**Grace Lutheran Church**

493 Forest Avenue, Glen Ellyn IL 630.469.1555

[www.graceglenellyn.org](http://www.graceglenellyn.org)

**24th Sunday after Pentecost November 15, 2020**

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***+ Proclaim Christ + Build Community +***

***+ Serve Our Neighbors +***

**Introduction**

*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.*

**Gathering**

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

**Prelude**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism,*

*as the worship leader begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, **☩** one God,

in whose image we are made,

who claims us and calls us beloved.

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One,

**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, opens the door to us.

Through **☩** Jesus we are forgiven,

by Jesus we are welcome,

in Jesus we are called to rejoice!

Let us live in the promises prepared for us

from the foundation of the world.

**Amen.**

**Opening Hymn *(Please mute your mic)*** ELW#785 When Peace like a River; sts. 1, 2, 4

C:\Users\Grace Lutheran\Downloads\When Peace like a River (It Is Well with My Soul) (Melody).tif

***(You may unmute your mic)***

**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**

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 Lesson Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

*Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week’s first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.*

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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**The Psalm** *Read responsively by verse* **Psalm 90:1-12**

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 children 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 number our days** **that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

**Second Lesson 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

*Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ’s return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

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.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.**

The holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Gospel Matthew 25:14-30**

*Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.*

[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.**

***(Please mute your mic)***

**Sermon**  The Rev. Melody Eastman

***(You may unmute your mic)***

**Apostles’ Creed**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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.

*A brief silence.*

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. Strengthen all who work to bring an end to the spread of COVID-19. 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.**

*(If your House Church is celebrating Communion, refer to that liturgy here.)*

**The Lord’s Prayer** Ecumenical Version

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

**Sending**

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

**Blessing**

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved,

who strengthens us for service, give us reason to rejoice and be glad! The blessing of God,

Sovereign, **☩** Savior, and Spirit, be with us today and always. **Amen.**

**Sending Hymn *(Please mute your mic)*** WOV #778 O Christ the Same

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***(You may unmute your mic)***

**Sent to the World**

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

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**Current Prayer Requests**

**Name Relation to Grace Prayers For**

Marilyn Goodrich Member Healing & Strength

Chris Danly Son of Mark & Pat Danly Healing & Strength

Sigrid Elliott Friend of Grace Healing & Strength

Dorothy Tracy Member Healing & Strength

Elizabeth Amber Friend of Pastor Melody and Marty Healing & Strength

**Prayers for our homebound Members**

Anita Blakemore, Evelyn Elson, Carol Petersen, Norma Petersen, Dorothy Stein

**Weekly Announcements**

**Commitment Cards for 2021** have been mailed. Please return yours to the office, or you can submit your commitment on Grace’s website. Your support remains critical; thank you for your prayerful response!

Sign up for **AmazonSmile** and pick Grace Lutheran Church as your charity of choice:

Remember to shop at AmazonSmile when making purchases online. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. Here is the link for Grace Lutheran: [**http://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2496438**](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-2496438)

When you sign on, you will see “Supporting Grace Lutheran Church” in the upper left hand corner. Then just shop as you normally do. There is no cost to Grace or to you, the customer. The shopping experience is identical to Amazon.com with the added benefit that the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate a percentage of your purchase amount to Grace.

**House Church Worship via phone or internet every Sunday morning at 9:30am!** Register online for a House Church at [graceglenellyn.org](https://l.facebook.com/l.php?u=http%3A%2F%2Fgraceglenellyn.org%2F%3Ffbclid%3DIwAR0Hfv_r7Lkk0l-PSfwxo5IuvGdumHQ3QCEP7v4ZvaR0WOJKVA5hbrjxKAE&h=AT1soNxFTUJFeYviMArEGKelFeVj5prKjMKXk0UJTSFn5xaDSLNHlHWl9jolaFvljgE6OlBV9vpq3vIE5HfsX4lEUbwYpfdYpMW57h6Tyc58-9jrGuramUJOJJ1Qd_RvJw&__tn__=-UK-R&c%5b0%5d=AT2EpYQU1esaMoWfP5JtqUBhBqXEjGx5atvDW6kLdBJviMugmDClI27DYHudyuPviP9Hv6sjAHveGxQGTojgtZKHh3Ar39pGN4cSEtsbiD_E96uHBoM53nY40A4mpgsxH7Ee_La5kZ5CLFMRaCbeBMrb7-BmRa8JDzOlS6vBJ2YxwbmuqBlPHi9nylzaWrSwmlhCSx9Ig0m3keY) (on the main page Announcements) or contact Becky Ficarella directly at 847-347-0928 or [bficarella@graceglenellyn.org](mailto:bficarella@graceglenellyn.org).

**Food Pantry:** Thank you for those who were able to participate in the food drive last Friday. The weather was beautiful and volunteers enjoyed face time with each other as well as Grace members driving through to donate! The food pantry logged in 61 bags of groceries and $120. It all adds up and it’s very much appreciated! This Week’s Most Needed Items: Canned White Beans; Canned Beef Stew; Tomato Paste; Boxed Pasta; Ramen Noodles; Canned Chicken; Sugar; Mayonnaise; Pancake Syrup; Shampoo/Conditioner.

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**Every Member a Minister and Missionary!**

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