

Pastor: As we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient with others.

People: We have sinned against others and you in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart, nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us.

Pastor: As we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient with you.

People: We come to think the day will never come when you make all things new, and have let our earthly circumstances cause faith to waiver, despair to increase, and doubts to arise. Forgive us.

HYMN "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" St. 3

The saints, who here in patience Their cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory The Lamb they shall behold;
In triumph cast before Him Their diadems of gold.

Pastor: But let justice roll down like waters,

People: and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Pastor: And so we will always be with the Lord.

People: Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Pastor: In His parable, Jesus reminds His people to "watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." In our watch and in our waiting, the Lord remains faithful to His promises of provision, and assurance of grace and forgiveness. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN #515 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" St. 4

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption That sets Your people free!

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth your Son to lead home His Bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

☩ WORD ☩

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Amos 5:18–24* (The day of the Lord and justice)

¹⁸Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD? It is darkness, and not light, ¹⁹as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. ²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? ²¹"I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 4:13–18* (The coming of the Lord)

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

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 25:1–13* (The parable of the ten virgins)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise.

³ For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹ Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹² But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ¹³ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ

(Be seated)

CHILDREN’S SONG & CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

“Rejoice in the Lord Always” (AGPS 203)

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.

Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice.

Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice.

Rejoice, rejoice, and again I say rejoice. *Repeat song*

SERMON HYMN #516 “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

“Wake, awake, for night is flying,”

The watchmen on the heights are crying;

“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”

Midnight hears the welcome voices

And at the thrilling cry rejoices:

“Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?

The Bridegroom comes, awake! Your lamps with gladness take!

Alleluia! With bridal care Yourselves prepare

To meet the Bridegroom, who is near.”

Zion hears the watchmen singing,

And all her heart with joy is springing;

She wakes, she rises from her gloom.

For her Lord comes down all glorious,

The strong in grace, in truth victorious;

Her star is ris’n, her light is come.

Now come, Thou Blessed One, Lord Jesus, God’s own Son,

Hail! Hosanna! We enter all The wedding hall

To eat the Supper at Thy call.

Now let all the heav’ns adore Thee,

Let saints and angels sing before Thee

With harp and cymbals’ clearest tone.

Of one pearl each shining portal,

Where, joining with the choir immortal,

We gather round Thy radiant throne.

No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might

Of Thy glory; Therefore will we Eternally

Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

SERMON “A Day of Darkness ... A Day of Deliverance” Matt 25:1-13 & Amos 5

(Rise)

APOSTLES' CREED

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.
(Be seated)

OFFERINGS As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Lord, you are our help and deliverer. We bring to you the prayers and petitions of your people, that you may grant us all things needful and guard us against all things harmful. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: God of grace and glory, we live in a world filled with the darkness of sin. Grant us daily to endure the darkness through faith, turn from the darkness to the light of Christ, and daily look forward to the coming of Christ in glory. Lord in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, preserve your people from believing that you are pleased with us because of our works or ceremonies. Grant that what we do in worship and prayer may proclaim salvation in Christ Jesus alone. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God, you bestow favor and honor and withhold nothing from those who walk uprightly. Bless parents and those who teach children your ways, that generations to come would love your promises, walk in your truth and dwell in your house. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Righteous God, you despise corruption and command justice. Embolden our rulers and all in authority to enact and defend measures that preserve peace and provide justice for all. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, show mercy to those who cry aloud as they await your Son's coming in glory including Marlene, RoseMarie, Dorothy, Janice, Marga, Chris, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Don, Pat, Janet, Norma, Vern, Amy, Cathy, Cindy, Helga, June, Shirley and Sarah. Answer them with strength and healing, comfort and hope. Make them confident in Christ, who will raise His people on the Last Day. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: God of comfort and consolation, be with the family and friends of Jen Wacholtz who grieve her passing, along with the family and friends of Debbie Ullerich, who has gone on to glory. Dry their tears, heal their hearts, and give them hope and peace through faith in Christ. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, your Son will descend from heaven with a cry of command, raise those who have fallen asleep and deliver us to Your kingdom of glory. Until that day, strengthen us by His body and blood and prepare us for His coming in glory. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: God of our salvation, we know neither the day nor the hour of Christ's return, but we know that He has died and is risen again to open the kingdom of heaven to all believers. Until that day, preserve us in faith and guard us from temptation. Do not let us be caught unprepared for His coming. Let us live our days in loving service and joyful expectation of the life of the world to come; through the same Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: **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.**

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

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

People: **Amen.**

AGNUS DEI

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #512 "At the Name of Jesus"

At the name of Jesus Ev'ry knee shall bow,
Ev'ry tongue confess Him King of glory now.
'Tis the Father's pleasure We should call Him Lord,
Who from the beginning Was the mighty Word.

9 continued

At His voice creation Sprang at once to sight,
All the angel faces, All the hosts of light,
Thrones and bright dominions, Stars upon their way,
All the heav'nly orders In their great array.

Humbled for a season, To receive a name
From the lips of sinners Unto whom He came,
Faithfully He bore it Spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious When from death He passed;

Bore it up triumphant With its human light,
Through all ranks of creatures To the central height,
To the throne of God-head, To the Father's breast,
Filled it with the glory Of that perfect rest.

In your hearts enthrone Him; There let Him subdue
All that is not holy, All that is not true:
Crown Him as your captain In temptation's hour;
Let His will enfold you In its light and pow'r.

Christians, this Lord Jesus Shall return again
In His Father's glory, With His angel train;
For all wreaths of empire Meet upon His brow,
And our hearts confess Him King of glory now.

Glory then to Jesus, Who, the Prince of light,
To a world in darkness Brought the gift of sight;
Praise to God the Father; In the Spirit's love
Praise we all together Him who reigns above.

HYMN #669 "Come, We That Love the Lord"

Come, we that love the Lord, And let our joys be known;
Join in a song with sweet accord, Join in a song with sweet accord
And thus surround the throne, and thus surround the throne.

Refrain: **We're marching to Zion, Beautiful, beautiful Zion;
We're marching upward to Zion, The beautiful city of God.**

10 continued

Let those refuse to sing Who never knew our God;
but children of the heav'nly King, but children of the heav'nly King
May speak their joys abroad, May speak their joys abroad. **Refrain**

The hill of Zion yields A thousand sacred sweets
Before we reach the heav'nly fields, Before we reach the heav'nly fields,
Or walk the golden streets, Or walk the golden streets. **Refrain**

Then let our songs abound, And ev'ry tear be dry;
We're marching through Emmanuel's ground,
We're marching through Emmanuel's ground
To fairer worlds on high, To fairer worlds on high. **Refrain**

HYMN #631 "Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face"

Here, O my Lord, I see Thee face to face;
Here would I touch and handle things unseen;
Here grasp with firmer hand the eternal grace,
And all my weariness upon Thee lean.

Here would I feed upon the bread of God,
Here drink with Thee the royal wine of heav'n;
Here would I lay aside each earthly load,
Here taste afresh the calm of sin forgiv'n.

This is the hour of banquet and of song;
This is the heav'nly table spread for me;
Here let me feast and, feasting, still prolong
The brief bright hour of fellowship with Thee.

I have no help but Thine;
nor do I need Another arm but Thine to lean upon.
It is enough, my Lord, enough indeed;
My strength is in Thy might, Thy might alone.

Mine is the sin, but Thine the righteousness;
Mine is the guilt, but Thine the cleansing blood;
Here is my robe, my refuge, and my peace:
The blood, Thy righteousness, O Lord, my God.

Too soon we rise; the vessels disappear;
The feast, though not the love, is past and gone;
The bread and wine remove, but Thou art here;
Nearer than ever; still my shield and sun.

Feast after feast thus comes and passes by,
Yet, passing, points to that glad feast above,
Giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy,
The Lamb's great marriage feast of bliss and love.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Give thanks to the LORD, for He is good,

People: for His steadfast love endures forever.

Pastor: We give thanks to you, gracious Father, that in our waiting upon you, we have been gathered together in fellowship at your Table with sins forgiven and faith nourished. We thank you for the foretaste of the wedding feast to come when the Son of Man comes and we will live with you who lives and reigns Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

CLOSING RESPONSE

Pastor: But let justice roll down like waters,

People: and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Pastor: And so we will always be with the Lord.

People: Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Pastor: Watch therefore,

People: for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Pastor: He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

Pastor: The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all.

People: Amen.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN #672 “Jerusalem the Golden”

Jerusalem the golden, With milk and honey blest-
the promise of salvation, the place of peace and rest-
We know not, oh, we know not What joys await us there;
The radiancy of glory, The bliss beyond compare!

Within those walls of Zion Sounds forth the joyful song,
As saints join with the angels And all the martyr throng.
The Prince is ever with them; The daylight is serene;
The city of the blessed Shines bright with glorious sheen.

Around the throne of David, the saints, from care released,
Raise loud their songs of triumph To celebrate the feast.
They sing to Christ their leader, Who conquered in the fight,
Who won for them forever Their gleaming robes of white.

O sweet and blessed country, The home of God's elect!
O sweet the blessed country That faithful hearts expect!
In mercy, Jesus, bring us To that eternal rest
With You and God the Father And Spirit, ever blest.

Preacher
Liturgist
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender
Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen
Jodi Drew, Katie Scepanski
Deaconess Carole King