

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

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TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 15, 2020

HOLY COMMUNION

TO OUR GUESTS AND MEMBERS: We receive the Lord's Supper, believing the Word of Jesus, that He gives into our mouths His true body and blood, miraculously united to the bread and wine, to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins, and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His Word, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love one another, even as He forgives and loves us.

God's Word teaches us that those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood in an unworthy manner do so to their great harm, and that this Holy Communion is a confession of the faith that is confessed in this church. Therefore any who are not yet instructed, who are in doubt, or are members of a congregation not in the fellowship of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to commune, are asked to kindly speak with the pastor ahead of time. (*Matt. 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 10:16-21; 11:17-34*)

(Bold – Congregation speaks

Bold Italic – Congregation sings or chants

Hymns are in folder)

The Confessional Service with Holy Communion

Prelude

Hymn of Invocation – #400

“Take My Life and Let It Be”

The Invocation & Versicles & Responses

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

Amen.

Make haste, O God, to deliver me.

Make haste to help me, O Lord.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit.

A broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. Amen.

Introit *Ps. 143:2, 5–6, 10–11; antiphon: Ps. 143:1*

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

**Enter not into judgment with your servant,
for no one living is righteous before you.**

I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done;

I ponder the work of your hands.

**I stretch out my hands to you;
my soul thirsts for you like a parched land.**

Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!

Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!

For your name's sake, O LORD, preserve my life!

In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!

Hear my prayer, O LORD; give ear to my pleas for mercy!

In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!

The Confessional Address or Exhortation

The Corporate Confession of Sins and Absolution

Having now heard the Word of God, let us make confession of our sins:

O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

I now ask you before God, Is this your sincere confession, that you heartily repent of your sins, believe on Jesus Christ, and sincerely and earnestly purpose,

by the assistance of God the Holy Ghost, henceforth to amend your sinful life? Then declare so by saying: Yes.

Yes

The Absolution

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost.

Amen.

The Collect for the Day

Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Old Testament Reading: Zephaniah 1:7–16

⁷ Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is near;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice
and consecrated his guests.

⁸ And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—
"I will punish the officials and the king's sons
and all who array themselves in foreign
attire.

⁹ On that day I will punish
everyone who leaps over the threshold,
and those who fill their master's house
with violence and fraud.

¹⁰ "On that day," declares the LORD,
"a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate,
a wail from the Second Quarter,
a loud crash from the hills.

¹¹ Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar!
For all the traders are no more;
all who weigh out silver are cut off.

¹² At that time I will search Jerusalem with
lamps,
and I will punish the men

who are complacent,
those who say in their hearts,
'The LORD will not do good,
nor will he do ill.'
¹³ Their goods shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,
they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them."
¹⁴ The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter;
the mighty man cries aloud there.
¹⁵ A day of wrath is that day,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
¹⁶ a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

The Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:14–30

¹⁴[Jesus said:] "It will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. ¹⁵To one he gave five talents, to another two,

to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. ¹⁷So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. ¹⁸But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me five talents; here I have made five talents more.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, 'Master, you delivered to me two talents; here I have made two talents more.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master answered him, 'You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sowed and gather where I scattered no seed? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ²⁹For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. ³⁰And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

The Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, Begotten, not made, Being of one substance with the Father, By whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary And was made man; And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried; And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures; And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father; And He shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead; Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord and Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I

believe one holy Christian and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, And I look for the resurrection of the dead, And the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn #439

“O God of Mercy, God of Might”

Sermon – “Joy for Faithful Servants” Matthew 25:14-16, 21

- I. The Master entrusts us with His possessions.
- II. We are to use them for His interests.
- III. Faithful servants will enter the joy of the Master.

The Offertory

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation: and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Presentation of the Offerings

Vocal Solo: “Lord of All Good”

The General Prayer

The Preface ~ The Agnus Dei

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

It is meet and right so to do.

It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks unto Thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Thy glorious name, evermore praising Thee and saying:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sab-a-oth; Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory; Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest, Blessed is He, Blessed is He, Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.

The 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.***

The Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread; and when He had given thanks, He brake it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

After the same manner also He took the cup when He had supped, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of it; this cup is the New Testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the remission of sins. This do, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The Pax Domini

The peace of the Lord be with you always!
Amen.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Communion Distribution

Hymn #314 "Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray"
Hymn #441 "We Give Thee But Thine Own"
Hymn #403 "Savior, Thy Dying Love"

The Nunc Dimittis

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Thanksgiving

Oh, give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good.

And His mercy endureth forever.

Post-Communion Collect

Amen.

The Salutation & The Benedicamus

The Lord be with you.

And with Thy spirit.

Bless we the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Benediction

The Lord bless thee and keep thee.

The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and give thee peace.

Amen, Amen, Amen.

Closing Hymn - #403 (7:00 p.m.)

“Savior, Thy Dying Love”