

Pentecost 24, November 15, 2020, Order of Worship

Greeting In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Call to Worship, Psalm 90:1-4 Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. You turn people back to dust, saying, “Return to dust, O children of the earth.” For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night.

Hymn *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* (public domain) vv. 1,4 LBW 320, ELW 632

*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.*

*A thousand ages in your sight are like an evening gone,
Short as the watch that ends the night before the rising sun.*

Call to Worship, Psalm 90:5-8, 10, 12 You sweep us away in the sleep of death; we are like the new grass of the morning—though in the morning it springs up new, by evening it is dry and withered. We are consumed by your anger and terrified by your indignation. You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your presence. . . . The length of our days is seventy years—or eighty, if we have the strength; yet their span is but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away. . . . Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Hymn *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* (public domain) vv. 5,6 LBW 320, ELW 632

*Time, like an ever-rolling stream, soon bears us all away;
We fly forgotten, as a dream dies at the opening day.*

*O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come,
Still be our guard while troubles last and our eternal home!*

Confession and Forgiveness P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God:

C: Holy One, we confess that we are not awake to your presence, not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings and do not see your image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

P: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them so that, as we accept the wonder of your gifts of abundance, we may give thanks for your rich bounty and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. **Amen.** (from *Sundays & Seasons*, 2019 Augsburg Fortress)

Opening Hymn *O Zion, Haste* (public domain)

LBW 397, ELW 668

*O Zion, haste, your mission high fulfilling, to tell to all the world that God is light;
That he who made all nations is not willing one soul should perish, lost in shades of night.*

Refrain: *Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace, tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release.*

*Publish to every people, tongue, and nation that God, in whom they live and move, is love;
Tell how he stooped to save his lost creation and died on earth that we might live above.*

Refrain: *Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace, tidings of Jesus, redemption, and release.*

The Kyrie In peace, let us pray to the Lord. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord. For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. For all these things we pray: Lord, have mercy. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day Righteous God, 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.**

A reading from Zephaniah, the first chapter (1:7, 12-18) Note: Like Amos in last week's reading, Zephaniah presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath.

Be silent before the Sovereign Lord, for the day of the Lord is near. The Lord has prepared a sacrifice; he has consecrated those he has invited. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps and punish those who are complacent, who are like wine left on its dregs, who think, "The Lord will do nothing, either good or bad." Their wealth will be plundered, their houses demolished. They will build houses but not live in them; they will plant vineyards but not drink the wine. The great day of the Lord is near—near and coming quickly.

Listen! The cry on the day of the Lord will be bitter, the shouting of the warrior there. That day will be a day of wrath, of distress and anguish, trouble and ruin, darkness and gloom, clouds and blackness, trumpet and battle cry against the fortified cities. I will bring distress on the people and they will walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord. Their blood will be poured out like dust. Their silver, their gold will not be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath. In the fire of his jealousy the whole world will be consumed, for he will make a sudden end of all who live in the earth. Word of God, word of life.

Alleluia *Alleluia! Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia!*

The holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter (25:14-30), Sermon (page 4)

Hymn of the Day

O Christ the Same (CCLI 706169)

With One Voice, 778

The tune is the Irish song *Danny Boy*

***O Christ the same, through all our story's pages, our loves and hope, our failures and our fears,
Eternal Lord, the king of all the ages, unchanging still amid the passing years:
O living Word, the source of all creation, who spread the skies and set the stars ablaze;
O Christ the same, who wrought our whole salvation, we bring our thanks for all our yesterdays.***

***O Christ the same, the friend of sinners, sharing our inmost thoughts, the secrets none can hide;
Still as of old upon your body bearing the marks of love in triumph glorified:
O Son of Man, who stooped for us from heaven, O Prince of life, in all your saving power;
O Christ the same, to whom our hearts are given: we bring our thanks for this the present hour.***

***O Christ the same, secure within whose keeping our lives and loves, our days and years remain;
Our work and rest, our waking and our sleeping, our calm and storm, our pleasure and our pain:
O Lord of love, for all our joys and sorrows, for all our hopes when earth shall fade and flee;
O Christ the same, beyond our brief tomorrows, we bring our thanks for all that is to be.***

The Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 (from *Sundays and Seasons*, ELCA worship guide)

Longing 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.

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 refine us to participate in your activity throughout the world. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of creation, we stand in awe at the works of your hands and praise you for the beauty of nature. Bless the earth for your glory and restore its integrity where exploitation has caused ruin. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the nations, sound forth your justice in the ears of all leaders. Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable, especially as international leaders forge trade agreements and seek cooperation to end human rights abuses. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. As the whole earth continues to suffer under the relentless coronavirus, may all people everywhere be moved to participate in behaviors that will help to lessen the spread of this dread disease. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the stranger, stir up in us holy restlessness to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control, and open us to learn from the perspectives of others. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the living and of the dead, we give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors. Rouse us to live by their example, so that saints yet to come may also know your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, who taught us to pray, **Our Father . . .**

Closing Hymn

Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus (public domain)

LBW 389

***Stand up, stand up for Jesus, as followers of the cross,
lift high his royal banner; it must not suffer loss.
From victory unto victory his faithful he shall lead,
Till every foe is vanquished and Christ is Lord indeed.***

***Stand up, stand up for Jesus; the trumpet call obey;
Stand forth in mighty conflict in this his glorious day.
Let all his faithful serve him against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger, and strength to strength oppose.***

***Stand up, stand up for Jesus, the strife will not be long;
This day the din of discord, the next the victor's song.
And Christians, overcoming, their crown of life shall see,
And with the King of glory shall reign eternally.***

Benediction: 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. Amen.