +

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: In today's Gospel, Jesus teaches, "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. . . But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'"

CONFESSION

Pastor: In Jesus' parable, "Five of the virgins were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps."

People: We confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. At times, we have taken for granted the faith the Holy Spirit has bestowed on us by grace. We have not kept it at the ready nor confidently used it to enlighten our decisions as we have awaited our Lord's return. Although we have prayed, "Thy kingdom come," we have not kept the King in our hearts and before our eyes at all times. Forgive us, gracious Lord.

Pastor: In the Old Testament reading, the prophet Amos pronounces a scathing judgment on God's people in his day. Yet, he nevertheless holds before them the will of God, writing, "But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

People: We confess that we have not always dealt with one another and the people around us in truth and righteousness. We have preferred to rely on acts of seeming repentance and contrition, rather than seeking to alleviate the troubles of the poor and downtrodden, the forgotten and isolated people in our communities. We need your help, heavenly Father, to be your instruments of justice and righteousness.

ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Paul encourages us in the Epistle, writing, "But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, . . . we will always be with the Lord." The faith we have within us is a gift of God. With it comes the conviction that while we are waiting for our Lord's return, He is truly present with us in His holy Word and the blessed Sacraments. Where the King is, there is the kingdom. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

"This is the Feast"

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Pastor: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.

People: (sung)

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power and riches and wisdom and strength
and honor and blessing and glory are His.
This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia.
Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor and glory and might be to God and the Lamb forever.
Amen. This is the feast of victory for our God,
for the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia, alleluia.

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth your Son to lead home His bride, the Church,

People: that with all the company of the redeemed, we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast;

Pastor: through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen. (Be seated)

+ WORD +

OLD TESTAMENT READING Amos 5:18–24 (The prophet warns that God will not accept empty worship while the people engage in injustice.) Woe to you who long for the day of the LORD! Why do you long for the day of the LORD? That day will be darkness, not light. It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him. Will not the day of the LORD be darkness, not light-- pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness? "I hate, I despise your religious feasts; I cannot stand your assemblies. Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

EPISTLE 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 (Paul comforts those who thought Christians who had died might miss Christ's return.) Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage each other with these words.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25:1–13 (Jesus teaches preparedness for His return.) "At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish and five were wise. The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' " 'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open

the door for us!' "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN #516 "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying"

"Wake, awake, for night is flying," The watchmen on the heights are crying;
"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!" Midnight hears the welcome voices
And at the thrilling cry rejoices: "Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes, awake! Your lamps with gladness take!
Alleluia! With bridal care Yourselves prepare To meet the Bridegroom, who is near."

Zion hears the watchmen singing, And all her heart with joy is springing;
She wakes, she rises from her gloom. For her Lord comes down all glorious,
The strong in grace, in truth victorious; Her star is ris'n, her light is come.
Now come, Thou Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God's own Son,
Hail! Hosanna! We enter all The wedding hall To eat the Supper at Thy call.

Now let all the heav'ns adore Thee, Let saints and angels sing before Thee
With harp and cymbals' clearest tone. Of one pearl each shining portal,
Where, joining with the choir immortal, We gather round Thy radiant throne.
No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might
Of Thy glory; Therefore will we Eternally Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

SERMON "Checked Your Oil Lately?" Matthew 25:1-13

(Rise)

APOSTLES' CREED (*found on the inside back cover of the hymnal*)

(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, please sign our attendance book located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the book along to others in your pew, and return the book to the center aisle. You may check the register to see the names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: With the peace and confidence that comes from sins forgiven, as dearly loved children of God, and at His own invitation, let us pray to the Lord, saying:

People: Lord, have mercy.

After each petition:

Pastor: . . . let us pray to the Lord:

People: Lord, have mercy.

At the conclusion of the prayers:

Pastor: . . . for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us.

People: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

+ SACRAMENT +

WORDS OF OUR LORD

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI HYMN

"Lamb of God"

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.
(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION Those guests who desire to commune who are members of another LCMS congregation may do so; if you are coming from another church background, please see the pastor or an elder first.

HYMN #636 "Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness"

Soul, adorn yourself with gladness, Leave the gloomy haunts of sadness, Come into the daylight's splendor, There with joy your praises render. Bless the One whose grace unbounded This amazing banquet founded;
He, though heav'nly, high, and holy, Deigns to dwell with you most lowly.

Hasten as a bride to meet Him, And with loving rev'rence greet Him.
For with words of life immortal He is knocking at your portal.
Open wide the gates before Him, Saying, as you there adore Him:
Grant, Lord, that I now receive You, That I nevermore will leave You.

He who craves a precious treasure Neither cost nor pain will measure;
But the priceless gifts of heaven God to us has freely given.
Though the wealth of earth were proffered, None could buy the gifts here offered:
Christ's true body, for you riven, And His blood, for you once given.

Now in faith I humbly ponder Over this surpassing wonder
That the bread of life is boundless Though the souls it feeds are countless: With
the choicest wine of heaven Christ's own blood to us is given.
Oh, most glorious consolation, pledge and seal of my salvation!

Jesus, source of lasting pleasure, Truest friend, and dearest treasure,
Peace beyond all understanding, Joy into all life expanding:
Humbly now, I bow before You; Love incarnate, I adore You
Worthily let me receive You And, so forward, never leave You.

Jesus, sun of life, my splendor, Jesus, friend of friends, most tender,
Jesus, joy of my desiring, Fount of life, my soul inspiring:
At Your feet I cry, my maker, Let me be a fit partaker
Of this blessed food from heaven, For our good, Your glory, given.

Lord, by love and mercy driven, You once left Your throne in heaven
On the cross for me to languish And to die in bitter anguish,
To forego all joy and gladness And to shed Your blood in sadness.
By this blood redeemed and living, Lord, I praise You with thanksgiving.

Jesus, bread of life, I pray You, Let me gladly here obey You.
By Your love I am invited, Be Your love with love requited;
By this Supper let me measure, Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure.
Through the gift of grace You give me As Your guest in heav'n receive me.

HYMN #774 "Feed Thy Children, God Most Holy"

Feed Thy children, God most holy; Comfort sinners poor and lowly.
O Thou Bread of Life from heaven, Bless the food Thou here hast given!
As these gifts the body nourish, May our souls in graces flourish
Till with saints in heav'nly splendor At Thy feast due thanks we render.

HYMN #631 "Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face"

Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face; Here would I touch and handle things
unseen; Here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace, And all my weariness
upon Thee lean.

Here would I feed upon the bread of God, Here drink with Thee the royal wine of
heav'n; Here would I lay aside each earthly load, Here taste afresh the calm of sin
forgiv'n.

This is the hour of banquet and of song; This is the heav'nly table spread for me;
Here let me feast and, feasting, still prolong The brief bright hour of fellowship
with Thee.

I have no help but Thine; nor do I need Another arm but Thine to lean upon. It is
enough, my Lord, enough indeed; My strength is in Thy might, Thy might alone.

Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness; Mine is the guilt, but Thine the
cleansing blood; Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace: The blood, Thy
righteousness, O Lord, my God.

Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear; The feast, though not the love, is past
and gone; The bread and wine remove, but Thou art here; Nearer than ever; still
my shield and sun.

Feast after feast thus comes and passes by, Yet, passing, points to that glad feast
above, Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy, The Lamb's great marriage feast
of bliss and love.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Thanks and praise to you, almighty God, for nourishing us
through this gracious sacrament. Keep us strong in faith, we pray, that
we may be ready when your Son returns to usher us into the heavenly
banquet. To you be all the glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and
forever.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The blessing of almighty God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit
be upon you this day and to the end of time.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #515 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

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.

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.

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.

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!

Preacher & 5:00 Liturgist

Liturgist 8:00

Lectors

Acolytes

Organist

Music Coordinator

Pastor Gregg Stanton

Pastor Harold Bender

Jodi Drew, Bob Reynolds

Emily Reinhardt, Montana Wendt

Roger Gottschalk

Kim Woller