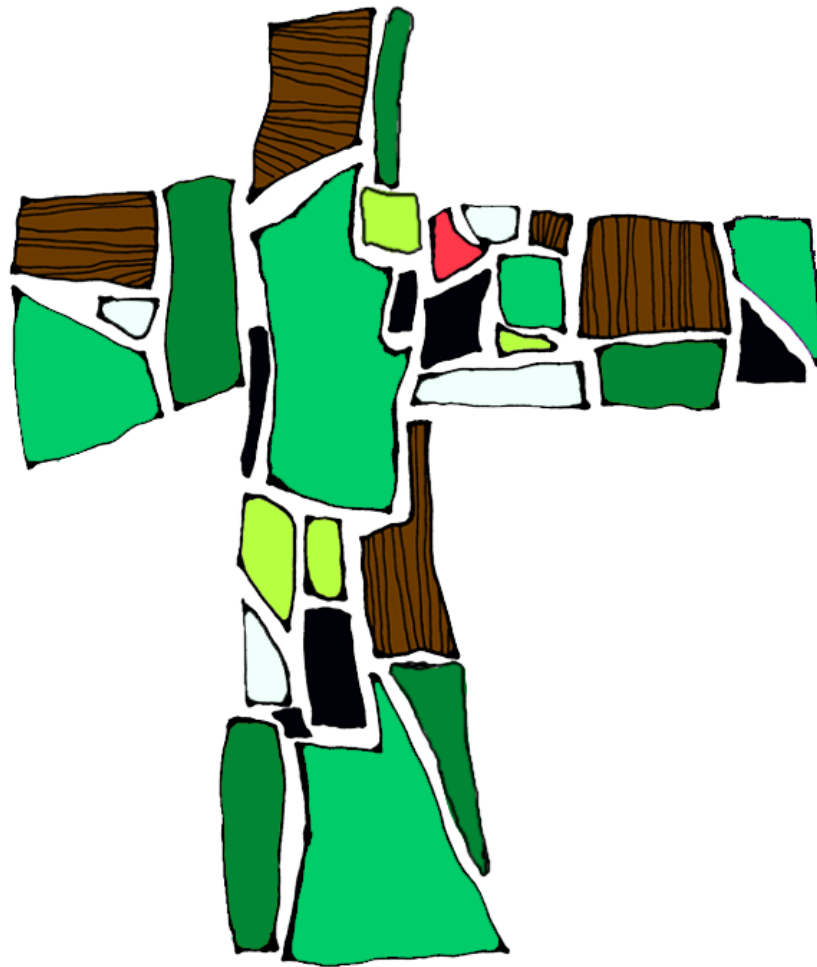


# The Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

November 15, 2020, 9:00 am

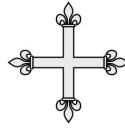


Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

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

*Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.*



## Gathering

### Prelude

Prelude on “As Saints of Old”

*Forest Green*, arr. David Bednall (b. 1979)

### 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.**

## Opening Hymn

ELW 695



1 As saints of old their first-fruits brought of or - chard, flock, and field  
2 A world in need now sum-mons us to la - bor, love, and give;  
3 In grat - i - tude and hum-ble trust we bring our best to - day



to God, the giv - er of all good, the source of boun-teous yield,  
to make our life an of - fer - ing to God, that all may live.  
to serve your cause and share your love with all a - long life's way.



so we to - day first - fruits would bring, the wealth of this good land,  
The church of Christ is call - ing us to make the dream come true:  
O God, who gave your - self to us in Je - sus Christ your Son,



of farm and mar - ket, shop and home, of mind and heart and hand.  
a world re-deemed by Christ-like love; all life in Christ made new.  
teach us to give our - selves each day un - til life's work is done.

Text: Frank von Christierson, 1900–1996, alt.

Music: FOREST GREEN, English folk tune

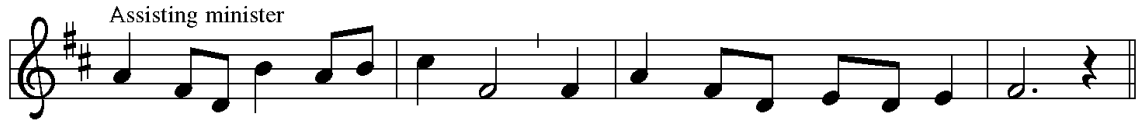
Text © 1961, ren. 1989 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188.

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## 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,



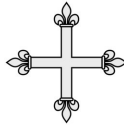
in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**



## Word

### First Reading

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

*Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.*

Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The Lord will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the Lord is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the Lord, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the Lord's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

# Psalm

Psalm 90

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**.

Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.  
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

- <sup>1</sup>Lord, you have | been our refuge  
from one generation | to another.
- <sup>2</sup>**Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or the land and the | earth were born,  
from age to age | you are God.**
- <sup>3</sup>You turn us back to the | dust and say,  
"Turn back, O child- | ren of earth."
- <sup>4</sup>**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past  
and like a watch | in the night; R**
- <sup>5</sup>you sweep them away | like a dream,  
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:
- <sup>6</sup>**in the morning it is | green and flourishes;  
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.**
- <sup>7</sup>For we are consumed | by your anger;  
we are afraid because | of your wrath.
- <sup>8</sup>**Our iniquities you have | set before you,  
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance. R**
- <sup>9</sup>When you are angry, all our | days are gone;  
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.
- <sup>10</sup>**The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength | even eighty;  
yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,  
for they pass away quickly and | we are gone.**
- <sup>11</sup>Who regards the power | of your wrath?  
Who rightly fears your | indignation?]
- <sup>12</sup>**So teach us to num- | ber our days  
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom. R**

## Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

*Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

The musical notation is written on two staves in G major (one sharp). The first staff is divided into two parts: 'Cantor' and 'Congregation'. Both parts sing 'Al - le - lu - ia!'. The second staff continues the melody for 'Al - - - - le - - - - lu - ia'.

*Choir* Alleluia!  
*All* **Alleluia! Alleluia.**  
*Choir* Abide in me as I abide in you; those who abide in me bear much fruit. (John 15:4, 5)  
*Choir* Alleluia!  
*All* **Alleluia! Alleluia.**

## Gospel

Matthew 25:14-30

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] "For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the

five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

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

## Sermon

Pastor Miller

## Hymn of the Day

ELW 678



1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store:  
 2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:  
 3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con - ferred;



na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door,  
 all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the church made one.  
 ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.



gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise;  
 Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone;  
 O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call,



thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.  
 born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.  
 heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.



## **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,  
**Your mercy is great.**

*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*

Zion hears the watchmen singing,  
And all her heart with joy is springing;  
She wakes, she rises from her gloom;  
For her Lord comes down all glorious,  
The strong in grace, in truth victorious.  
Her Star is risen, her Light is come.  
Ah come, Thou blessed One, God's own beloved Son:  
Alleluia! We follow till the halls we see  
Where Thou hast bid us sup with Thee.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1599, trans. Catherine Winkworth  
Music: J.S. Bach (1685-1750), from *Cantata 140*, arr. John Shannon

## 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.*

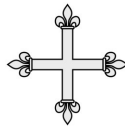
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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

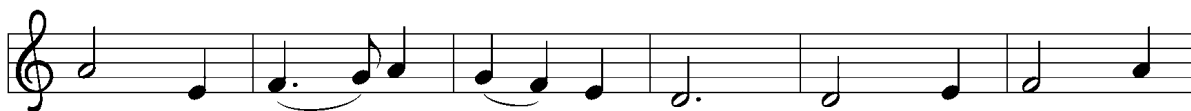
ELW 688



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and  
 2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -  
 3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may  
 4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom  
 ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance  
 low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,  
 day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -  
 of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -  
 with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions  
 peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.  
 ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:  
 from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:  
 pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:

*Refrain*



Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

Text: Howell E. Lewis, 1860–1953, alt.

Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907–1991

Text © Union of Welsh Independents

Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

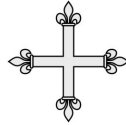
## Dismissal

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

## Postlude

from *Suite Gothique, op. 25*  
II. Menuet Gothique

Léon Boëllmann (1862-1897)



## 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 of the Schola Cantorum

Reprinted from Evangelical Lutheran Worship, copyright © 2006, administered by Augsburg Fortress.  
Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license # 3174-W.  
Reprinted from Sundays and Seasons, Year C 2018-2019, copyright © 2018 Augsburg Fortress.  
Used by permission of Augsburg Fortress license # 4182-C.