GRACE LUTHERAN CHAPEL

*Grace Chapel exists to make and keep disciples for Jesus Christ.*

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

**Saturday, November 7, 2020 - 4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday, November 8, 2020 - 8:00 a.m.**

WELCOME/GREETING

OPENING HYMN “Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray,” No. 663

**1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep awaken!  
Be not by the evil day Unawares o’ertaken;  
        For the foe, Well we know,  
Is a harvest reaping While the saints are sleeping.**

**2 Watch against the devil’s snares Lest asleep he find you;  
For indeed no pains he spares To deceive and blind you.  
        Satan’s prey Oft are they  
    Who secure are sleeping And no watch are keeping.**

**3 Watch! Let not the wicked world With its lies defeat you  
Lest with bold deceptions hurled It betray and cheat you.  
        Watch and see Lest there be  
    Faithless friends to charm you, Who but seek to harm you.**

**4 Watch against yourself, my soul, Lest with grace you trifle;  
Let not self your thoughts control Nor God’s mercy stifle.  
        Pride and sin Lurk within,  
    All your hopes to shatter; Heed not when they flatter.**

**5 But while watching, also pray To the Lord unceasing.  
God protects you day by day, Strength and faith increasing,  
        So that still Mind and will  
    Shall unite to serve Him And forever love Him.**

INVOCATION

*In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES

*Make haste, O God, to deliver us!*

**O Lord, make haste to help us!**

*May all who seek the Lord rejoice and be glad in Him!*

**May we say evermore, “God is great!”**

*For Christ is coming soon.*

**Soon, He will descend from the heavens.**

*Soon, He will raise the dead.*

**And we will always be with the Lord.**

*He is our help and our deliverer.*

**O Lord, do not delay!**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*Indeed, Christ is coming soon to raise the dead and bring us into everlasting life with Him. Yet there are times when we have lived as if Christ’s return was not important and not imminent. Yet, our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness.*

*(Silence for reflection.)*

*Heavenly Father,*

**we confess that we have ignored You and our neighbors in need. We have sinned in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have failed by our inactivity. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, O Lord, that we might be encouraged by Your presence and forgiven of our sin.**

*God hears your confession and has promised to always be with you. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*

**Amen. We are forgiven. We look for the return of Jesus.**

HYMN OF PRAISE “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise,” No. 802 vv. 1 and 4

**1 Immortal, invisible, God only wise,  
 In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,  
 Most blessèd, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,  
Almighty, victorious,   Thy great name we praise.**

**4 Great Father of glory, pure Father of light,  
 Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;  
 All laud we would render: O help us to see  
’Tis only the splendor of light that hides Thee.**

SALUTATION

*The Lord be with you.*

**And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Let us pray. O Lord, encourage us with Your presence in Your Word and Sacraments,*

*that we be strengthened for service to You and our neighbors as we await the return of*

*Jesus, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You*

*and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.*

**Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Amos 5:18-24

**18**Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why would you have the day of the Lord? It is darkness, and not light, **19** as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. **20**Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? **21**“I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. **22**Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. **23**Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. **24**But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

*This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 70 *(Spoken responsively)*

1*Make haste, O God, to deliver me! O Lord, make haste to help me!***2Let them be put to shame and confusion who seek my life! bLet them be turned back and brought to dishonor who delight in my hurt!**

**3***Let them turn back because of their shame who say, “Aha, Aha!”*

**4May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you! May those who love your salvation say evermore, “God is great!”**

**5***But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O Lord, do not delay!*

EPISTLE Romans 8:18-27

**18**For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. **19**For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. **20**For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope **21**that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. **22**For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. **23**And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. **24**For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? **25**But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

**26**Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. **27**And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

*This is the Word of the Lord.* **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. **2**Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. **3**For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, **4**but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. **5**As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. **6**But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ **7**Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. **8**And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ **9**But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ **10**And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. **11**Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ **12**But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ **13**Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

*This is the Gospel of the Lord.* **Praise to You, O Christ.**

APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit; the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

OFFERING PRAYER

SERMON “Acquitted by Christ, Living a Life of Service”

Romans 8:18-27 – Seminarian Corey Christians

SERMON HYMN “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart,” No. 641

*Refrain:* **You satisfy the hungry heart With gift of finest wheat.**

**Come give to us, O saving Lord, The bread of life to eat.**

**1 As when the shepherd calls his sheep, They know and heed his voice;  
 So when You call Your fam’ly, Lord, We follow and rejoice. *Refrain***

**2 With joyful lips we sing to You Our praise and gratitude  
 That You should count us worthy, Lord, To share this heav’nly food. *Refrain***

**3 Is not the cup we bless and share The blood of Christ outpoured?  
 Do not one cup, one loaf, declare Our oneness in the Lord? *Refrain***

**4 The myst’ry of Your presence, Lord, No mortal tongue can tell:  
 Whom all the world cannot contain Comes in our hearts to dwell. *Refrain***

**5 You give Yourself to us, O Lord; Then selfless let us be,  
 To serve each other in Your name In truth and charity. *Refrain***

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PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Heavenly Father, we praise You this day for bringing to us Your word of grace. Thank You for sending Your Son to fulfill Your gracious plans for us and for the world. We ask that by Your Word and Sacraments we would be continually shaped into the image of Christ, genuine workmanship, created for good works in Jesus' name. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Lord Jesus, help us to know a life that is lived in accordance with Your Word and in gladness receives Your Word of forgiveness. May Your Spirit teach us to find joy and purpose in the things of God rather than the things of this world. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Holy Spirit, when sin, death, and hell tempt us to believe that God might be against us, show us in the midst of any and all trials that weeping may tarry through the night, but joy always comes in the morning. Give Your Church a vision of God's kingdom, which is at work in this world through the Church. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Dear God, continue to guide our church, our community, and our world to witness Your plans for mercy, life, and grace. Thwart our humanly contrived plans that seek prosperity and wealth. Faithful Lord, bless Your Church and her servants, that Your good and gracious will may be done among us and through us and that many would be called to eternal life in Your Son, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

O faithful Lord, when tragedy, illness, grief, or terror threatens, comfort us with Your steadfast love. Give to the sick and those who suffer the full measure of Your grace for healing, strength, and peace, that all who cry to You in their need may know the answer of Your grace in Christ. Direct Your people to the glories of eternal life. Lord, in Your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Dear God, may we trust in Your mercy and be confident that Your grace is sufficient for all our needs. Hear us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who has made known to us paths of life. In His name we pray,

**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.**

BENEDICTION

*The Lord bless you and keep you.*

*The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.*

*The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.*

**Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN “Thine the Amen, Thine the Praise,” No. 680

**1 Thine the amen Thine the praise Alleluias angels raise  
 Thine the everlasting head Thine the breaking of the bread**

**Thine the glory Thine the story Thine the harvest then the cup  
Thine the vineyard then the cup is lifted up lifted up.**

**2 Thine the life eternally Thine the promise let there be  
 Thine the vision Thine the tree All the earth on bended knee  
 Gone the nailing gone the railing Gone the pleading gone the cry  
Gone the sighing gone the dying what was loss lifted high.**

**3 Thine the truly Thine the yes Thine the table we the guest  
 Thine the mercy all from Thee Thine the glory yet to be  
 Then the ringing and the singing Then the end of all the war  
Thine the living Thine the loving evermore evermore.**

**4 Thine the kingdom Thine the prize Thine the wonder full surprise  
 Thine the banquet then the praise Then the justice of Thy ways  
 Thine the glory Thine the story Then the welcome to the least  
Then the wonder all increasing at Thy feast at Thy feast.**

**5 Thine the glory in the night No more dying only light  
 Thine the river Thine the tree Then the Lamb eternally  
 Then the holy holy holy Celebration jubilee  
Thine the splendor Thine the brightness only Thee only Thee.**

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POSTLUDE

*Grace is for all!*