

**† HOME SERVICE OF MORNING PRAYER †**  
**23rd Sunday after Pentecost**  
**November 8, 2020**

**PRELUDE**                      St. Anthony Chorale (Theme by Haydn)                      Johannes Brahms

**INVOCATION and OPENING VERSICLES**

P     In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C     Amen.**

P     O Lord, open my lips,

**C     and my mouth shall declare Your praise.** (*Psalm 51:15*)

P     Give glory to God, our light and our life.

**C     O come, let us worship Him.**

**PSALM OF THE DAY** (*from Psalm 70*)

P     Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.

**C     O Lord, make haste to help me!**

P     Let all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You.

**C     Let those who love Your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"**

P     But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God!

**C     You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay!**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P     The Lord be with you.

**C     And also with you.**

P     Let us pray:

**C     Almighty and everlasting God, Your Son has assured us of forgiveness of sins and deliverance from eternal death. Strengthen us with Your Holy Spirit, that by faith in Christ we hold fast to the hope that on the Last Day we will be raised with Him in glory; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**OFFICE HYMN**

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the works Thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
Thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed.

Refrain:     Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to Thee,  
                  how great Thou art! How great Thou art!

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation  
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!  
Then I shall bow in humble adoration and there proclaim:  
"My God, how great Thou art!"  
Refrain

## **EPISTLE**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

<sup>13</sup>But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **VERSICLES**

P In the day of my trouble I call upon You, for You answer me.

**C Because Your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise You.**

P For You have been my help, and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy.

**P Save Your people and bless Your heritage!**

C Be their shepherd and carry them forever.

## **GOSPEL**

Matthew 25:1-13

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.

**C Glory to You, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to his disciples,] <sup>1</sup>"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the

dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C Praise to You, O Christ.**

**SERMON** “Encourage One Another with These Words” Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

### **THE APOSTLES’ CREED**

**C I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

P Waiting 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.

P Holy God, enliven our worship as we gather in Your name. Sustain the work of musicians, artists, and writers who lead us in prayer and praise. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P Delight us with the beauty of the world You have made. Bless those whose work invites us into harmonious living with Your creation. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P Let justice roll down like waters over this world. Reign over the rulers of every land, in the hearts of those who guard the law and those who stand accused of crimes. Make Your will known so that justice and mercy prevail. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P Console those who feel lonely or abandoned. Comfort those who struggle with their identity and place in this world. Send healing and aid to all who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially those on our prayer line and those we remember before You now...(PAUSE). Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P Be in our midst as we observe Veterans Day this week. Guard the lives of active duty and retired military personnel. Sustain all who mourn the loss of those who have died in the line of duty. Heal the wounds, both physical and mental, experienced by service members. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

C We give thanks for the lives of those who have walked among us and now rest in You. Remind us of the frailty of this world and inspire us to use our own lives for the building up of Your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

P Receive these and all our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who taught us to pray:

**C 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.**

### **CLOSING HYMN**

Eternal Father, Strong to Save  
Eternal Father, strong to save, whose arm hath bound the restless wave,  
who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep its own appointed limits keep:  
O hear us when we cry to Thee for those in peril on the sea.

O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain, o'er which our traffic runs amain  
by mountain pass or valley low; wherever, Lord, Thy people go,  
protect them by Thy guarding hand from ev'ry peril on the land.

O Spirit, whom the Father sent to spread abroad the firmament;  
O Wind of heaven, by Thy might save all who dare the eagle's flight,  
and keep them by Thy watchful care from ev'ry peril in the air.

O Trinity of love and pow'r, our people shield in danger's hour;  
from rock and tempest, fire and foe, protect them wheresoe'er they go;  
thus evermore shall rise to Thee glad praise from air and land and sea.

**BENEDICTION**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and  
be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C Amen.**

**P** Go in peace to serve the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

Wake, Awake

Martha Sobaje

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**Special thanks to our additional participant in today's service:**

**Lector** John Ansorge

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