



Salem Lutheran Church
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost
November 19, 2023 – 9:00am



OUR MISSION: We are God forgiven and mission driven.

OUR VISION: To be that Lake Mills Place where belonging, healing, growing, serving and believing are open to all, regardless of background, experience or aptitude. Central to this is that we are a -forgiving, mission-driven community, which means we all want to have an impact, shaped by the love of Christ to serve all others.

Sunday—9:00am Worship Service

Preaching: Pastor Judith Wozniak

Organist: Ruth Sheldon

Reader: Cindy Haugsdal

Sound: Al Skellenger

Live Stream: Brad Evenson

Acolytes: Tatum Sauer, Betsy Byars

Liturgical Choir:

Worship Coordinator: Becky Helgeson

Ushers: Lyle & Orloue Thomson, Al Sterrenberg

Altar Guild for November: Margaret Okland & Sharon Johnson

Communion Servers: Dolly Gregor, Gary Heimdal, Margaret Okland, Becky Helgeson, Tatum Sauer, Betsy Byars

The Live Stream Broadcast is Given In Honor of Lloyd Okland's 97th Birthday From Margaret and Family. Lloyd's Birthday is November 9th.

Salem Contact Information:

Shannon Bruhns, Council President

641.592.5978 / 641.590.1532

shelby@wctatel.net

Salem Office: 641.592.1771

salem@wctatel.net

Ruth Sheldon, Organist: 641.592.0184

Barb Kinseth, Custodian

Marci Adeogun, Office Admin: 641.590.1182

INTRODUCTION

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.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

BELLS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

STEWARDSHIP MESSAGE

Dan Rice

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*(***Please stand as you are able.)*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,

we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God’s children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through † Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory ELW #890



1 Mine eyes have seen the glo - ry of the com - ing of the Lord;
2 He has sound - ed forth the trum - pet that shall nev - er call re - treat;
3 In the beau - ty of the lil - ies Christ was born a - cross the sea,



he is tram - pling out the vin - tage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he is sift - ing out the hearts of men be - fore his judg - ment seat.
with a glo - ry in his bos - om that trans - fig - ures you and me.



he has loosed the fate - ful light - ning of his ter - ri - ble swift sword:
Oh, be swift, my soul, to an - swer him; be ju - bi - lant, my feet!
As he died to make men ho - ly, let us live to make men free,



his truth is march - ing on.
Our God is march - ing on.
while God is march - ing on.

Refrain



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah!



Glo - ry, glo - ry! Hal - le - lu - jah! His truth is march - ing on.

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.**

*(**Please be seated.)*

CHILDREN'S TIME

WORD

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.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12

We will speak today's psalm responsively beginning with the lector.

¹Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another. ²Before 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."

⁴For 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:

⁶in 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.

⁸Our 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?]

¹²So 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.

Word of God, Word of life.

Thanks be to God.

(****Please stand as you are able.*)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW p.151

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:14-30

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew

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.

(****Please be seated.*)

SERMON

(****Please stand as you are able.*)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord of Light

ELW #688



1 Lord of light, your name out - shin - ing all the stars and
 2 By the toil of faith - ful work - ers in some far out -
 3 Grant that knowl - edge, still in - creas - ing, at your feet may
 4 By the prayers of faith - ful watch - ers, nev - er si - lent



suns of space, use our tal - ents in your king - dom
 ly - ing field, by the cour - age where the ra - diance
 low - ly kneel; with your grace our tri - umphs hal - low,
 day or night; by the cross of Je - sus, bring - ing



as the ser - vants of your grace; use us to ful -
 of the cross is still re - vealed, by the vic - to -
 with your char - i - ty our zeal; lift the na - tions
 peace to all and heal - ing light; by the love that



fill your pur - pose in the gift of Christ your Son.
ries of meek - ness, through re - proach and suf - f'ring won:
from the shad - ows to the glad - ness of the sun:
pass - es knowl - edge, mak - ing all your chil - dren one:



Refrain

Fa - ther, as in high - est heav - en, so on earth your will be done.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

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.

*(***Please be seated.)*

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth's resources. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders (*leaders may be named*). Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. We remember before you (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. For the promise of life and rest and for the witness of those who have died in faith (*especially*) we praise your goodness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

PEACE

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

MEAL

OFFERING & MUSICAL OFFERING

*(***Please be seated.)*

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.**

THE 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.

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.

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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

DISTRIBUTION

(***Please stand as you are able.)

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**

SENDING

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.**

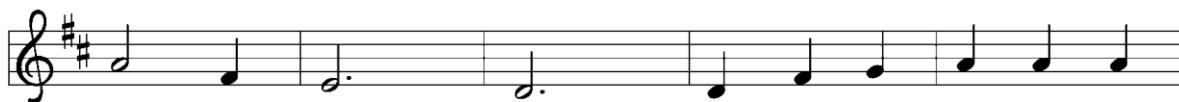
SENDING HYMN

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

ELW #815



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

*(**Please stand as you are able.)*

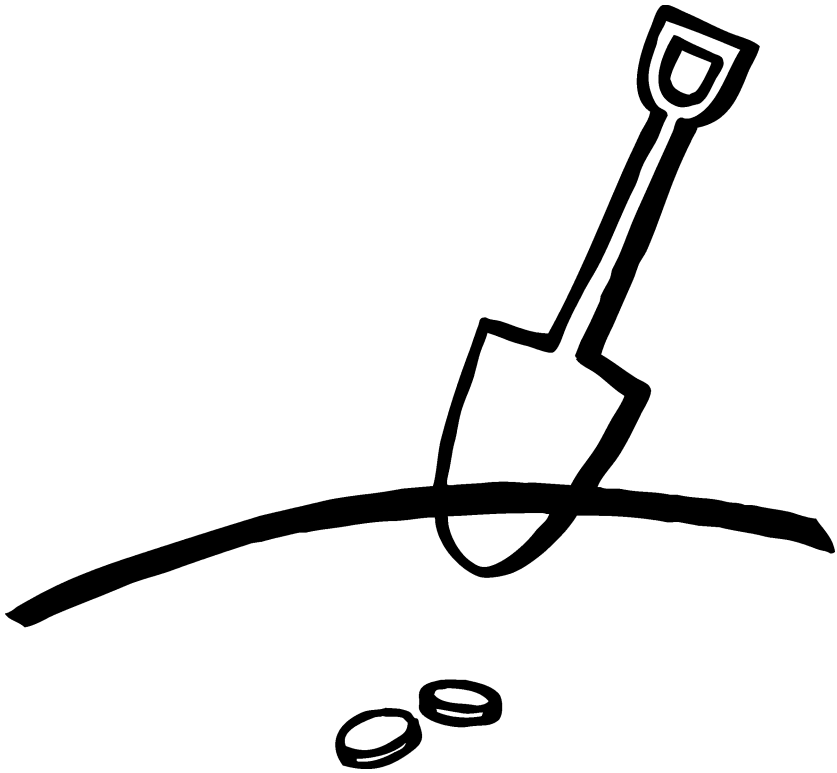
DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE









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