



**ENTER
INTO JOY**

MATTHEW 25:21



Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

The Reverend Viking Dietrich, *Interim Pastor*

Mr. Roger L. Kurtz, *Director of Music*

<https://www.jerusaluth.org>

“As followers of Jesus, we serve our neighbors locally and globally.”

Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

November 19, 2023

10:30 a.m.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE: *Fugue in E Minor (“Cathedral”)* – Johann Sebastian Bach

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All who are able, please stand and face the baptismal font at the front of the church. Throughout this worship folder, the text in **bold type** is said by the congregation.*

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and prayer

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

HYMN #632: *O God, Our Help in Ages Past* ST. ANNE

APOSTOLIC 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.**

GLORIA

(music on p. 148 ELW Setting 4)

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-14a

The congregation is seated. At the conclusion of the reading, the following is said:

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

PSALM 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 *The psalm is spoken responsively.*

¹Lord, you have¹ been our refuge
from one generation¹ to another.

²**Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the¹ earth were born,
from age to age¹ you are God.**

³You turn us back to the¹ dust and say,
"Turn back, O child-¹ren of earth."

⁴**For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when¹ it is past
and like a watch¹ in the night;**

⁵you sweep them away¹ like a dream,
they fade away suddenly¹ like the grass:

⁶**in the morning it is¹ green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried¹ up and withered.**

⁷For we are consumed¹ by your anger;
we are afraid because¹ of your wrath.

⁸**Our iniquities you have¹ set before you,
and our secret sins in the light¹ of your countenance.**

⁹When you are angry, all our¹ days are gone;
we bring our years to an end¹ like a sigh.

¹⁰**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.**

¹¹**Who regards the power | of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your | indignation?**

¹²**So teach us to num- | ber our days
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.**

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 *(printed on the back cover)*

At the conclusion of the reading, the following is said:

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(music on p. 151 ELW Setting 4)

The congregation stands to sing the Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30 *(printed on the back cover)*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the conclusion of the Gospel, the following is said:

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

SERMON *The congregation is seated.*

HYMN OF THE DAY #788: If God My Lord Be for Me IST GOTT FÜR MICH

APOSTLES 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

Each petition concludes: Hear us, O God. Your mercy is great.

The presiding minister concludes the prayers. The congregation responds: Amen.

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say,

"Peace be with you" or similar words. At the conclusion of the Peace, the congregation is seated.

ANTHEM: *Christ the Lord Returns to Reign* – Robert Leaf

OFFERTORY HYMN #184: *Let The Vineyards Be Fruitful*

As the offering is presented the congregation stands to sing the offertory.

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of blessing. Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gather the hopes and the dreams of all; unite them with our prayers we offer. Grace our table with your presence, and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER:

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

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.**

The presiding minister continues with the proper Preface. At the conclusion of the Preface, the congregation sings the Sanctus.

SANCTUS

(music on p. 153 ELW Setting 4)

Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might, heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

The congregation responds. 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.

FRACTION

Come to the banquet for all is now ready.

AGNUS DEI

(music on p. 154 ELW Setting 4)

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

The congregation is seated. Lutherans teach that Christ is truly present with, in, and under the bread and wine of Holy Communion. We commune by pouring chalice. Please take an empty cup before going to the rail. (The pre-filled cups contain grape juice.) Those who wish to receive only a blessing at the altar should indicate this by crossing their arms over their chest. As the ministers distribute the elements, they say these words: The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. Each person may respond: Amen.

COMMUNION HYMN #815: *I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light* HOUSTON

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Assisting Minister: Let us pray: We give you thanks almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

HYMN #327: *Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow* EBENEZER

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE: *Chorale Prelude on "St. Anne"* – Healey Willan

ALTAR FLOWERS are given today to the glory of God.

PRAYER CONCERNS: Christine and Andy Anderson, Barry Becker, Nate and Crystal, Kim Cravens, Spencer Ehrhart, Weston Hertzler, Hunter Leisey, Sharon Levering, Lillian Logeman, Joy McCurty and Pam Cramer, Byron Miller, Judy Perry, Norma Rhoads, Lisa Riley, Greg Summers, Toby Sweigart, Mary Valimont, Neal Vital, Tracey Whitney, and Doris Witwer.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Reminder Dates

Fellowship and Adult Forum at 9:00 am with Worship Service at 10:30 am on Sunday, November 19. Thanksgiving on Thursday, November 23. Church office closed. Happy Thanksgiving to all! Shared Advent Devotion at BULC on Thursday, November 30. More info in Nov. Newsletter. Christmas Bazaar at BULC on Saturday, December 2 from 8am to 12pm.

Congregational Meeting December 3 - Please pick up today the proposed budget to review.

Church Office Hours this week: Tuesday 10am to 5pm, Wednesday 10am to 6pm.

Two Rivers Chamber Music String Quartet, one of the most sought-after chamber music ensembles in the Mid-Atlantic region, will present a concert in our nave today at 3:00 p.m. Their varied and enjoyable programming draws upon both classical repertoire and arrangements of popular music. Included in their concert will be several “Serenades” by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, along with some modern favorites from the Beatles and Coldplay. A free-will offering will be received during intermission to help defray expenses and support our ongoing Music at Jerusalem Concert Series.

Community Chest Christmas Baskets: The Christmas season is approaching! Jerusalem will again be supporting those in need in our community through the Lititz-Warwick Community Chest Christmas Basket Program. The Community Chest has experienced an increased demand this year, so we will be sponsoring six families. A collection will take place on November 26th and December 3rd to purchase grocery store gift cards so these families can purchase food for their holiday meals. Thank you for your support of this important ministry!

Ushers, Claude, Andy, & Charles will be collecting starting next Sunday for the staff Christmas gifts.

MUSIC NOTES:

This morning’s Gathering Hymn – “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” (*ELW* #632) – is a paraphrase by Isaac Watts (1674-1748) of Psalm 90, today’s appointed psalm. An English theologian and hymn writer, Watts is considered the “Father of English Hymnody” and is credited with writing some 750 hymns, including such favorites as “Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed,” “Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun,” “Joy to the World,” and “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross.” The text of “O God, Our Help in Ages Past” is paired with “St. Anne,” a hymn tune composed by William Croft (1678-1727) while he was organist at St. Anne’s Church in London. Croft later served as Organist & Master of the Choristers at Westminster Abbey from 1708 until his death.

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

Interim Pastor	Reverend Viking Dietrich
Organist	Roger Kurtz
Asst. Minister/Lector	J.D. Wissler
Altar Guild	Brenda Fetter
Acolyte	Joyce Burkholder
Ushers	Claude Grube, Andy Anderson, Charles Sweigart Jr.
Zoom Monitor	

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

[not printed]

Psalms 90:1-8 [9-11] 12**SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When 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! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But 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. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

[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; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way,

the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then 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.' ²¹His 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.' ²²And 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.' ²³His 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.' ²⁴Then 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; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' ²⁶But 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? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For 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. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Next Sunday's Readings: Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46.

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Tracks 1 and 2
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