

*23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost*  
*November 8, 2020*  
*Worship Leader: Rev. Lawrence Lee*

**A TIME FOR REFLECTION**

**THE GATHERING**

**GREETING AND WORSHIP NOTES**

**OPENING SENTENCES**

Take away the noise of your songs;  
**God will not listen to the melody of your harps.**  
But let justice roll down like waters,  
**and righteousness like an everflowing stream.**

**PROCLAMATION OF OUR MISSION STATEMENT**

Before God and one another, let us proclaim the mission of our congregation.  
**Our mission is to glorify God by being a harbor welcoming all people and a lighthouse guiding all toward the love and compassion of Jesus Christ.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE:**       “O God of Every Nation”   # 756

*O God of every nation, of every race and land,  
redeem the whole creation with your almighty hand.  
Where hate and fear divide us and bitter threats are hurled,  
in love and mercy guide us and heal our strifetorn world..*

*From search for wealth and power and scorn of truth and right,  
from trust in bombs that shower destruction through the night,  
from pride of race and station and blindness to your way,  
deliver every nation, eternal God, we pray.*

*Lord, strengthen those who labor that all may find release  
from fear of rattling saber, from dread of war's increase;  
when hope and courage falter, your still small voice be heard;  
with faith that none can alter, your servants undergird.*

*Keep bright in us the vision of days when war shall cease,  
when hatred and division give way to love and peace,  
till dawns the morning glorious when truth and justice reign  
and Christ shall rule victorious o'er all the world's domain.*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, your blessed Son came into the world that he might destroy the works of evil and make us children of God and heirs of eternal life. Grant that, having this hope, we may purify ourselves as he is pure; that, when he comes again with power and great glory, we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

**GLORIA:** “Glory to God” # 581

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.*

### **CALL TO CONFESSION**

When we pass through deep waters or go through times of fiery trial, the Lord our God is with us. With confidence in God, our creator and redeemer, let us confess our sin.

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**O Lord our God, you call us to work for a world where all will be fed and have dignity, but we find ourselves distracted by our own desires. You call us to seek justice and peace, but we are satisfied with injustice and discord. You call us to bring liberty to the oppressed, but we do not insist on freedom for all. Forgive us, O Lord. Turn us to your will by the power of your Spirit, so that all may know your justice and peace; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Savior.**

*Silent Confession*

### **ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Do not fear, says the Lord, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine. God is doing a new thing; now it springs forth! By the grace of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PROCLAIMING GOD’S WORD**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Pour out your Holy Spirit, O God, and prepare our hearts to accept your word. Silence in us any voice but your own, that, hearing, we may also obey your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Preface

The wisdom of God for all people, the call of God to all who live.

Hear the word of the Lord.

**FIRST READING:** Amos 5:18-24

Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

**PSALTER:**

Psalm 70

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O Lord, make haste to help me!

**Let those be put to shame and confusion who seek my life.**

Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire to hurt me.

**Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!" turn back because of their shame.**

Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you.

**Let those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"**

But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God!

**You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay!**

**SECOND READING:**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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

Here ends the reading.

Response:

Happy are those who delight in God's word. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL READING:**

Matthew 25:1-13

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

"No Exceptions to Justice"

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Apostles' Creed

p. 35

Let us confess the faith of our Baptism.

**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 Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he de-**

scended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**HYMN:** "For Everyone Born" # 769

*For everyone born, a place at the table, for everyone born, clean water and bread,  
a shelter, a space, a safe place for growing, for everyone born, a star overhead,*

*Refrain:*

*and God will delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion and peace:  
yes, God will delight when we are creators of justice, justice and joy!*

*For woman and man, a place at the table, revising the roles, deciding the share,  
with wisdom and grace, dividing the power, for woman an man, a system that's fair,  
Refrain*

*For young and for old, a place at the table, a voice to be heard, a part in the song,  
the hands of a child in hands that are wrinkled, for young and for old, the right to belong,  
Refrain*

*For just and unjust, a place at the table, abuser, abused, with need to forgive,  
in anger, in hurt, a mindset of mercy, for just and unjust, a new way to live,  
Refrain*

*For everyone born, a place at the table, to live without fear, and simply to be,  
to work to speak out, to witness and worship, for everyone born, the right to be free,  
Refrain*

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Loving God, you cause rain to fall on the just and the unjust. Hear our prayers for your church and world:

for the hungry and the overfed,

**may we have enough;**

for the mourners and the mockers,

**may we laugh together;**

for the victims and the oppressors,

**may we share power wisely;**

for the peacemakers and the warmongers,

**may clear truth and stern love lead us to harmony;**

for the silenced and the propagandists,

**may we speak our own words in truth;**

for the unemployed and the overworked,

**may our mark on this earth be kindly and creative;**

for the troubled and the secure,  
**may we live together as wounded healers;**  
for the homeless and the pampered,  
**may our homes be simple, warm, and welcoming;**  
for the vibrant and the dying,  
**may we all die to sin and live to love.**

We pray for our elected officials: Donald, our president; Rick, Red Cliff tribal chair; Tony, our governor; and Gordon, our mayor.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In our presbytery cycle of prayer we pray for the many congregations in our presbytery that currently have no pastoral leadership in that they are either vacant or are utilizing pulpit supply:

Woodland Presbyterian Church of Babbitt, MN  
First Presbyterian Church of Bigfork, MN  
Bowstring Chapel of Bigfork, MN  
River's Edge Church of Carlton, MN  
First Presbyterian Church of Chippewa Falls, WI  
First United Church of Coleraine, MN  
First Presbyterian Church of Duluth, MN  
North Presbyterian Church of Eau Claire, WI  
Trinity Episcopal/Presbyterian Church of Park Rapids, MN  
First United Presbyterian Church of Willow River, MN  
First Presbyterian Church of Winter, WI.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

In our prayers for our congregation and our community we pray for those on our prayer list: Connie, Ed, Tim, Mary Ellen, Matt, Del, Pat, Taylor, Miriam, Libby, Eva, Brigit, Helen, David, Barb, Janet, and the family of Wendy MacArthur.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Let us lift up our individual prayers of thanksgiving and intercession.

God of mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Hear our prayers, God of grace, and help us to fulfill them, working according to your purpose, in peace, justice, and mercy, in all we do; through Jesus Christ the Lord. **Amen.**

## **OFFERING**

**DOXOLOGY:** "Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow" # 606  
*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below;  
praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.*

## **PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Eternal God, creator of the world and giver of all good, we thank you for the earth, our home, and for the gift of life. We praise you for your love in Jesus Christ, who came to heal this broken world, who died rejected on the cross, and rose triumphant from the dead. Because he lives, we live to praise you, our God forever.

**Gracious God, who called us from death to life, we give ourselves to you; and with the church through all ages, we thank you for your saving love in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**THE LORD'S PRAYER** p. 35

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**THE SENDING**

**CLOSING HYMN:** "Today We All Are Called to Be Disciples" # 757

*Today we all are called to be disciples of the Lord,  
to help to set the captive free, make plowshare out of sword,  
to feed the hungry, quench their thirst, make love and peace our fast,  
to serve the poor and homeless first, our ease and comfort last.*

*God made the world and at its birth ordained our human race  
to live as stewards of the earth, responding to God's grace.  
But we are vain and sadly proud; we sow not peace but strife.  
Our discord spreads a deadly cloud that threatens all of life.*

*Pray justice may come rolling down as in a mighty stream,  
with righteousness in field and town to cleanse us and redeem.  
For God is longing to restore an earth where conflicts cease,  
a world that was created for a harmony of peace.*

*May we in service to our God act out the living word,  
and walk the road the saints have trod till all have seen and heard.  
As stewards of the earth may we give thanks in one accord  
to God who calls us all to be disciples of the Lord.*

**BLESSING AND CHARGE**

## *Announcements*



12<sup>th</sup> - Wyatt Hoopman

13<sup>th</sup> - Alyssa Hauser

Congratulations to our confirmands: Mardea LaPointe, Philip LaPointe, and Wyatt Hoopman who were confirmed last Monday.

Pastor Lawrence is leading a 10 week ecumenical book study this fall on "Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi" by Amy-Jill Levine. The group meets on Mondays at 1 p.m. All are invited. November 16 will be our last meeting. Join us on this journey through the Jewish roots of Jesus' parables!

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

**Meeting ID: 872 8892 6221**

**Passcode: 675278**

**Join in by phone:**

**+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)**

**Please continue to pray for these members of our church family and friends.**

Connie Nichols, Ed Flitz, Tim Smith, Mary Ellen Tippet, Matt Allen, Delphina Souza, Pat Olson, Taylor Brooks, Miriam Hof, Brigit Reynhout, Helen Heaton, Janet Hunt, David Thorud, Barb Murphy, the family of Wendy MacArthur.

Please continue to pray for our presbytery. This week we're praying for the many congregations in our presbytery that currently have no pastoral leadership in that they are either vacant or are utilizing pulpit supply:

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First Presbyterian Church of Duluth, MN  
North Presbyterian Church of Eau Claire, WI  
Trinity Episcopal/Presbyterian Church of Park Rapids, MN  
First United Presbyterian Church of Willow River, MN  
First Presbyterian Church of Winter, WI.

Copies of "**These Days**" for October through December are available in the office. Call or email Nancy and she will mail you one or stop by the office and pick one up.