

WELCOME TO WORSHIP
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2026
8:00 AM Traditional Worship

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman
Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz
Lector: Greta Hanson **Acolyte:** Josie Borchert
Ushers: Jim Lunde, Myron Sime & Gary Gullickson
Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

CALL TO WORSHIP: "Blessed Assurance" Knapp/Carlson

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers.
C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.

P: Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you.

C: Amen.

Stand

HYMN: "All Are Welcome" #641 ELW vss. 1, 2 & 5

vs. 1: Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions:

Refrain: All are welcome, all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.

vs. 2: Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness
and as symbol of God's grace;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: *Refrain*...

vs. 5: Let us build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: *Refrain*...

GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE: page 120 ELW *(front of the hymnal)*

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord have Mercy

L: For the peace from above,
and for our salvation, let us pray to the lord.

C: Lord, have mercy

L: For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this holy house,
and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Help, save, comfort,
and defend us, gracious Lord,

C: Amen.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE: page 121 ELW *(front of hymnal)*

Refrain: Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
We worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory. Refrain…

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,

you take away the sin of the world:
Have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer. Refrain…

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Refrain…

SALUTATION
P: The Lord be with you.
C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY
P: Let us pray.
C: O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.
Sit
READING: **Amos 5:18-24**
18-20 Woe to all of you who want God's Judgment Day! Why would you want to see God, want him to come? When God comes, it will be bad news before it's good news, the worst of times, not the best of times. Here's what it's like: A man runs from a lion right into the jaws of a bear.
A woman goes home after a hard day's work and is raped by a neighbor.
At God's coming we face hard reality, not fantasy— a black cloud with no silver lining. 21-24 "I can't stand your religious meetings. I'm fed up with your conferences and conventions. I want nothing to do with your religion projects, your pretentious slogans and goals. I'm sick of your fund-raising schemes, your public relations and image making. I've had all I can take of your noisy ego-music. When was the last time you sang to *me*? Do you know what I want? I want justice—oceans of it. I want fairness—rivers of it. That's what I want. That's *all* I want.

P: The word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: "Alleluia!" page 124 ELW

Alleluia, alleluia,
alleluia, alleluia

The Gospel is announced…

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew the 25th Chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

1-5 "God's kingdom is like ten young virgins who took oil lamps and went out to greet the bridegroom. Five were silly and five were smart. The silly virgins took lamps, but no extra oil. The smart virgins took jars of oil to feed their lamps. The bridegroom didn't show up when they expected him, and they all fell asleep. 6 "In the middle of the night someone yelled out, 'He's here! The bridegroom's here! Go out and greet him!' 7-8 "The ten virgins got up and got their lamps ready. The silly virgins said to the smart ones, 'Our lamps are going out; lend us some of your oil.' 9 "They answered, 'There might not be enough to go around; go buy your own.' 10 "They did, but while they were out buying oil, the bridegroom arrived. When everyone who was there to greet him had gone into the wedding feast, the door was locked. 11 "Much later, the other virgins, the silly ones, showed up and knocked on the door, saying, 'Master, we're here. Let us in.' 12 "He answered, 'Do I know you? I don't think I know you.' 13 "So stay alert. You have no idea when he might arrive.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON

Stand

HYMN: "Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning " #949 ACS

vs. 1: Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, (3x)
for this work's almost done.

Refrain: Children, don't grow weary; (3x)
for this work's almost done.

vs. 2: Darker midnight lies before us, (3x)
for this work's almost done. *Refrain*…

vs. 3: Lo, the morning soon is breaking, (3x)
for this work's almost done. *Refrain*...

vs. 4: Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, (3x)
for this work's almost done. *Refrain*...

APOSTLE'S 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

P: United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence

P: You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us

careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict. Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. God, in your mercy

C: hear our prayer.

P: You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life. God, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved.

C: Amen

THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERTORY: "Deep River"

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Eternal God,

C: our time, talents, and treasures are gifts from you. Receive what we offer, and all that you entrust to us, until hungry no more, all the world

is fed, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
Stand
BLESSING
P: The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always.
C: Amen.

DISMISSAL
P: Go in peace. Encourage one another.
C: Thanks be to God.

SENDING HYMN: "Soon and Very Soon" #439 ELW

Vs. 1: Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King, (3x)
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we are goin' to see the King!

Vs. 2: No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King, (3x)
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we are goin' to see the King!

Vs. 3: No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King, (3x)
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we are goin' to see the King!

POSTLUDE: “Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand” Herman/Miller