

*Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Prescott Valley, AZ
“to serve God and share the good news of Jesus Christ”
Twenty Third Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2020 Traditional Worship Service*

Prelude

Cathy Namock, organist

“*Lord, I Want To Be A Christian*” by Bryan Glyncannon
Based on a spiritual

Welcome

P: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.

GATHERING

Opening Litany

Psalm 70

L: Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O Lord, make haste to help me.
C: Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.
L: Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.
C: Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the Lord!”
L: But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry.

Confession & Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
C: Amen.
L: 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.
C: Amen.
L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
L: Gracious God,
C: 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.
P: 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.

C: Amen.

Opening Hymn

Hymn #632

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past” (vs. 1 & 6)

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
our shelter from the stormy blast,
and our eternal home:

O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our enteral home.

Prayer of the Day

L: O God of justice and love,

C: 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.

Children’s Message

Special Music

Handbells Sextet, Gene Fougner, Director

“Wonderful Words of Life” (Bliss/Cota)
Hope Publishing (Agape) 2001

WORD

First Reading

Amos 5:18-24

Reading Introduction

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

¹⁸ Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

¹⁹ as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

²⁰ Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹ I hate, I despise your festivals,
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 offerings of well-being of your fatted animals
I will not look upon.
²³ Take away from me the noise of your songs;
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.
²⁴ But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

Second Reading

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Reading Introduction

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.

¹³ But we 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. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵ For 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. ¹⁶ For 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. ¹⁷ Then 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. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

[Jesus said to the disciples:] “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ 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, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶ But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹ But 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.’ ¹⁰ And 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.¹¹ Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’¹² But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’¹³ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

Pastor Tricia Lowe

“Foolish or Wise?”

Hymn of the Day

Hymn # 244

“*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*” (vs. 1 & 2)

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.

The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.

Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.

The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.

Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven & 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

L: 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.

L: Holy God, rouse us to deep praise as we gather for worship. Enliven our worship with sincere and heartfelt song. Sustain the work of all church musicians and artists who lead us in praise and prayer Gene, Kathy and Jonathan. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Holy Creator, surprise and delight us with the beauty of the world you have made. Bless the work of landscapers, architects, and artists whose work invites us into harmonious living with your creation and bring weather that is helpful to it. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Holy Judge, let justice roll down like waters over this world. Reign over the courtrooms of every land, in the hearts of those who guard the law and those who stand accused of crimes. Be present in cases where we long for both justice and mercy to prevail. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Holy Companion, console those who feel lonely or abandoned. Comfort those who have few friends or who struggle with their identity and place in this world. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Holy Protector, be with all observing Veterans Day. Guard the lives of active duty and retired military personnel. Comfort all who mourn those who have died in the line of duty. Heal the wounds, both physical and mental, experienced by service members. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Please take this time to offer any other intercessions, either aloud or in your heart.

L: Holy and Immortal One, we pray in thanksgiving for the lives of all who have died. Remind us of the frailty and shortness of our own lives and inspire us to use them for the building up of your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: 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.

ALL: Amen.

The 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.**

Offering:

P: We give thanks for the offerings that we have received in the mail, online and in person. These gifts make it possible for us to continue to be the church in the world even when we can't meet in our sanctuary. If you are worshiping with us today and would like to make a donation, please go to our website homepage and click the online giving link.

Let us pray: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, to show the world your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

SENDING

The Benediction

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you.

May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you.

May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn

Hymn # 638

"Blessed Assurance" (vs. 1)

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long:
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long:
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God!



As a congregation, we pray for God's guidance on our journey of service to our membership, our community and our world. Pray for Pastor Tricia, the Church Council, and the Ministry Leadership. The church office reviews this list monthly. Please call if your prayer concern is removed earlier than you wish.

Please keep the following in your prayers during this week:

Members

*Alis Seim
Arlene Meder
Ben Stricker
Bonnie Kain
Carol Hotten
Chuck Lynch
Cris Spahr
David Ramirez
Deanna McDaniel*

*Geri Cottrell
Gwen Savage
Helen Morton
Karen Roush
Kat Harley-Mays
Kyle Smith
Len Warne
Linda Walkoff
Marilyn Murphy*

*Marty Watkins
Mary Austin
Nancy Nimocks
Pam MacCleary
Ramona Walker
Ron Kovara
Ruth Martindale
Wayne Theobald*

Our Family Members in Military and Deployed

Meg Northrup Jim VanScoy

Kenneth Lindsay deployed Kuwait – friend of Carl Schulze

Family Members and Friends

*Adam & Liz Crowley – daughter & son-in-law of
Barbie Harlib
Anita Vasser – daughter of Mida Jordan
Baby Aurora & Baby Dale – Worthington's foster
children
Becky Bodnarczuk – niece of Nancy Clark
Bill Deffenbaugh – stepfather of Kimberly Goats
Bob Hermann – cousin of Willie & Betty Hermann
Bob Whitney – friend of Emmanuel
Buel McCoy – father of Wendy Woolley
Cheryl Midel – aunt of Wendy Woolley
Chris Vettore – daughter of Ron Kovara
Connie Miller & son Trevor – friends of Carl
Schulze
Cris & Susie – brother & sister of Clara Farmer
Dan Lowe – brother-in-law of Pastor Tricia
Debra Jones – mother-in-law of Kimberly Goats
Don Jones – friend of Jim & Carole Rebholz
Doug Bayle – nephew of Phyllis Pohlman
Edie Hales – mother of Cheryl Miller
Edward Kelly – friend of Mark & Mary Austin
Grant – grandson of Dan & Carol Cwach
Jack Gregory – friend of Ellen Rosfeld
Janice Zimbelman – friend of Emmanuel
Joann Harlib – mother of Scott Harlib
Joshua Diebel – stepbrother of Tawnya
Worthington*

*Julie Ward – daughter of Keith & Cathy Namock
Kelly Smith – daughter of Bobbe Serena Wayman
Kris Franklin – friend of Wendy Woolley
Leroy Goats – father-in-law of Kimberly Goats
Linda Vallner – sister of Ron Kovara
Marie – Clara Farmer's son's mother-in-law
Marilyn Bostin – cousin of Tom Smith
Mark Kovara – son of Ron Kovara
Merle MacCleary – father of Pam MacCleary
Miranda & Brad Rebholz – granddaughter and
grandson of Jim & Carole Rebholz
Rev. Paul Meier – former pastor of Larry & Sonya
Mahler
Rich, Carol, daughter Rachel & grand daughter
Audrey, friends of Larry & Sonya Mahler
Rosemary – neighbor of Mary Wakimoto
Sam Crifasi – friend of Larry Mahler
Sarah Mulligan – daughter of Carol Wade
Shelly Damschroder – friend of Kathy Austin and
Daughter-in-law of Margaret Damschroder
Star Campbell – friend of Bob Saul
Stefanie O'Donnell – daughter of Shelby & Carol
Tate
Trisha Galindo – daughter of Gary & Jean Kiser
Wayne Wallingford – brother of Sheila Smilgis*

Our prayers and sympathies to Bob Frey and family on the passing of Bob's sister Saundra Krawson, October 26.

Someone is in the church office weekdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., but the church doors will be locked. Please knock upon arriving or call first. Please note that we are now requesting that everyone wear masks when they enter the church building. Don't be surprised when Mary and Pastor Tricia put theirs on when you come in! With the rise in cases of the virus in our community, we want to make sure we use all safety precautions to protect the most vulnerable among us.

MISSION OUTREACH for the month of November is PASS (PAWS). We are a people who take hope seriously and believe in the innate worth of every human being, it is our job to take people where they are and help get them where they want to go. The Shelter will provide basic resources to homeless/transitional women and children of Yavapai County. Our facility will be an outreach program by connecting guests to current outside resources. PAWS is currently the only shelter in Prescott that provides emergency services for women and children. PAWS has now secured a permanent location so their doors can be opened year-round.

We are updating the photo directory! Since we are not meeting in the church building yet, we are asking everyone to submit their own pictures. You can take a selfie with your phone or have someone else take it for you. We ask that you try to have a **solid colored background** and that the picture is of your upper torso. You can email them to the church office at Emmanuelelca@gmail.com, or text them to me on my cell phone at 310-890-9785, by November 1st. (make sure you include your names)

Interfaith Meal: Did you know that our church feeds about 120 community members each month during our Interfaith Meal? Even if you aren't available on a Thursday (during prep) or Friday (during the meal), check with Outreach to see how you can help! With meals discontinued at Trinity and postponed at St. Germaine's during this social distancing time, Emmanuel is hosting a second meal each month. Our next **take-out only meal is Friday, November 13, at 11:00 a.m.**

Offerings - Even though we are not meeting in the sanctuary, our church keeps the lights on! We are paying our staff, our bills and our benevolence commitment to the synod, and serving the twice monthly interfaith meals. This is only possible if our members continue to give. There are several ways to give your offering: mail it in, drop it off in the secure locking mailbox next to the front door, drop it off in person during office hours, use Vanco auto-withdraw system or Bill Pay with your bank, which is great because there are no fees to you or the church for this service. We are so blessed to have such a generous and faithful congregation!

Food Pantry – At this time, the food pantry prefers monetary donations so they can purchase the needed items. Donations can be mailed to the church and we will make sure the Food Pantry receives them in a timely manner. We will have a food bag drive, with a drop off at church, later.

Aluminum Cans – Emmanuel is still collecting cans. Please bring to the church and deposit in the container held in the dumpster area.

Thrivent Members: Thank you, Thrivent Members, for directing Choice Dollars® to Emmanuel Lutheran Church. In 2018, Emmanuel received \$5,730 through the Thrivent Choice® program; just over \$4,000 in 2019. Through your membership, the causes, congregations, and communities you care about are strengthened. We are stronger together!

This year, though, as our participation in community and church has been limited, Choice Dollar directives to Emmanuel as of September 30, are \$1,693 – well below the rate of previous years. Our Thrivent Reps tell us that a substantial amount of Choice Dollars are not directed. You may check your account on line to verify and direct funds, or contact Thrivent (1-800-847-4836) and say Choice Dollars when prompted.