

*Welcome to worship at
Faith Lutheran Church*

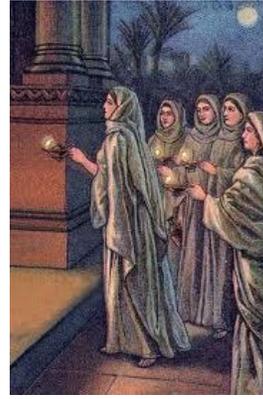
TIME AFTER PENTECOST

November 8, 2020

Worship Service

Print = Pastor or Worship Leader

Bold = Congregation



Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

GATHERING

LIGHT CANDLE

CALL TO WORSHIP

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.

A word spoken, a voice heard,

A dream revealed, a mission received.

God calls, again and again.

God beckons us to follow.

To love, to serve.

To give, again and again.

God invites us to embrace the lonely,

To feed the hungry, to tell the Good News of Jesus.

To love and serve, and to sing praise all our days.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together the prayer of the day:

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son.

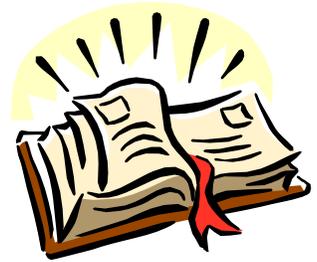
Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

WORD

The First Lesson is from Joshua in the 24th chapter.

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25 OT Page #237

In the Near East, covenant means "agreement" or "alliance." It describes relationships and is the primary word used to characterize the relationship between God and Israel. By delivering Israel, God has already begun the relationship. Joshua calls upon the people to respond.



Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. 2And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. 3Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many. 4Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. 5Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." 6Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; 7for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; 8and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God." 9But Joshua said to the people, "You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. 10If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good." 11And the people said to Joshua, "No, we will serve the LORD!" 12Then Joshua said to the people, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him." And they said, "We are witnesses." 13He said, "Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." 14The people said to Joshua, "The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey." 15So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The psalm for today is **Psalm 78:1-7** will you please read it responsively with me.

We will recount to generations to come the power of the LORD. (Ps. 78:4)

Hear my teaching, O my people;

incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will declare the mysteries of ancient times—

that which we have heard and known,

and what our forebears have told us,

we will not hide from their children.

**We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds
and the power of the LORD,**

and the wonderful works God has done.

The LORD gave a decree in Jacob and established a law in Israel,

commanding our ancestors to teach it to their children;

that the generations to come might know,

and the children yet unborn;

that they in their turn might tell it to their children;

so that they might put their trust in God,

and not forget the deeds of God, but keep God's commandments.

The Second Lesson is from the 4th chapter of **I Thessalonians**

I Thessalonians 4:13-18 NT Page #219

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

13We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. 15For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. 16For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. 18Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

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

Glory to you, O Lord.

Matthew 25:1-13 NT Page #28

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 1"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; 4but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. 6But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' 7Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. 8The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' 9But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' 10And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. 11Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' 13Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

OFFERING

We also encourage those who are able to continue to make their faithful, generous offerings to FAITH. We know that some will be unable to do this, especially if they lose their jobs or work hourly in an industry that has been hard-hit by this situation. If you are able those offerings can be mailed to the church.

PRAYER

Then enter into a time of prayer, sharing in prayer requests that you have received and praying for those specifically.

CLOSING

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.**



BLESSING

May God give you the grace to never sell yourself short; Grace to risk something big for something good; and Grace to remember the world is now too dangerous for anything but the truth and too small for anything but love.

The blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Son and Holy Spirit bless you now and remain with you this day and always. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

EXTINGUISH CANDLE

