



ST JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
Sunday, November 15, 2020

Pastor Mike Pretzer

St. John's Lutheran Church in Richardton

President: Greg Johnson 974-3497

Treasurer: Carmen Bohn 974-3925

Organist: Sandy Weisenberger

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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.

The Gathering

Welcome & Announcements

Brief Order of Confession and Forgiveness

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Gathering Hymn

"O Happy Day When We Shall Stand"

#441

Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

We 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.

The Word

First Reading

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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

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 Reading

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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand to welcome the Gospel

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

The 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.’ ”

L: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day “If You But Trust in God to Guide You” #769

Apostles Creed *Front of hymnal cover

Hymn “Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying” #752

Prayers for Healing, Strength, and Good Health

Prayer of St. Francis

**Lord, make me an instrument of Your peace;
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.**

**O Divine Master,
Grant that I may not so much seek
To be consoled as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved, as to love;
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
And it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.
Amen.**

Hymn "Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying"

#752

The Lord's Prayer

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Benediction "Amen, Amen, A-men"

Sending Hymn "Trust and Obey"

FHP #365

Dismissal

L: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.



Prayer Concerns at St. John's Lutheran Church

FOR HEALING, STRENGTH & GOOD HEALTH:

Harrison Job Magstadt & his parents Haley & Nathan Magstadt

Kristin Johnson

James Hauter (Lynn Johnson's Father)

Wellde Heinle- Recurrence of cancer

Arlyne Magstad

Shirley Kitzan

Dee Homelvig -Chemotherapy

Emmalou Lavine (Armin's Sister)

Holly (Cancer)

Pam (Cancer)

Family of Gaite Gebhardt

Steve and Kayla Olson and unborn son Luke

Lakin Dvorak

Marie (Lorraine's sister- Cancer)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Peace Lutheran is once again making and selling lefse on Saturday November 21st starting at 10:00am. Get your lefse for the Holidays from this church fundraiser.

Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service – Wednesday, November 25th

On Wednesday, November 25th at 7:00 pm MST via Facebook premiere from St. John Lutheran Church in Dickinson you can participate in a Thanksgiving Eve Worship Service. The service is called, Thanksgiving Eve * 6 Toasts * Origin Stories, which is based on 15 Toasts from the book, The Art of Gathering. Because gathering for holiday meals is really tough right now, and with such divided political views around tables, the ELCA pastors from Dickinson, Belfield, and Dunn County are proposing to “practice Thanksgiving” to show a faithful way to gather around tables and have meaningful conversation.

The appointed lesson is the story of God leading the people through the wilderness. God predicts correctly the people will forget their origin story is actually the work of God and not their own doing. During the service each worship leader will tell some kind of personal origin story in about 300 words (around 3 minutes). It might be a story from an earlier generation, why and how they settled where they did, some formative story from childhood, or how they came to be at the place where they are now. After each story is told, we will “toast” and sing a verse of a song.

The Thanksgiving Eve Service can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/st.johnlutheranchurch.9>
Start time is 7:00 pm.

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