

Faith Lutheran Church

Faithfully Growing, Welcoming, and Caring through Christ

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday, November 19, 2017

Stewardship Sunday



PRELUDE

WELCOME

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C: **Amen.**

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(A brief silence.) Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING HYMN *“Come, Ye Thankful People, Come”*

**Come, ye thankful people, come;
raise the song of harvest home.**

**All be safely gathered in
ere the winter storms begin.**

**God, our maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied.**

**Come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.**

**All the world is God's own field,
fruit unto his praise to yield;
wheat and tares together sown,
unto joy or sorrow grown.
First the blade, and then the ear,
then the full corn shall appear.
Lord of harvest, grant that we
wholesome grain and pure may be.**

**For the Lord our God shall come
and shall take his harvest home;
from his field shall in that day
all offenses purge away;
give his angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in his garner evermore.**

**Even so, Lord, quickly come
to thy final harvest home.
Gather then thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in thy garner to abide.
Come, with all thine angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home!**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen

Introduction to the Day

P: 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.

C: Amen.

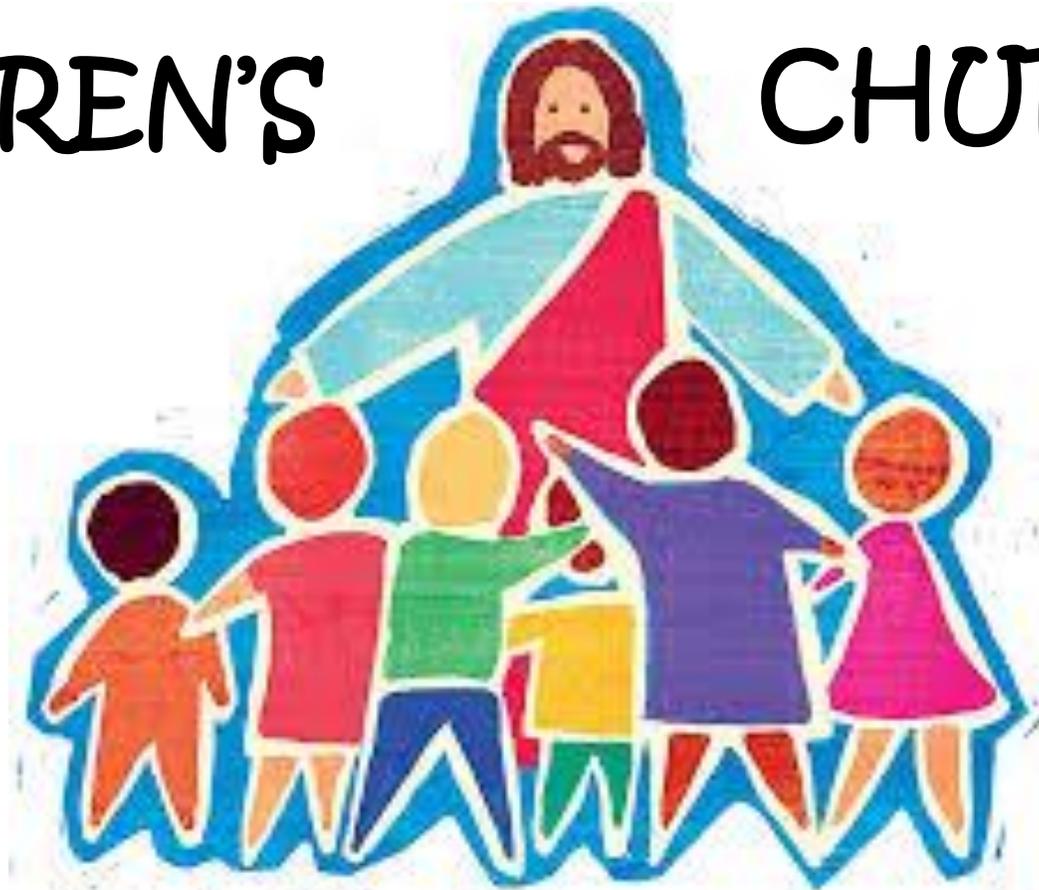
Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. (A brief silence.) Righteous God,

C: **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.**

CHILDREN'S

CHURCH



"Let the little children come to me..."

Matthew 19:14 NIV

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

A reading from Zephaniah, the 1st chapter.

Be 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. At 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."

Their 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. The 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.

That 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, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I 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.

Neither 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.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

A RESPONSIVE READING FROM PSALM 90

R: Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

C: **Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born,
from age to age you are God.**

R: You turn us back to the dust and say,
“Turn back, O children of earth.”

**C: For a thousand years in your sight are
like yesterday when it is past and like
a watch in the night;**

R: you sweep them away like a dream,
they fade away suddenly like the grass:

**C: in the morning it is green and
flourishes; in the evening it is
dried up and withered.**

R: For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

**C: Our iniquities you have set before
you, and our secret sins in the light of
your countenance.**

R: So teach us to number our days that
we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

C: Amen.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A reading from 1 Thessalonians, the 5th chapter.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night.

When 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! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober;

for those who sleep - sleep at night, and those who are drunk - get drunk at night. But 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. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him.

Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

R: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

ALLELUIA



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

P: The holy gospel according to Matthew,
the 25th chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: “For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away.

The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them.

And 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.' His 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.'

Then 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; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.'

But 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? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.'

For 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. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' ”

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**



SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“For the Fruit of All Creation”

**For the fruit of all creation,
thanks be to God.**

**For these gifts to ev'ry nation,
thanks be to God.**

**For the plowing, sowing, reaping,
silent growth while we are sleeping,
future needs in earth's safekeeping,
thanks be to God.**

**In the just reward of labor,
God's will is done.**

**In the help we give our neighbor,
God's will is done.**

**In our worldwide task of caring
for the hungry and despairing,
in the harvests we are sharing,
God's will is done.**

**For the harvests of the Spirit,
thanks be to God.**

**For the good we all inherit,
thanks be to God.**

**For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
most of all, that love has found us,
thanks be to God.**

APOSTLES' CREED

**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

P: Welcoming God's reign of righteousness and mercy, let us pray with people of every time and place. *(A brief silence.)* We pray for the church. Enliven its witness in ecumenical ministries, feeding programs, and new ventures. Open our hearts to friendships that share faith, and open our mouths to share your good news. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for parks and open spaces,
for clean air and clear water. Help us
protect places where we are reminded of
God's work in creation and find renewal.
Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for those who have been and are still today enslaved, trafficked, or oppressed. Make clear the needs of those who are silenced by suffering, that we may listen and bring an end to exploitation.
Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for those who cry out for healing, hope, or help, and for those for whom we have promised to pray (*especially*). Bring relief to caregivers and surround those who are lonely with your powerful presence.
Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: We pray for this congregation and the talents and treasures each person brings. Bring new talents to blossom among us, as we encourage and build up one another. Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord, our dwelling place in all generations,
we remember with thanksgiving all who
have died in you (*especially*). Teach us to
count our days as gifts from you.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Receive these prayers and the hopes and concerns of our hearts, O God, as we entrust into your loving care all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

~ VIDEO DURING THE OFFERING ~

“Rescuer”

by Rend Collective

THERE IS
always, always,
ALWAYS
something
to be thankful for

Procession to the altar with Offerings and 2018 Pledges

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

***We give thee but thine own,
whatever the gifts may be,
All that we have is thine alone,
a trust, oh Lord, from thee.***

***May we thy bounties thus,
as stewards true receive,
And gladly as though blessed us,
to thee our first fruits give.***

OFFERING PRAYER

P: By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

C: we give you thanks and praise.

DIALOGUE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks and praise to the
Lord our God.

C: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

~ WORDS OF INSTITUTION ~

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

~ ***COMMUNION*** ~

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Jesus Christ, host of this meal, you have given us not only this bread and cup, but your very self, that we may feast on your great love. Filled again by these signs of your grace, may we hunger for your reign of justice, may we thirst for your way of peace, for you are Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with
grace and mercy. The Lord look upon
you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Now Thank We All Our God”

**Now thank we all our God
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom this world rejoices;
who, from our mothers' arms,
has blest us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.**

**Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us all in grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all harm
in this world and the next.**

**All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and Spirit blest,
who reign in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heav'n adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.**

DISMISSAL

P: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.



**Pastor Rick will have a
Thanksgiving Eve Service on
Tuesday, November 21 at 7pm**























