



St. John's Lutheran Church, ELCA

"A Legacy of Worship and Outreach in San Antonio since 1857"

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32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

November 8, 2020

Welcome! This week, the Prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Saint Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. And our Lord Jesus tells a parable of wise and foolish bridesmaids. As we gather around both Word and Sacrament, the Holy Spirit enables us to carry the presence and promise of Christ from our worship out into the rest of the world all throughout the week.



Prelude

***Be Thou My Vision* by Paul Manz**

Bells

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

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 us from our community.
Open our hearts to your coming,
open our eyes to see you in our neighbor,
open our hands to serve you in all things. Amen.**

Sisters and Brothers, we are God's children,
and Jesus, our Bridegroom, opens the door to us.

Through † Christ you are forgiven,
by Christ you are welcomed,
in Christ you are called to rejoice!

Let us live in the promises prepared for us
from the foundation of the world.

Amen.

Choir

Gather Us In

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.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

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.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

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.**

First Reading

Amos 5:18-24

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

¹⁹as 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.

²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even 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.

²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

1st Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³We 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. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For 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.

¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷Then 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. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

The Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

The good news of Jesus Christ according to St. Matthew:
Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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

Sermon

Pastor James Dew

Anthem

Psalm 70

Apostles' Creed

With the whole Church in heaven and on earth, we confess our faith:

**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

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the Church, the world, and for all people according to their needs:

Holy God, we pray for your people, the Church, gathered here and elsewhere, that we may be the very instruments of your own grace and love, which frees and empowers the lives of all whose lives are touched by our own. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray, Lord God, for the wisdom to know our real need for you, that through our own practice of daily prayer, and worship, and placing ourselves into your hands, we may gain, in you, a new and quiet strength. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gentle God, we pray for the grace to let go, that we may learn to surrender to you those things in our lives that actually rob us of life, and to make room for the many other opportunities you offer us. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray, O Lord, for new pathways of peace to open up in places of conflict in our world, that you will touch hearts, open minds, and heal past wounds, so that all may live without fear, and gain the essentials they need for their families. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Father God, we pray for all who find themselves in hard situations, for those who struggle, and for all who also feel forgotten. We lift our prayers for those who seek your strength, including *Bob Cauble, Ralph Detwiler, Claudine Michalek, Frances Franz, Alwen Schaefer, Bill Brewer, Lee Iredale, Mary Jane Schessenhagen, Beth Knox, Paul and Gloria Boenisch, Jeff and Lori Sackett, Kenny and Cheri Knippa, Kim Friesenhahn, Chris Gates, Paul Mason, Dean Olson, Ron Olson, Viola Caraway*, and all whom we name in our hearts, that they may experience for themselves your gifts of healing and wholeness and peace. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your good hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom and which we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

(Please verbally greet those nearest you these or similar words: "Peace be with you.")



Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, Mighty, and Merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
In great love for us and for all your creation, you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who took upon himself our own flesh and blood, who showed us your face,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

For on the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this, as often as you drink of it, for the remembrance of me.

We proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ has risen. Christ will come again.

Send your Spirit, O God, upon these gifts of bread and wine,
that they become for your people the Body and Blood of Christ.
Send your Spirit also into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in this holy meal.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Remember us, Lord, in your kingdom, and help 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.**

Holy Communion

We believe that Christ is truly present in the consecrated bread and wine and we welcome all who wish to receive the Holy Sacrament. During this time of pandemic, individual servings of the Eucharist are being offered in the pews at the direction of the Pastor.

Communion Prayer

Lord Jesus,
in this simple meal you have set for us a banquet.
Sustain us on the journey,
strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children,
and give us glad and generous hearts
as we meet you on the way.
Amen.

Benediction

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you, protect you, and bring you to everlasting life. **Amen.**

Choir

Let Justice Flow like Streams

Dismissal

Go in peace to serve both God and neighbor.
In the Name of Christ. Amen.

Postlude

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing by Paul Manz

Worship is central to who we are as a people of God. Every time we gather to hear and respond to the Word, to offer up our prayers for the needs of many, and to receive Christ's living presence in the consecrated bread and wine, we seek to "become what we receive," namely, the Body of Christ for the sake of the life of the world. As we are gathered, fed, and then sent back out in mission, God empowers us to be bearers of blessing and vessels of grace, commissioning us to intentionally live out the reign of God throughout the course of our weekly living.

This Week at St. John's

Today, November 8 @ 8:30am	Pastor's Class
Today, November 8 @ 10:00am	Worship
Wednesday, November 11 @ 12:15pm	Word, Silence, and Prayer - Online (https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88391766882)

*Please see our online calendar at www.stjohnssa.org for other events.
For prayer requests, please contact the church office
(210) 223-2611 or info@StJohnsSA.org*

Announcements

Project Pack-a-Lunch is serving the community by distributing 1,200 lunches a week, and they need help! (Operation Sandwich is now complete!) Refer to the list below to see how you can contribute by making a lunch. Drop off pre-made lunches on November 17, and for more information about this ministry, please contact Bea Imken at 210-878-7874.

- *Brown Bag size #8*
- *Something Salty (i.e., chips or crackers)*
- *Something Sweet (i.e., honey bun, cookies)*
- *Something Extra (i.e., granola bar, candy)*
- *You are welcome to write a word of encouragement on the bag!*

Annual Cookie Walk is cancelled this year. We look forward to this annual tradition being held next year.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

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