

# *Salem Lutheran Church*

115 N. Washington Ave., Albert Lea

## *24th Sunday of Pentecost*

*November 12, 2023*

*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.*

*\*Congregation: please stand. If standing is difficult for you, please feel free to remain seated.*

## *Gathering*

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### **Prelude**

### **Announcements**

### **\*Confession and Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved.

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One,  
**we confess that we are not awake for you.**  
**We are not faithful in using your gifts.**  
**We forget the least of our siblings.**  
**We do not see your beautiful 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.**

Beloved, we are God's children,

and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us.  
Through † Jesus you are forgiven,  
by Jesus you are welcome,  
in Jesus you are called to rejoice!  
Let us live in the promises prepared for us  
from the foundation of the world.  
**Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

#244

**\*Greeting**

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

**\*Canticle of Praise**

“Worthy is Christ”

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**\*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.**

## **Word**

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

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

*In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great  
victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is  
no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.*

<sup>18</sup>Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

<sup>19</sup>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.

<sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

<sup>21</sup>I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup>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.

<sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

<sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 70**

*You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry. (Ps. 70:5)*

<sup>1</sup>Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;

O LORD, make | haste to help me.

<sup>2</sup>**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. R**

<sup>3</sup>Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat | over me  
turn back because | of their shame.

<sup>4</sup>**Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;  
let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great | is the LORD!"**

<sup>5</sup>But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quick- | ly, O God.

You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, | do not tarry. **R**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

*Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.*

<sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **\*GOSPEL READING: Matthew 25:1-13**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>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.’ <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

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

**SERMON**

**Pastor Mark Boorsma**

**\*HYMN**

Christ, Be Our Light

#715

**\*APOSTLE'S 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**

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

O God for whom we wait, come quickly to your people, bring your salvation, and center us in hope found only in you. Deepen our faith through meaningful worship and send us out with your justice and truth.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we watch, we glimpse your power in rushing water and your beauty in the darkening night. Restore this creation, and provide clean water to all people and animals. Save us from foolish, wasteful living.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we long, let justice roll down like waters on all nations. Bless citizens with wise leaders; save your children from war. We pray for the veterans of this community, that they are supported and loved.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God, in whom we hope, we pray for all who are in need. Provide for those who experience homelessness or hunger, illness, support the under- or unemployed, and comfort any who are suffering this day especially Leland, Woody, Larry, Shirley, Marianne, Tom, Dean and all others on our hearts and minds this day.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God for whom we listen, inspire the music ministry of our congregation. Fill our worship with songs to proclaim your greatness. Help us to sing and dance with joy and tell boldly of your salvation.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God, in whom we remain, we remember our loved ones who have died and now live in you. Bring comfort and the assurance of new life to all who grieve.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

# *Thanksgiving*

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## **OFFERING**

*We very much appreciate your continued giving and generosity at this time.*

*Offering can be placed in the offering plate at the door.*

## **OFFERTORY**

Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

#184

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

## **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.**

# *Sending*

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **\*Blessing**

May the God of all creation,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved,

who strengthens us for service,  
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!  
The blessing of God,  
Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit,  
be with you today and always.  
**Amen.**

**\*HYMN**

Thine the Amen

#826

**\*DISMISSAL**

Beloved of God,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

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**Assisting in Worship**

Worship Assistant: Larry T. Lahs Jr.  
Ushers: Larry & Mary Lahs  
Coffee: Cynthia Nelson & Deb Stolarcek

**Thank you** to Jan Reshetar for the beautiful organ music this morning.

**The flowers** near the altar are given by Kent & Vicki Reichl in memory of our parents.

**This Week at Salem**

Tuesday, November 14th: 8:30 a.m. Sew 'N Tell  
9:00 a.m. Staff Meeting  
9:30 a.m. Constitution Committee Meeting  
Thursday, November 16th: 2:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m. Women's Bible Study  
4:30 p.m. Worship & Music Committee Meeting  
Friday, November 17th: 6:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study  
Sunday, November 19th: 9:00 a.m. Coffee Hour  
10:00 a.m. Worship Service

**Today is Commitment Sunday.** Thank you for your generous support of Salem Lutheran Church in 2023 and going forward into 2024.

**Thanksgiving Eve Service:** Please join us on Wednesday, Nov. 22 at 5:30 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church to lift our thanks as a community. Gifts to the local food shelves would be welcomed.

**SOS (Salem Over Sixty) Christmas Party** is scheduled for Thursday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. Dessert and coffee will be furnished. Please bring a dish to pass and a \$5 wrapped gift. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to attend. Sign up sheet is in the Gathering Space.