

Zion Lutheran Church, Glen Rock, PA
Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
ELW Holy Communion
Sunday, November 15, 2020

*We stand as we are able.

Introduction to the day

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.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Amen.

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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.

***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.

***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.

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

⁷Be 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.

¹²At 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.”

¹³Their 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.

¹⁴The 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.

¹⁵That 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,

¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry

against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I 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.

¹⁸Neither 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: 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

¹Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

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

³You turn us back to the dust and say,
"Turn back, O children of earth."

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

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

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

⁷For we are consumed by your anger;
we are afraid because of your wrath.

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

[⁹When you are angry, all our days are gone;
we bring our years to an end 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.**

¹¹Who regards the power of your wrath?

Who rightly fears your indignation?]

¹²**So teach us to number our days**

that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

¹Now 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴"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.’ ”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S TIME AND SERMON

***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 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.

A brief silence.

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. 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.

SPECIAL MUSIC: "Simple Gifts of Thanks" – Diane Bortner and Donna Price

COLLECTION IS PRESENTED

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of all creation, all you have made is good, and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

***DIALOGUE**

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.

***PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven 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.

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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. Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly

food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

Amen.

***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;

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.

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

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

POSTLUDE

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.

Today's communion elements are presented to the Glory of God, by Dave and Shirley Seitz.

Today's altar flower arrangement is presented in memory of Roser Roser, by Evelyn and Dennis Roser.

SCRIPTURE TEXT FOR SUNDAY 11/22/20

Ezek 34:11-16, 20-24, Ps 95:1-7a, Eph 1:15-23

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pam Bennie, Mary Bailey, Frank Bowles, Christopher, Loni Clark, Brian Dell, Linda Eichelberger, Betty Gaither, Kathy Gardner, Van Gardner, Irene Grogan, Nancy Heltzel, Shannon Hildebrand, Linda Kowalewski, Don Miller, Jim Ream, Susan Scheungrab, Dave & Shirley Seitz, Susette Stallard, Dave Swartz, Bonni Whitman, Earl Williams

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Orders for poinsettias are due today. Payment may be made at a later date, but the order must be placed tomorrow morning. Please see the bulletin insert for more information.

Zion members David and Shirley Seitz have recently tested positive for COVID. Shirley is recovering at home. Dave is in the COVID unit at York Hospital. Both are feeling a bit better today, 11/9/2020. As part of our Zion family, council encourages you to keep Dave and Shirley in your thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery. Get well cards and notes of love, comfort and support can be sent to:

David and Shirley Seitz
5775 Fair School Road
Glen Rock, PA 17327

Nov. 12th update from Shirley Seitz: Shirley is doing OK. She has a cough and is very fatigued. Dave is still in the COVID unit at York Hospital. He sounds good when Shirley talks to him on the phone. He is completing IV therapy, and hopes to return home soon to continue recovering.

Rather than ask our members to go out shopping for a sponsored family during this Covid pandemic, we have decided to make a financial donation to the Southern Community Services' ELVES Project. If your wish to support this project, please deposit your donation with a memo for ELVES with your Sunday offering. The deadline date for contributions is Sunday, November 29th. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity to this worthy cause.

The Visitation Team would like to collect items for Zion's VIPs. Although the team will not be able to visit with the VIPs, approval has been given to drop off goodie baskets for them. The team is in need of packs of peanut butter and cheese crackers, homemade or prepackaged cookies, candy kisses or other chocolate. Cards and goodies can be placed in the back of the sanctuary near the bulletins and offering plate. Christmas cards and goodies will be collected until Sunday, December 6th. Cards for Tanya Krout must be sent directly to her, in plain white envelopes, at:

Smart Communication/PADOC

Tanya Krout/006199

SCI Cambridge Springs

PO Box 33028

St. Petersburg, FL 33733

Zion's other VIPs include: Norma Innerst, Joyce Bosley, Paul & Mardella Shepperd, Peg Fritz, Dorothy Lentz, LeMos & Susie Stallard, Bob & Mary McCullough, and Dave & Shirley Seitz.

Although some members of Zion have been listed above specifically for Christmas cards and goodie baskets, you are encouraged to reach out to any members of Zion who have for one reason or another chose not to attend in-person Sunday worship. As Pastor Paul mentioned several weeks ago, the body of Christ is still the body of Christ, even if it appears to look different in these challenging times. (There are a few copies of Zion's Friends and Family Directory on the windowsill near the offering plate and bulletins, at the back of the sanctuary.)

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, 12/13/2020, immediately after worship. There are two items on the agenda for the meeting: 1) vote on the 2021 Proposed Budget and 2) vote on the purchase of a monitored central station fire detection system, with a quote of \$10,600.00.

Upcoming Lectors:

- Nov. 15 - Donna Price
- Nov. 22 – Linda Beegle
- Nov. 29 – Bill Ream
- Dec. 6 – Diane Bortner

Council Offering Duty:

- November – Bill Ream and Joy Keller-Brown
- December – Tom Bailey and Edgar Davis

Upcoming Communion Sponsors:

- Nov. 15 – Dave & Shirley Seitz
- Dec. 6 – Dave & Shirley Seitz
- Dec. 20 – Sandy Fair
- Dec. 24 – Donna Price
- Jan. 3 – Clay & Linda Beegle
- Jan. 17 – Clay & Linda Beegle
- Feb. 7 – Sandy Fair
- Feb. 21 – Evie Roser

Remote worship options are available. Recorded services and other virtual fellowship opportunities are available on Zion’s Remote Worship web page at <https://zionglenrock.org/worship/remote-worship>.

If you desire pastoral care or conversation, please contact Pastor Katie Brantner at 717-420-0779.

PERSONNEL here at ZION

- Pastor Paul Haack, Stated Sunday Supply Pastor
- Pastor Katie Brantner, Interim Pastoral Care Coordinator.....717-420-0779
- Darryl Engler, Organist
- Brenda Davis, Administrative Assistant
- Natalie Walker, Custodian
- Chad Fisher, Sexton.....717-235-3641
- Joy Keller-Brown, Council President.....717-235-7044

COUNCIL MEMBERS

Joy Keller-Brown, Donna Price, Bill Ream, Tom Bailey, Susan Hengst, George Brown, Carrie Miller, Edgar Davis and Gevene Harden

OFFICE HOURS

Monday – Friday, 9:30am-12:30pm

Zion Lutheran Church
47 Hanover Street
Glen Rock, PA 17327
Office Phone: 717-235-3276
Website: www.zionglenrock.org
Email: office@zionglenrock.org

FINANCIAL Information for YOU

Weekly Contributions and Expenses

2020 Weekly contribution goal to cover budget expenses: \$2,464.00

11/8/2020 Regular Contributions \$ 1,810.00

Other Contributions/Gifts +\$ 0.00

- \$ 210.00 *Dedicated Dollars*

\$ 1,600.00 Contributions to cover Expenses

Weekly Expenses: \$ 0.00

Cumulative Contributions and Expenses for 2020

Regular Contributions \$ 89,002.62

Other Contributions/Gifts + \$ 17,356.65

Dedicated Dollars - \$ 14,912.05

Contributions to cover Expenses \$ 91,447.22

Expenses to date: \$ 96,190.00

In October, Zion's council was made aware that the EIDL loan for \$5,000.00 was forgiven, and deemed a grant. The council voted to move the \$5,000.00 to budget expenses to reduce the deficit between income and expenses.