

**ST.MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**PENNSBURG, PA**

November 15, 2020

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**Soloist**

**Layreader**

**Ushers:**

**Jill Haldeman**

**Heather Schmitt**

**Church Council**

**WELCOME**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.  
**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 one another.

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.**

v.1 O Zion haste, your mission high fulfilling to tell to all the world that God is light; that he who made all nations is not willing one soul should perish, lost in shades of night.

Refrain Publish glad tidings, tidings of peace, tidings of Jesus, redemption and release.

v.2 Publish to every people, tongue and nation that God, in whom they live and move, is love; tell how he stooped to save his lost creation and died on earth that we might live above. Refrain.

v.3 He comes again! O Zion, ere you meet him, make known to every heart his saving grace; let none whom he has ransomed fail to greet him, through your neglect, unfit to see his face. Refrain

## 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.**

## 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.**

## SCRIPTURES

### **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.*

<sup>7</sup>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.

<sup>12</sup>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."

<sup>13</sup>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.

<sup>14</sup>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.

<sup>15</sup>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,  
<sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.

<sup>17</sup>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.

<sup>18</sup>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.

## **PSALM 90:1-12**

<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 children 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;**

<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.**

<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 number our days  
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

## **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.*

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>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! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>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. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The Word of the Lord.

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30**

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew  
**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:] <sup>14</sup>"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>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.' <sup>21</sup>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.' <sup>22</sup>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.' <sup>23</sup>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.’ <sup>24</sup>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; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ <sup>26</sup>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? <sup>27</sup>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. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>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. <sup>30</sup>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 David

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love*

R. Powell

### **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

Together, with the whole church, let us confess our faith with the words of the 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 OF THE PEOPLE**

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.

Lord of the church, ignite your people with the passion of your love. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, unify us across ministries, congregations, and denominations, and refine us to participate in your activity throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord of creation, we stand in awe at the works of your hands and praise you for the beauty of nature. Bless the earth for your glory and restore its integrity where exploitation has caused ruin. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the nations, sound forth your justice in the ears of all leaders. Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable, especially as international leaders forge trade agreements and cooperate to end human rights abuses. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. We pray especially for **Lillie, Lisa, Jack, Marilyn, Randy, Andrew, Renae, Marie, Catherine, David, Paul, Harold, Marie, Dennis, Merle, Barbara, Kenneth, Deb, Barbara and Lenny**. Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the stranger, stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control and open us to learn from the perspectives of others. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Lord of the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors. Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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.**

### **\*SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

### **OFFERING**

#### **\*OFFERING 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**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

## **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, now and forever. Amen**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Prepare the banquet table  
where Christ gives himself as food and drink.

## **COMMUNION**

Gathered together in your homes, you may now offer communion to each other saying: This is my body which is given for you" when you offer the wafer/bread. Then hold up the juice/wine, give thanks, and offer the juice/wine saying "this is my blood which is shed for you".

## **\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

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.**

**\*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.**

**HYMN**     *Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand*     441

v.1 Oh, happy day when we shall stand amid the heavenly throng; and sing with hosts from every land the new celestial song, the new celestial song.

v.2 Oh, blessed day when Christ shall come and show himself as Lord, and thousands meet in their new home which Jesus has prepared, which Jesus has prepared.

v.3 Oh, what a mighty rushing flood of joy and love and peace will roll down over us with good and blessedness and grace, and blessedness and grace.

v.4 O Lord, your grace is everything; your love has made us free to stand among the saints and sing the glory that we see, the glory that we see.

**DISMISSAL**

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

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We welcome everyone to worship today.

Happenings This Week:

WORSHIP COMMITTEE: The Worship Committee will be holding a meeting on Tuesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7PM in the multi-purpose room

THE ADULT BIBLE STUDY invites you to join a Zoom meeting at 8:30AM Sundays. Please contact Deb Long for more information at [debra.reed588@comcast.net](mailto:debra.reed588@comcast.net) A Zoom link will be sent to you.

POINSETTA'S FOR CHRISTMAS: Please use this form to place your order for Poinsetta plants. These will be used to decorate the altar for Christmas. You will be able to pick up your plants after Christmas Eve services (please maintain distance guidelines doing so) or you can retrieve them during the week. They will be held in the multi-purpose room.

### CHRISTMAS POINSETTAS

In order to provide festive decorations for the season, you may want to sponsor one or more poinsettia plants to be placed in the church for Christmas. The cost of each multiple bloomed plant will be \$13.00. Please fill out this form, including the amount due, and place it in the offering, the church office, or give it to Diane Mohr **no later than Sunday, December 6th**.

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Check one:

( ) In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

( ) In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Presented by \_\_\_\_\_

Use after service:

( ) Family will take ordered plant(s)

( ) Church is to deliver plant to shut-in

No. of plants \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$13.00                      Total due \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

No other fresh flowers are being used right now. If you are scheduled for flowers, please do not order any until further notice. If you are on Altar Guild, the monthly schedule is not being used during this time. Bonnie will handle all altar duties.

Harold Hieter will be 90 Years old on November 26<sup>th</sup>! Amazing! If you see him, be sure to wish him a Happy Birthday!

Life Line Screening will be returning here at St. Mark's on Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. They will offer five screenings that scan for potential health problems: Carotid Artery – plaque build-up which can lead to stroke; Abdominal Aortic Aneurysms – which can lead to a ruptured aorta; Peripheral Arterial Disease– hardening of arteries in legs; Atrial Fibrillation – also tied to stroke; Bone Density Screenings – which assesses the risk of osteoporosis.

They adhere to strict safety protocols. If you would like to make an appointment for one or more of these screenings, please go to: [www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle](http://www.lifelinescreening.com/communitycircle) or if you want to call, the number is: 1-800-679-5609.

The Open Link's food pantry served almost 40% more people this year and they fully expect this need to continue, especially during the holiday season. They have a Thanksgiving Meal Program which provides families in need in our community with a turkey (or a \$10 gift card for a meat/alternative of their choice) as well as all the traditional sides of a Thanksgiving dinner. You can help The Open Link meet this increased need by donating non-perishable food items at their Pennsburg office or by going to their website to make an on-line donation.

Preparing for next week:

**Mon:** Psalm 9:1-14; Zechariah 1:7-17; Romans 2:1-11

**Tues:** Zechariah 2:1-5; 5:1-4; 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18

**Wed:** Matthew 24: 45-51; Job 16-21

**Thur:** Psalm 95:1-7a; 1 Kings 22:13-23; Revelation 14:1-11

**Fri:** Revelation 22:1-9; 1 Chronicles 17:1-15

**Sat:** Matthew 12:46-50; Isaiah 44:21-28

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