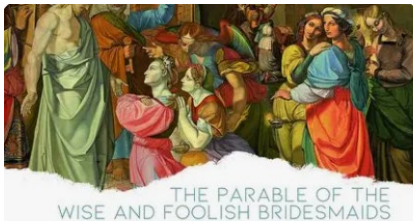
THE TWENTYFOURTH SUNDAY OF PENTECOST
November 8th, 2026 – 9:30 AM

WELCOME



Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the Lamb.

- ✞ Officiant & Preacher – The Reverend Bill Gaskill
- ✞ Liturgists – Jean Birdsall & Gayle Regan

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our dwelling place for all generations, whose compassion never slumbers. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God, **we confess that we have trusted in our preparation instead of your invitation. We prioritize our piety over care for your beloved. We trust the voice of our shame and fear, which keeps us from entering fully into relationship with you and others. We are not awake to the coming of your reign. Rouse us and rescue us, that we may enter into your joy. Amen.**

Inherit the riches of God's grace. ☩ Jesus, the good shepherd, feeds you with his mercy. You are forgiven. Blessed are you. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: ELW#705 - God of Grace and God of Glory (Verses 1, 2 & 4)

Prayer of the Day - O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GOD'S HOLY WORD

FIRST READING: Joshua 24: 14 - 25



14 "Now, therefore, revere the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in
faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River
and in Egypt and serve the Lord. 15 Now if you are unwilling to serve the Lord,
choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served
in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you
are living, but as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

16 Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other
gods, 17 for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt,
out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along
all the way that we went and among all the peoples through whom we passed, 18 and the Lord
drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will
serve the Lord, for he is our God."

19 But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a
jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins.

[20] If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good." [21] And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the Lord!" [22] Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the Lord, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." [23] He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel." [24] The people said to Joshua, "The Lord our God we will serve, and him we will obey." [25] So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem

The Word of the Lord…**Thanks be to God!**

Psalm 70

[1] Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O LORD, make haste to help me.



[2] **Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**

[3] Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.

[4] **Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great is the LORD!"**

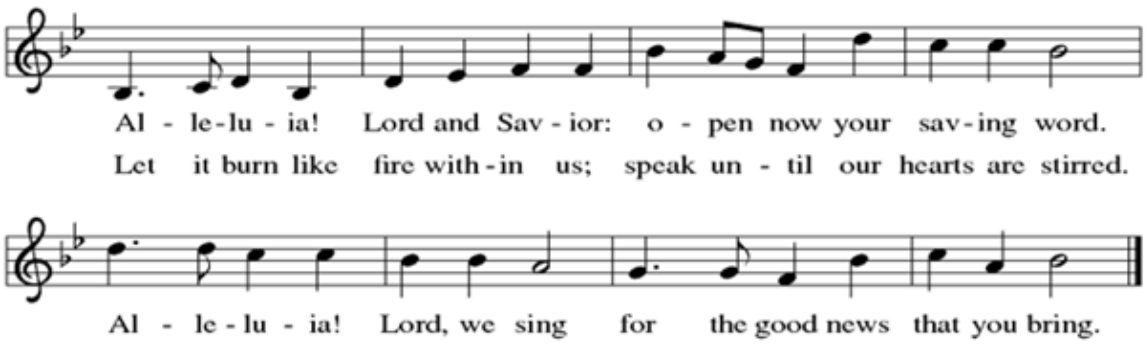
[5] But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

SECOND READING: I Thessalonians 4:13--18

[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.

The Word of the Lord…**Thanks be to God!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Matthew 25: 1 - 13; **Glory to You, O Lord!**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten young
women took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and
five were wise. 3 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, all of them became
drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come
out to meet him.' 7 Then all those young women got up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish
said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9 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.' 10 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. 11 Later the other
young women came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12 But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I
do not know you.' 13 Keep awake, therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord…**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

SERMON – Don't Miss Out

The Reverend Bill Gaskill

HYMN: ELW#244 - Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

✞ *We recognize all joining us virtually and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests.*

United with the great cloud of witnesses, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

You illumine the church with the hope of your new day. Prepare our hearts and minds for the inbreaking of your kingdom, that we might awaken to your transforming love at work all around us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You create and sustain the earth's natural rhythms so that all life might thrive. Show us the wisdom and wonder of nature's balance; make us careful stewards of our common home. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You make justice roll down in all places and among all nations. Encourage all who protect vulnerable communities and help rebuild in the aftermath of conflict. Uphold veterans and those who care for them. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You hasten to heal our wounds and make whole what is broken. Comfort individuals facing a difficult diagnosis, receiving palliative care, or facing uncertain treatment options. Grace those from our families and community that we now name silently in our hearts, or out loud, with our prayers and your blessings. *(Please name silently or out loud)*.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You give rest to weary hearts and bodies. As the days grow shorter in the north, help us to move more slowly and intentionally through our days, honoring the need for quiet and stillness. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guide us in our search for a shepherd to lead Zion with humility, love, and grace. Lord, bless our search process, our call committee and open doors to reveal the right candidate to us. God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

You welcome those who have come before us in faith into the joys of heaven. Sustain us by your grace and guide us into the promise of everlasting life.
God, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your steadfast love, faithful God, we entrust all for whom we pray, in the name of Jesus, your beloved. **Amen.**

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

Almighty God, As we come before you with our offerings, we are reminded of our constant need for you in our lives. You are our provider, our sustainer, and our strength. Without you, we are nothing. May these gifts be a symbol of our dependence on you, acknowledging that all we have comes from your hand. Help us to rely on you more fully in every aspect of our lives, trusting in your unfailing love and care. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never be hungry. And whoever believes in me will never be thirsty."

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled.

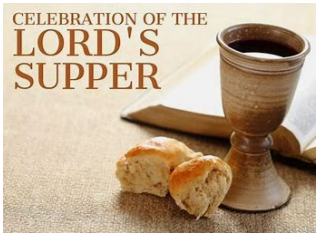
Let us pray. Holy God, you made the world to hum in harmony; you listened and called it good. In time, we humans broke off from singing the song and went our own way, but you called us back and when the time was right, you came in flesh and blood to live as one of us.

By your Spirit, make us one. By your Spirit, make us whole. By your Spirit, make this bread and wine your body and blood, that we may know communion with you and with each other. Take our hearts, our lives, our hands; mold us, change us, and send us out, that we may be your body in the world you so love.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest who taught us to pray

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.

On the night he was betrayed, our Lord took bread, and after giving thanks he broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.



In the same manner also he took the cup, blessed it and said," This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink this cup, do it in remembrance of me."

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven. The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. The gifts of God for the people of God. May we partake with thanks.

Invitation to Communion – In bread and cup the reign of Christ is breaking in. Come, receive what Christ has prepared.

OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

Closing Prayer - Holy God, we have received your never-ending mercy in this meal. You continuously seek the lost, bind the injured, and feed your people abundantly. Now send us out, awake to your presence, now and forever. **Amen.**

Blessing - The holy Trinity, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you with wisdom to welcome the reign of God, today and always. **Amen.**

***CLOSING HYMN*: ELW#669 - Rise Up, O Saints of God (Verses 1, 2 & 5)**

Dismissal: Go in peace. Encourage one another. **Thanks be to God.**

Notes:

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