

† HOME SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER †
24th Sunday after Pentecost
LWML Sunday
November 15, 2020

This week we are celebrating the work of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and our congregation's local group, The Village Ladies in Christ. LWML strives to assist women in affirming their relationship with Christ and equip them to use their gifts in service outreach to the community. Serve the Lord with gladness!

PRELUDE

Hallelujah! We Sing Your Praises

Nancy Raabe

INVOCATION and CONFESSION

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

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sins to God, our merciful Father.

C **Almighty God, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We have turned away from each other in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You demand. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, have mercy on us. Forgive us all that is past, and with the power of the Holy Spirit, move us to serve You faithfully. Amen.**

P God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

CALL TO WORSHIP

P Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all you lands.

C **Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing.**

P Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, and into His courts with praise.

C **Be thankful to Him and bless His name.**

P For the Lord is good; His mercy is everlasting.

C **And His truth endures to all generations.**

P Serve the Lord with gladness!

C **Glorify His name!**

HYMN OF PRAISE

God is So Good/Lord, Be Glorified

God is so good, God is so good, God is so good, He's so good to me.

He cares for me, He cares for me, He cares for me, He's so good to me.

I'll do His will, I'll do His will, I'll do His will, He's so good to me.

In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In my life, Lord, be glorified today.

In Your Church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In Your Church, Lord, be glorified today.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

C **O Lord God Almighty, You bless Your servants with various and unique gifts. Grant us grace to use them always to Your honor and glory, that Your goodness and mercy may be made known to all; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

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 This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

LITANY OF PRAISE

P Praise to You, O Lord, for Your daily goodness and mercy.

C **Renew our hearts with thankfulness to You.**

P Alert us to the needs of others around us.

C **Inspire us to worship You in spirit and in truth.**

P Save us from our own sins, from death, and from the devil.

C **Energize us for service and for witness.**

P Praise God for His mighty acts and His excellent greatness.

C **Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.**

P Praise the Lord!

C Praise the Lord! Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

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

C Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said to his 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.’”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord, Whose Love through Humble Service

Lord, whose love through humble service bore the weight of human need,
who upon the cross, forsaken, offered mercy’s perfect deed,
we, Your servants, bring the worship not of voice alone, but heart,
consecrating to Your purpose ev’ry gift that You impart.

As we worship, grant us vision, till Your love's revealing light
in its height and depth and greatness, dawns upon our quickened sight,
making known the needs and burdens Your compassion bids us bear,
stirring us to tireless striving, Your abundant life to share.

Called by worship to Your service, forth in Your dear name we go,
to the child, the youth, the aged, love in living deeds to show;
hope and health, goodwill and comfort, counsel, aid, and peace we give,
that Your servants, Lord, in freedom may Your mercy know and live.

SERMON

Rev. Scott Geminn

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 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 use us to accomplish Your purposes throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Lord of creation, we stand in awe at the works of Your hands and praise You for the beauty of nature. Bless the earth and restore the places that have been damaged or destroyed. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Lord of the nations, sound forth Your justice in the ears of all leaders. Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable, and grant wisdom to those making decisions on our behalf. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Lord of the weary, come to the aid of all who cry to You in distress. Scatter clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with Your radiant light. Send us as encouragement and signs of Your healing. We lift up especially the needs of all on our prayer and those we remember before You now...(PAUSE). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Lord of love, we give You thanks for the servant leadership of the LWML and for the ongoing ministries of the women in our own congregation. Inspire us by their witness to reach out to one another in love and offer ourselves to Your service. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

P Lord of the living and the dead, our times are in Your hands. As we remember and give thanks for the saints who have gone before us, teach us to number our days and establish in us the work of Your hands. 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.

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.

CLOSING HYMN

Serve the Lord with Gladness

Serve the Lord with gladness! There's no greater joy
than to serve the Master, work in His employ.
As we build His kingdom, may our work be blest
through His grace and mercy, off'ring Him our best.
Onward, then, for Jesus! Let this be our aim:
Serve the Lord with gladness! Glorify His name!

POSTLUDE

St. Gertrude

Joseph Prentiss

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Special thanks to our additional participants in today's service:

Lector Mimi Blanco

LWML Greetings Deacon Wendy Krolides



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