



**November 8, 2020 - Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost
Service of Prayer and Preaching**

As We Gather: The final three weeks of the Church Year are traditionally concerned with “the last things.” The lessons for each Sunday bring a special opportunity to reflect on the end of time and on the end of our earthly lives. In today’s Gospel Jesus uses the image of being prepared for the coming of the bridegroom to encourage us to be prepared for His return. We do not know the time of His return, but we are certain He will come again. As we await the final coming of the Lord, He wants us to be ready for the final day of this earth or our final day on this earth.

Welcome

Hymn: LSB 809 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

1. Great is Thy faithfulness, O God my Father; There is no shadow of turning with Thee. Thou changest not; Thy compassions they fail not; As Thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.

(Refrain) Great is Thy faithfulness! Great is Thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see; All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.

2. Summer and winter and spring-time and harvest, Sun, moon, and stars in their courses above Join with all nature in manifold witness To Thy great faithfulness , mercy, and love.

(Refrain)

3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide; Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow, Blessings all mine with ten thousand beside! *(Refrain)*

Opening Versicles

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made;

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it.**

Pastor: From the rising of the sun to its setting,

People: **The name of the Lord is to be praised.**

Pastor: Eternal God, You have called us into Your Kingdom to show forth Your praise and to lives of service. Today we come before you in our worship with joyful hearts knowing that You love us:

People: **We praise You, O God.**

Pastor: For the fellowship we have with You through faith in Christ, and for the fellowship we have with one another as followers of Christ:

People: **We praise and thank You, O God.**

Pastor: For bringing us safely together today to think about the saving work of Jesus our Savior, and about being prepared for Christ's glorious return:

People: We praise and thank You, O God. Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Indeed, Christ is coming soon to raise the dead and bring us into everlasting life with Him. Yet there are times when we have lived as if Christ's return was not important and not imminent. Yet, our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

(Moment of silence for personal confession and reflection.)

All: Heavenly Father, we confess that we have ignored You and our neighbors in need. We have sinned in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have failed by our inactivity. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, O Lord, that we might be encouraged by Your presence and forgiven of our sin.

Pastor: God hears your confession and has promised to always be with you. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise 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. We are forgiven. We look for the return of Jesus.

Old Testament Canticle (Music in hymnal: LSB pages 261 & 262)

Refrain: The Lord God is my strength and my song, and He has become my salvation.

With joy will you draw water from the wells of salvation. And you will say in that day: "Give thanks to the Lord, call upon His name, make known His deeds among the peoples, proclaim that His name is exalted." *Refrain:*

Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth. Shout and sing for joy, O inhabitants of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel. *Refrain:*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen. *Refrain:*

Prayer of the Day

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.

First Reading – Amos 5:18-24 (*Amos warns impenitent Israel that the Lord's day of judgment is coming upon them.*)

¹⁸Woe to you who long for the day of the LORD! Why do you long for the day of the LORD? That day will be darkness, not light. ¹⁹It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him. ²⁰Will not the

day of the LORD be darkness, not light— pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness? ²¹ “I hate, I despise your religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me.²² Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. ²³ Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. ²⁴ But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God

Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (*Paul assures the believers that the dead will rise when Christ returns.*)

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord’s word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God

Hymn Response: LSB 490 “Jesus Lives! The Victory’s Won” vs. 1 & 5

1. Jesus lives! The victory’s won! Death no longer can appall me; Jesus lives! Death’s reign is done! From the grave Christ will recall me, Brighter scenes will then commence; This shall be my confidence.

5. Jesus lives! And now is death But the gate to life immortal’ This shall calm my trembling breath When I pass its gloomy portal. Faith shall cry as fails each sense: Jesus is my confidence!

Gospel Reading – Matthew 25:1-13 (Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish virgins to encourage us to be ready for His return.)

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. ⁴ The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ⁶ “At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ ⁷ “Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ “‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ ¹⁰ “But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. ¹¹ “Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’ ¹² “But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ ¹³ “Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Responsory

Pastor: Behold, the great day of the Lord is coming.

People: Turn our hearts to Your gracious promises, O Lord.

Pastor: The sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings.

People: The Lord is faithful. He will establish us and guard us.

Pastor: The Lord has made known His salvation.

People: He has remembered His steadfast love and faithfulness.

Pastor: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

People: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells.

Hymn: LSB 514 "The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us" (*Sung to melody 918*)

**1. The Bridegroom soon will call us, "Come to the wedding feast." May slumber not befall us
No watchfulness decrease. May all our lamps be burning With oil enough and more That we
with Him returning, May find an open door.**

**2. There shall we see in glory Our dear Redeemer's face; The long-awaited story Of heavenly
joy takes place; The patriarchs shall meet us, The prophets holy band; Apostles, martyrs
greet us In that celestial land.**

**3. There God shall from all evil Forever make us free, From sin and from the devil, From all
adversity, From sickness, pain, and sadness, From troubles, cares, and fears, And grant us
heavenly gladness And wipe away our tears.**

Sermon: Matthew 25:1-13 "Are We Prepared?"

The 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.**

Prayer of the Church

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

We pray for the Church, the gathering of God's forgiven people, that we may support
and encourage one another as we await the day of the Lord's return.

People: In mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for our nation, our state, our local community, and our neighborhoods. May
our leaders at all levels of government seek Your help and guidance as they carry out
their responsibilities, that we may lead lives that are peaceful and peaceable.

People: In mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for our congregation that You would guide and bless our efforts to connect with people in our community. And we pray that many young men and women would be led into vocations of service in the Church, encouraged by our prayers and our gifts.
People: In mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray for those with special needs for our petitions in these times, including the sick and hospitalized, the shut-ins, those facing challenges in employment or in other parts of their lives, that their needs may be met according to God's gracious plan. This day we remember [*names . . .*] and all those in need of our prayers.
People: In mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor: We pray, O Lord, that we may use all of the good gifts You have given us with thanksgiving, caring for our own bodies, using the talents we have been given, and seeking to be the neighbors and friends You have designed us to be.
People: In mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.

(Any special petitions including the Family for the Week will be included here.)

Pastor: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
People: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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.

New Testament Canticale (Music in hymnal: LSB pages 266 & 267)

Refrain: **Christ has been raised from the dead! Alleluia. Alleluia.**

Christ our Passover Lamb has been sacrificed. Raised from the dead, He will never die again. Death has no more dominion over Him. Refrain:

Dying, Christ dies to sin, once for all. Living, He lives to God. Count yourselves as dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus, our Lord. Refrain:

Solo: "God Bless Our Native Land" - Sue Doss

Presentation to Veterans

Prayer

All: Gracious Heavenly Father, we come before You in thanksgiving for the freedoms You have provided for us in the United States of America. We especially thank You on this Veterans Day weekend for the many men and women who have served in our nation's armed forces and for the sacrifices they have made to protect us and our freedoms. We ask You to watch over all who currently serve us in the military. Protect them from physical harm, give peace in Christ to all those who believe and bring to faith those who do not yet have faith in Jesus. We ask these things in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Blessing

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

People: Amen.

Closing Hymn: "God Bless America"

**God bless America,
Land that I love,
Stand beside her and guide her
Thru the night with a light from above;
From the mountains, to the prairies,
To the oceans white with foam,
God bless America,
My home, sweet home.
God bless America,
My home, sweet home.**

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ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of November 8, 2020

Grace Lutheran Church 1120 S. Park Ave. Aurora, MO

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pastor@gracelutheranaurora.com

**PRAY FOR: Abbi & Summer Gatewood
Immanuel, Lockwood Church**

Russ Moreland – (Peace and comfort on his passing to the family)

Kerry Powell – (Brother of Bernie Thomas – health and healing from MRSA)

Cody Priest – (Nephew of Dennis Doss – health and healing from a broken leg)

Don Blalack – (Brother-in-law of Gladys Bauer – health and healing)

Pastor Cliff Loman – (Health and healing from blood clots)

Michael Lampe – (Pastor's son – health and healing)

Vincent Lindstrom – (Joan Wolf's Dad – health and healing)

Mary Cantrell – (Sister of Edith Chambers – health and healing)

Tonya Janes – (Friend of Jennifer Lampe – health and healing from cancer)

Bob Painter – (Friend of David Lampe - Health and healing from surgery)

Brenda Winkle - (Friend of Heidi Costello - health and healing)

Samantha Kennedy - (Friend of Cheryl Lile – health and healing)

Corey Gregory - (Friend of Leah Henbest—health and healing)

Rick Knutson – (Friend of Grace - health and healing)

Milton Johnson – (Friend of David Lampe – health and healing)

Cindy Yang – (Friend of Kathy Holle - health and healing from cancer)

Kamryn Rockett – (Granddaughter of Jeeper Meyer - health and healing after a car accident)

Courtney Lynne Thurmon – (Daughter of Cindy Springer – peace and healing from cancer)

Helen Springer - (health and healing)

THIS WEEK

Sunday	November 8 th	Service ONLY – 10:00 am
Wednesday	November 11 th	Pastor in office Bible Study – 7:00 pm
Thursday	November 12 th	Pastor in office
Sunday	November 15 th	Service with Communion – 10:00 am

Birthdays: Lora Wright-02; Alexis Ehrhardt-03; Abbigayle Gatewood-05
Michael Lampe-06; Bill Michel-09

Anniversaries: Tom and Dawne Votra-03



Regrets, Reality, Restoration - Wednesday Night Bible-Study:

Who among us wouldn't like to *redo* or *undo* something from our past? Is there a way out beyond our backstory? In *Regrets, Reality, Restoration*, you will hear heartfelt stories from people who have experienced regret in deep and profound ways. See how, even in these individuals' most tormented moments, it was God's love in Christ Jesus that brought hope to despair and light to crack the darkness.

Plus One will be collecting non-perishable food for the Harvest Church community food pantry for the month of November. Please consider contributing and supporting this project. Check the church website for more information.

Grace Delegate for District Convention: Grace can send a Delegate and Alternate to the Missouri District convention in Columbia, MO, on June 13-15, 2021. If you have an interest, see Pastor or an Elder before November 22nd.

Grace Nominations for District positions: Grace can nominate a layperson for Board of Directors, Council on Mission and Ministry, and Committee on Nominations. If you have an interest, see Pastor or an Elder before November 22nd.

PASTOR: Pastor will continue to have time at the church. But the best way to contact him is by his cell phone which you can do at any time (417-366-3597). If he does not answer, please leave a message and he will return your call.

Men's long sleeve button-up dress shirts are being collected by Sue Doss for the Dress A Girl program. This is a campaign under Hope 4 Women International – a non-denominational independent Christian organization that has been making dresses since 2006. The chapter working here locally is Dress A Girl Southwest Missouri. You can learn more at the Dress A Girl Southwest Missouri Facebook page. If you have any shirts, please get them to Sue. They do not have to be new but they do need to be in good condition and clean.

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November

GREETERS

08– Charlie & Edee Chambers

15– Bill & Joanne Michel

22– Dale & Diane Smith

29– Bernie & Shari Smith

USHERS

08-David Lampe

15-Dennis Doss

22-Don Wolf

29–Charlie Chambers

COVID-19 Reminder:

After choir practice with one symptomatic person,
87% of group developed COVID-19



● Index case ● 32 confirmed and 20 probable cases ● unaffected person

COVID-19 spreads easily

- Avoid groups
- Stay at least 6 feet apart
- Wear face coverings

