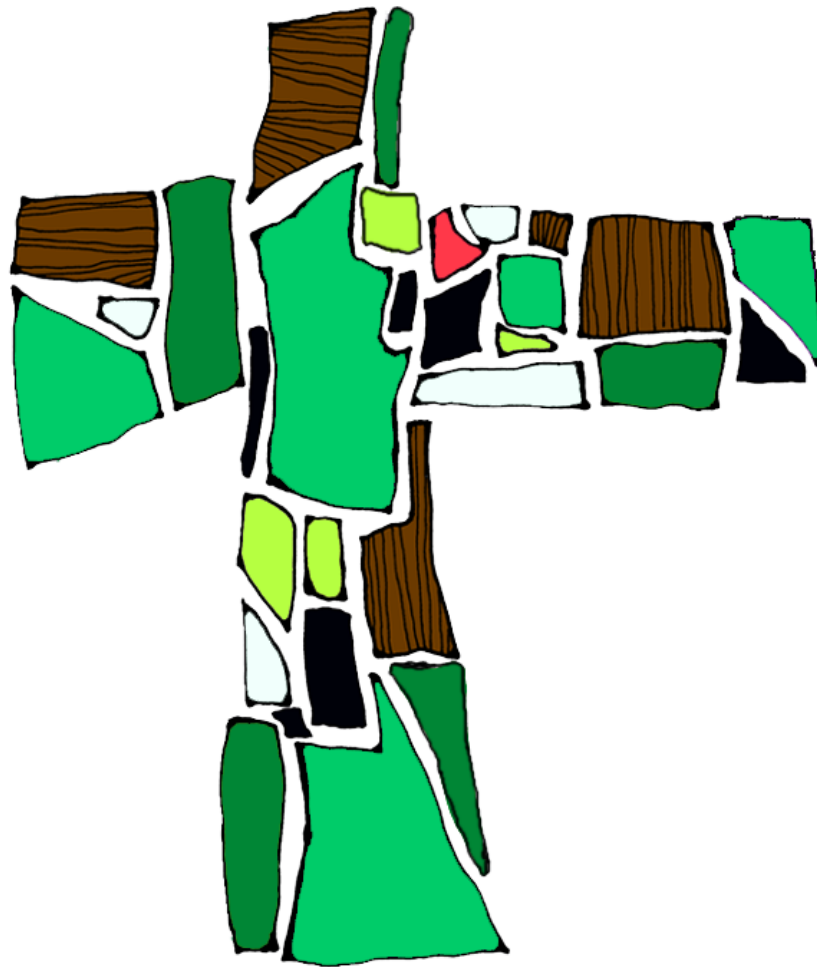


# The Twenty-Third Sunday After Pentecost

November 8, 2020, 9:00 am

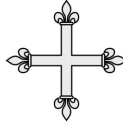


Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

[www.saintluke.us](http://www.saintluke.us) | 301-588-4363

*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.*



## Gathering

### Prelude

Song on “Thaxted”

David Blackwell (b. 1961)

### Welcome

### Confession and Forgiveness

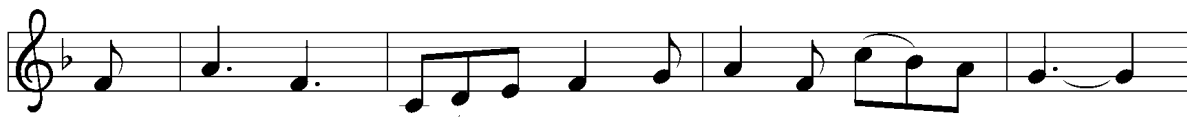
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
in whose image we are made,  
who claims us and calls us beloved.

**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 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.**



1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;  
 2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;  
 3 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou-sand sa - cred sweets  
 4 Then let our songs a-bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry;



join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with  
 but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren of the  
 be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore we reach the  
 we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Im -



sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur-round the throne.  
 heav'n-ly King may tell their joys a-broad, may tell their joys a - broad.  
 heav'n-ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets.  
 man-uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.

*Refrain*



We're march - ing to Zi - on, beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on:



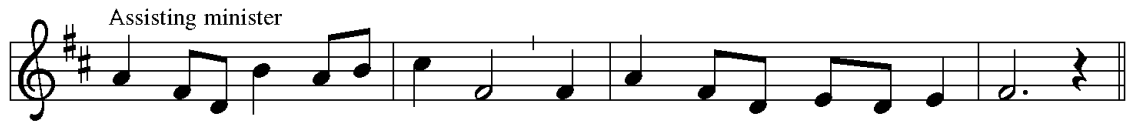
we're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, stanzas; Robert Lowry, 1826–1899, refrain  
 Music: MARCHING TO ZION, Robert Lowry

**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.**

# Hymn of Praise



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al - might-y God and Fa - ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



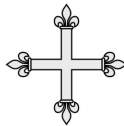
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

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

### 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.*

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 ever-flowing stream.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Psalm

Psalm 70

*The choir introduces the refrain; the congregation repeats it. The choir then alternates with the congregation on the verses. Subsequent refrains are sung only once by all, at the places indicated by **R**.*

Be pleased, O God, to de - liv - er me; O  
LORD, make haste to help me.

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalm Settings for the Church Year: Revised Common Lectionary*  
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- <sup>1</sup>Be pleased, O God, to deliver 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!” **R**
- <sup>5</sup>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. **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.*

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.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*Please sing the Alleluia refrain as indicated.*

Cantor

Congregation

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia

*Choir* Alleluia!

*All* **Alleluia! Alleluia.**

*Choir* Keep awake and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. (Matt. 24:42, 44)

*Choir* Alleluia!

*All* **Alleluia! Alleluia.**

## Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

**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:] “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

Pastor Miller



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ings bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907  
 Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

## Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us 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**

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

*After each portion of the prayers:*  
Hear us O God,  
**hear our prayer.**

*The prayers conclude:*  
Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.  
**Amen**

## **Peace**

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



# **Thanksgiving**

## **Offering**

We invite you to give your offering online at [saintluke.us](http://saintluke.us) then click *Giving* or on the Give Plus app. You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church  
9100 Colesville Road  
Silver Spring, MD 20910

## *Music at the offering*

Dearest Lord Jesu, oh why dost Thou tarry?  
Come now for I am of waiting so weary,  
Come now and comfort my heart in despair;  
Take me from misery, sorrow and care.

*Come now, Lord Jesu,  
Oh why dost Thou tarry? oh why dost Thou tarry?  
Come now for I am of waiting so weary, so weary.*

Deck Thee, oh deck thee, meet garment prepare Thee  
Keep thy lamp burning, and oil ever near thee,  
Ready, oh faithful one, fit for the Feast  
At midnight call for thee, oh wedding guest.

Text: Christoph Werner (1676), trans. Beatrice E. Bulman  
Music: J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

## **Offering Prayer**

Let us pray.

**God of goodness, you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. We open our hands and return to you what you have first given us. Accept our offering as a token of our abiding devotion and love. Use these gifts to bring peace, justice and comfort to the world; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.**

## **Prayer of Spiritual Communion**

Let us pray.

**Holy One, Jesus Christ, we know that you are as truly present in our reaching out to one another as in the sacrament of the table. We love you at the heart of all things, and long for you in our souls. Since we cannot gather together to receive you in that sacrament, come and abide spiritually in our hearts. Cleanse and strengthen us with your grace. Never let us fear that we are ever separated from you, from one another, from your creation. May we live in you, and you in us, in this life and the life to come. Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Please pray in your own preferred language.*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

**Padre Nuestro Que estas en los cielos  
Santificado sea tu Nombre  
Venga a nosotros tu Reino  
Hagase tu voluntad asi en la tierra como en el cielo  
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia  
Perdona nuestras ofensas  
Como nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden  
Y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion mas libranos del mal  
Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder y la Gloria  
Por los siglos de los siglos. Amen**

# Sending

## Blessing

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.**

## Sending Hymn

ELW 880



1 O God be - yond all prais - ing, we wor - ship you to - day  
2 The flow'r of earth - ly splen - dor in time must sure - ly die,  
3 Then hear, O gra - cious Sav - ior, ac - cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can - not re - pay;  
its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;  
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,  
but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown -  
and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless - ings with - out num - ber and mer - cies with - out end:  
though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav - en's gar - den grown:  
we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,  
for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,  
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,



we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.  
and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.  
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

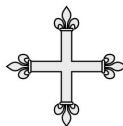
## Dismissal

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

## Postlude

Sortie on “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

*Haf Trones Lampa Färdig*, arr. Franklin D. Ashdown (b. 1942)



## WORSHIP LEADERS

### PRESIDING MINISTER

The Rev. Connie A. Miller, *Senior Pastor*

### ASSISTING MINISTERS

The Rev. Franklin Morales, *Associate Pastor*

Deacon Kyle Warfield, *Director of Discipleship and Senior High Ministries*

### MUSICIANS

Dr. Alain Truche, *Director of Music and Organist*

Members from the Schola Cantorum



The flowers about the altar are given by Barbara Sanders to the glory of God for the faithful witness and in honor of Donna Nelson on her birthday.

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