

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.

**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**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

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

**Amen.**

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.**

**Gathering Hymn**

**“Christ, Be Our Light”**

**#715**

**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.**

**Reading from Amos 5:18-24**

<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.**

**Children's Message**

**Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew 25:1-13**

[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**

People of God, grace to you and peace from God, and from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. AMEN.

What in the world was that? This one of the more confusing stories Jesus ever tells. Truly a headscratcher.

The more and more we hear of Jesus' parables, the more we bring into question Jesus' ability to tell a story. He is a great preacher, but his story telling is subpar at best.

And I think he knows it. Thankfully, because he knows it, there are clues as to what he actually wants us to hear and know about what he has to say.

First, it begins with the "the Kingdom of Heaven will be like." 9/10 parables that Jesus tells start like this. This is our first clue that the story he tells is a parable. Now, what do we know of Jesus' parables?

The collective understanding is not a universally accepted stance but it is getting there, is that Jesus' parables were stories He told to illustrate a point, and not actually stories that happened. And often times, when he gets done telling a parable, he will say or it will elude to the fact that the crowd didn't understand what he was talking about. So, he will say what it is that he wanted them to hear. And that is the case here. "Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

Preceding this story in Matthew's Gospel is talk of the end times. Jesus quotes scripture telling the crowd what it will look like when the end times arrive, and uses this story (poorly told) to illustrate the importance of being ready when it does.

Knowing this, then, we are able to ask the question that Lutherans ought be good at asking, "what does this mean?"

What does it mean for us as people of faith that Jesus calls us to be prepared for we do not know when the end times will come?

Jesus in his story likens this to a wedding banquet. Half of the group wasn't prepared with oil for their lamps, and the other half was. When it came time to get to the banquet they needed to seek out new oil, while those who were prepared got to go in.

This confronts a little bit our understanding of a God who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. THAT God we wouldn't expect to close the banquet doors in our face. But that God does call us to be prepared.

What then does it look like for us as people of faith to have our act together in order to not be among those who don't get in?

Well, what do we know of God's desire for us? That we would be good, healthy, life-giving relationships with one another. At the root of a good, healthy, life-giving relationship is reconciliation. We are reconciled to Christ and in that are called to be reconciled to one another. And, in doing so we are reconciled to Christ.

This tackles perhaps one of the most difficult tasks as a person of faith...Forgiveness.

It is equally, if not more, difficult to ask forgiveness as it is to offer it. But, that is what Christ calls us to do. And, he tells us not to hold onto it. Don't wait. Don't put it off.

But, get your act together and get to it.

Our other reading for this day from Amos paints a picture of what God's idea of this might just be.

The prophet Amos speaks to those who desire the day of the Lord. Today, Amos might speak to those who declare that the end times are upon us.

But Amos questions those who desire this, and why exactly it is that they want the day of the Lord to come.

Taking that even further Amos declares "I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies." And he goes further to tell them just how much he, a prophet, dislikes the things they do because they think they need to do them.

And, like Jesus, he wraps it up by telling them what it is that God does care about, what it is that God WOULD want them to give attention to.

"But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness ever-flowing stream."

It is God's desire for us to reconcile our relationships to one another, and in doing so reconcile what is broken in the world. Fight for justice and righteousness. Stand up to unjust systems that don't benefit all, and in that we will find that the oil in our lamp is always full.

People of God it isn't easy work. It never is. But it continues to be the work that God in Jesus Christ, speaking to us through the prophets calls us to do.

Perhaps the end times are upon us. Then what? What then do we need to tend to to be prepared?

Thanks be to God. AMEN

**Song of the Day**

**"Soon and Very Soon"**

**#439**

**Apostle's Creed**

**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, support the under- or unemployed, and comfort any who are suffering this day (*We pray especially for Peyton, Matt, David, Verna, Irene, Clarice, Steve, Kathy, Val, Jacob, Cherri, Keith and JoJo, Bob and Joanne, Frank and Heather, Bob and Sonja, Bill and Betty, Tom and Kay, Sherm and Mary, family of Bill Kuehn*). 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 (*especially*). 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.**

**Offering**

**Offertory Prayer**

God of all goodness,  
generations have turned to you,  
gathered around your table,  
and shared your abundant blessings.  
Number us among them  
that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance,  
and give thanks for your rich blessings,  
we may feast upon your very self  
and care for all that you have made,  
through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

**Amen.**

**Words of Institution**

**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**

**Communion**

**#471 & #466**

## Prayer

Lord Jesus,  
in this simple meal you have set 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.**

## Dismissal

Beloved of God,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Okay! We will! Thanks be to God!**  
And all of Good Shepherd said...  
**AMEN!**

## Sending Song

“Blessed Assurance”

#638 vs. 1,3

## 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.**

# November Financial Snapshot

## Your Generosity in Action:

Our Confirmation students spent their November service Wednesday with the quilters. Hear more about our quilting ministry and other outreach ministries THIS Sunday.



THANK YOU!!

Through November 8

Total Revenue **\$7,273**

3 More Sunday Offerings

Total Expenses **\$6,143**

November 2022: \$17,903

Difference to date:  
**\$1,130**

**Our prayers and sympathy to the family of Bill Kuehn. His service will be here at the church on Wednesday, Nov. 15 at 11 a.m.**

**If you would like to have flowers on the altar, please talk to DeAnne in the office.**

**Don't forget to turn in the form to order a poinsettia for the sanctuary for Christmas. Cost is \$13 and should accompany the form when you turn it in. SUNDAY IS THE FINAL DAY.**

**Chippewa Valley Concert Band Concert**

Sunday, Nov. 12, 2 p.m. at the Eau Claire Masonic Center Auditorium

This is a free concert – honoring our veterans along with other music.

**Stand in the Light Memory Choir Fall Concert “Love Wins!”**

Dress Rehearsal Nov. 16 at 10 a.m. is open to the public, Evening

Concert is at 6:30 p.m.

**Thanksgiving Worship**

Join us at St. James the Greater Catholic Church on Tuesday, Nov. 21 at 6:30 p.m. Please bring a non-perishable food item for the food pantry. Hospitality will follow the service.

**Outreach is sponsoring a Diaper Drive Nov. 26-Dec. 10** for Shepherd's Closet to refill their cabinets for the upcoming months. Help us help them as they open their doors to community members.