

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
New Castle, IN
November 15, 2020
Pentecost 24, Lectionary 33A

Introduction to the day

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.

Welcome in the name of Jesus! As we gather around word and sacrament as the people of God, we gather to bear communal witness to Jesus Christ, crucified and risen for the life of the world. As the world continues to be in the grip of the global COVID-19 pandemic, we remember in prayer those who are sick and those on the frontlines of the pandemic who care for the sick.

As part of our communal witness, the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church council has passed the following guidelines and code of conduct that will frame our gathering for worship as the people of God. As we gather for worship this day, our actions in relation to these guidelines and code of conduct are an important part of this communal witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ—witness that is grounded in the love of God and love of our neighbor.

Please take time before worship to review these guidelines. In particular, please note that it is extremely important that we follow social distancing guidelines and that face coverings are worn over your nose and mouth at all times while in the building.

Thank you for your presence here today, and for bearing this important witness in our world at this time, for Jesus’ sake.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
Guidelines for In-person Worship

“Love your neighbor as yourself.”

The following of these guidelines during our in-person gathering IS loving your neighbor.

- All individuals over the age of 65 or who have an underlying health risk, are encouraged to view worship online from home
- 6' of personal space will be expected in the entrance, the Narthex, the steps to the Sanctuary, on the pews, and in the restrooms.
- Masks will be worn by adults while in the church and during worship
- Bulletins will be placed directly on the pews
- Offering will be placed in the plates that will be set by the doors to the sanctuary
- Posters will be placed as reminders of personal hygiene practices
- Restroom doors will remain open, water fountain will be closed

- Children should remain with an adult at all times; materials for children need to be brought from home
- Dismissal will be directed by the Pastor

Code of Conduct

Do not attend church activities when you are feeling ill or running a fever.

Avoid close contact with non-family members:

- Maintain 6 feet distance from non-family members.
- Do not shake hands or touch non-family members.

Wash your hands:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Wash for at least 20 seconds especially after you have been in a public place, or after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use a hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol. Cover all surfaces of your hands and rub them together until they feel dry.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth with unwashed hands.

Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.

Cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover when around others:

- Wear cloth face mask when indoors and other people are present.

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

Be Thou My Vision—SLANE (traditional Irish melody) & THAXTED (Gustav Holst, 1874-1931). Arranged by John Leavitt. Arrangement copyright © 2000, John Leavitt. All rights reserved.

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;
 naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 thou my best thought by both day and by night,
 waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

— Be Thou My Vision (SLANE)
 Text: Irish Traditional (8th century)

Let streams of living justice flow down upon the earth;
 give freedom's light to captives, let all the poor have worth.
 The hungry's hands are pleading, the workers claim their rights,
 the mourners long for laughter, the blinded seek for sight.
 Make liberty a beacon, strike down the iron pow'r;
 abolish ancient vengeance: proclaim your people's hour.

— Let Streams of Living Justice (THAXTED)
 Text: William Whitla, b. 1934

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

MUSIC MEDITATION

Give Me Jesus—African-American Spiritual. Arranged by James Pethel. Arrangement © 2003 by Pilot Point Music (ASCAP). All rights reserved.

In the morning when I rise, give me Jesus.

GREETING

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

A reading from Zephaniah.

⁷Be silent before the Lord God!

For the day of the Lord is at hand;
the Lord has prepared a sacrifice,
he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
“The Lord will not do good,
nor will he do harm.”

¹³Their wealth 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.

¹⁴The great day of the Lord is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath,
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,

¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the Lord,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.
¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the Lord's wrath;
in the fire of his passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

¹Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.
²**Before 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 child- | ren of earth."
⁴**For 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:
⁶**in the morning it is | green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.**
⁷For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.
⁸**Our iniquities you have | set before you,
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.**
[⁹When you are angry, all our | days are gone;
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.
¹⁰**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength | even eighty;
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and | we are
gone.**
¹¹Who regards the power | of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your | indignation?
] ¹²**So teach us to num- | ber our days
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom. R**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

¹Now 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' ²¹His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' ²³His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For 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. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

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

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

**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

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.

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. 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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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. 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.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY

You are invited into a time of prayer and contemplation as we prayerfully consider how the gifts of our very selves, our time, and our financial resources can be given for sake of the mission of this congregation and the larger Church. Your offering of financial gifts may be placed in the trays just outside the entrance of the sanctuary. You may also give online by going to www.holytrinitync.org and clicking on the button labeled "GIVE."

During this time, communion kits will be distributed.

Lamb of God—Twila Paris. Arranged by Larry Shackley. © 1985. Arrangement © 2005 by Straightway Music (ASCAP)/Mountain Spring Music (ASCAP). Administered by EMI Christian Music Publishing. All rights reserved.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world,
grant us peace.

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.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

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

Please carefully open your communion kits.

The presiding minister says:

“The body of Christ, given for you.”

(The communicant eats the bread.)

“The blood of Christ, shed for you.”

(The communicant drinks the wine.)

MUSIC MEDITATION

My Jesus, I Love Thee—GORDON by Adoniram J. Gordon. Arranged by Larry Shackley. ©
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I love Thee because Thou has first loved me,
and purchased my pardon on Calvary's tree.
I love Thee for wearing the thorns on Thy brow;
if ever I loved Thee my Jesus 'tis now.

— William R. Featherston (1864)

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.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Beloved of God,

go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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