

Sunday, November 15, 2020
24th Sunday After Pentecost



1 West Ridge Road, Savannah, GA 31411
(912) 598-1188
www.messiahsi.org

GATHERING

Note: Congregational responses in bold type.

WELCOME TO THIS WORSHIP CELEBRATION of the living Christ's presence in our midst. Christ comes to us with new life and strength for Christian living in daily life through the hearing of the Word, preaching, prayer, song, and community.

PRELUDE

CONFESSİON AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity,  one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.

Amen.

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

Faithful God,

have mercy on us.

**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**

**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**

We place our own needs before those of our neighbors.

We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.

**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:
Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.
Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Follows on the next page.

O God Beyond All Praising

Hymn 880

V. 1 & 3

O God beyond All Praising

1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to - day
2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,
3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,

and sing the love a - maz - ing that songs can-not re - pay;
its frag - ile bloom sur - ren - der to you, the Lord most high;
that we who know your fa - vor may serve you as our King;

for we can on - ly won - der at ev - 'ry gift you send,
but hid - den from all na - ture the e - ter - nal seed is sown -
and wheth - er our to - mor - rows be filled with good or ill,

at bless-ings with - out num - ber and mer-cies with - out end:
though small in mor - tal stat - ure, to heav-en's gar - den grown:
we'll tri - umph through our sor - rows and rise to bless you still:

we lift our hearts be - fore you and wait up - on your word,
for Christ, your gift from heav - en, from death has set us free,
to mar - vel at your beau - ty and glo - ry in your ways,

we hon - or and a - dore you, our great and might - y Lord.
and we through him are giv - en the fi - nal vic - to - ry.
and make a joy - ful du - ty our sac - ri - fice of praise.

Text: Michael Perry, 1942–1996

Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

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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.

Please be seated.

WORD

FIRST READING: ZEPHANIAH 1:7, 12-18

OT 827

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.

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: PSALM 90:1-8, 12

So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (Ps. 90:12)

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.”

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.

¹²**So teach us to number our days**

that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 5:1-11

NT 181

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.

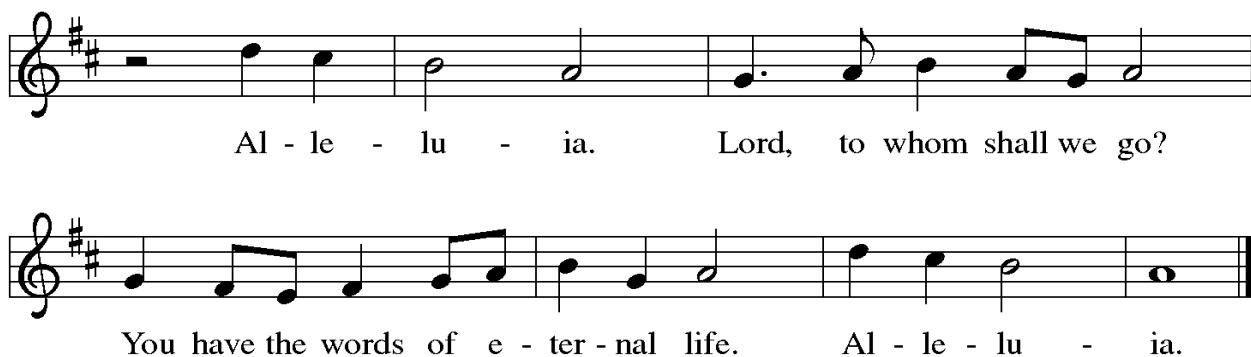
¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, 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.

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25:14-30

NT 25

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.

The Holy Gospel according 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.’²³ 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.’²⁴ 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;²⁵ so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’²⁶ 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?²⁷ 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.²⁸ So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents.²⁹ 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.³⁰ 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.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Rev. Jason Talsness

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Follows on the next page.

When Peace Like a River

Hymn 785

v. 1 & 4



1 When peace like a riv - er at - tend - eth my way, when
2 Though Sa - tan should buf - fet, though tri - als should come, let
3 He lives— oh, the bliss of this glo - ri - ous thought; my
4 Lord, has - ten the day when our faith shall be sight, the



sor - rows like sea bil - lows roll, what - ev - er my lot, thou hast
this blest as - sur - ance con - trol, that Christ hath re - gard - ed my
sin, not in part, but the whole, is nailed to his cross and I
clouds be rolled back as a scroll, the trum - pet shall sound and the



taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul.
help - less es - tate, and hath shed his own blood for my soul.
bear it no more. Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
Lord shall de - scend; e - ven so it is well with my soul.

Refrain



It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul.

Text: Horatio G. Spafford, 1828–1888

Music: VILLA DU HAVRE, Philip P. Bliss, 1838–1876

APOSTLE'S 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

Response after each prayer: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Response at end: 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.

MEAL

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...we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Lord God of pow'r and might,
Heav'n 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

LORD'S PRAYER

Page 154

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

God's love is poured out in Christ for you.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

(Communion will be distributed by Pastor Talsness. See the Announcements section for details about the process. For those who prefer grape juice, please indicate that to Pastor when he approaches your row.)

SPECIAL MUSIC

In Remembrance

Buryl Red

Joy & Tom Olson, Vocalists

Please stand.

PASTORAL BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

SENDING

PASTORAL BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you,
And give you peace.
Amen.

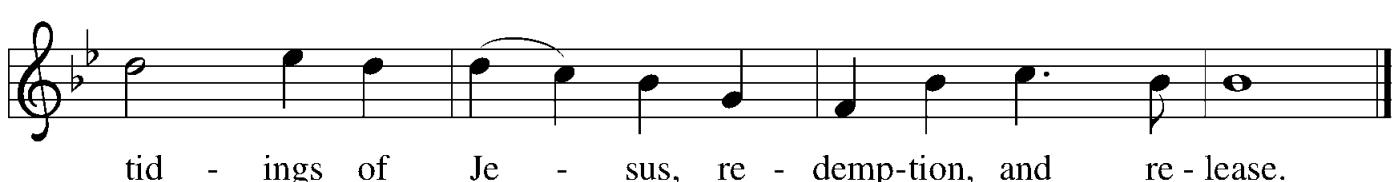
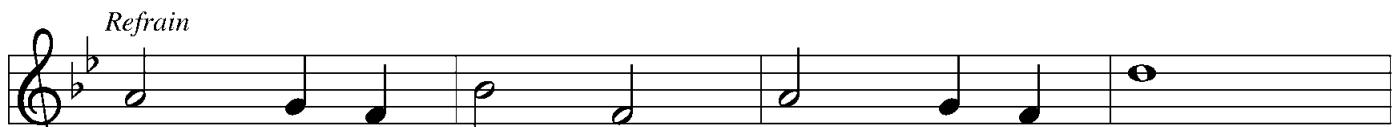
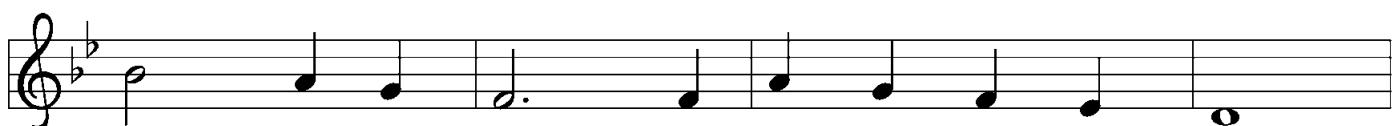
SENDING SONG

Follows on the next page.

O Zion, Haste

Hymn 668

v. 1 & 3



Text: Mary A. Thomson, 1834–1923

Music: ANGELIC SONGS, James Walch, 1837–1901

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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ALTAR FLOWERS are given by Pattye & Clarke Field *in celebration of our 58th wedding anniversary on November 17* and by Barbara Van Doren & Tim Andrews *in celebration of Tim's birthday on November 14.*

THE ETERNAL CANDLE is given this month by Lana & Eric Gilster *to the glory of God.*

HOLY COMMUNION

Messiah will offer Holy Communion during in-person worship today. Because of the pandemic, there will be a significant change in how communion is administered. The pastor will visit each pew instead of having people come forward.

Individuals will receive a pre-packed plastic chalice. The wafer is in the "bottom" of the chalice. First the bottom is opened, and the worshiper will consume the wafer. After that, one simply turns the chalice to its rightful position and opens the top seal to consume the wine. We do have grape juice, just indicate to the pastor your preference as he approaches your pew. Unfortunately, gluten-free is not an option.

Also, participation in communion is not mandatory. If for safety reasons a worshiper does not wish to partake, just let the pastor know.

SECOND HARVEST UPDATE



For November, we are collecting side dishes for Thanksgiving: canned green beans, canned corn, canned cranberry sauce, boxed rice or boxed potatoes. The due date will be early-November 20.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS 2020



Christmas is coming, and soon Messiah's Sanctuary will be brimming with poinsettias. We invite you to give a Christmas Poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one. The dedications will be distributed at the Christmas Eve Worship Service. The cost is \$12 per plant. To order, please pick up an envelope in the Sanctuary, Narthex, or Church Office. Then fill in the form, enclose your check, and return it to the Church Office or in the offering plate by Sunday, December 6.

ADVENT DEVOTION

For those looking for a good devotion for Advent, Pastor Talsness is inviting Messiah to join him in reading "Celebrating Abundance - Devotions for Advent" by Walter Brueggemann, who is a renowned scholar of the Old Testament. This devotion roots the promise of the birth of the Messiah in the prophets of the Old Testament, particularly Isaiah. There is a daily reflection and prayer for each day of Advent.
<https://www.amazon.com/Celebrating-Abundance-Devotions-Walter-Brueggemann/dp/0664262279>

FLOWERS

If you donate flowers for worship, you are welcome to take them home with you to enjoy through the week.

ARE YOU BORED? WANT SOMETHING NEW TO DO? HAVE TOO MANY PLASTIC BAGS?

If you answered YES, to any of the above, please come join us under the bell tower each WEDNESDAY at 10 am in Fellowship Hall. PLEASE BRING all your old plastic bags

(grocery, Walmart, Dollar General, whatever you have). We will be making **PLARN**—which was recently featured in the *TWATL*. These are "plastic mats" that are donated to the homeless shelter for distribution to those on the streets. They are **EASY TO MAKE**. There are several steps, that we will break into groups to learn. No previous skills needed. You will find where you fit in and will be an important part of our project!!

We will social distance, wear a mask (if you choose), bring a chair to work in, scissors, hydration, and all those plastic bags!! If you cannot come but wish to donate bags, you may do so at the church office entrance.

Thank you!! See you on WEDNESDAY!!



THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Ministers	The People of Messiah
Pastor	Jason Talsness
Pastor Emeritus	James Peper
Presiding Bishop ELCA	Elizabeth A. Eaton
Bishop, SE Synod ELCA	Kevin Strickland
Organist	Diane Boyd
Choral Director	Mary Maner
Altar Guild	Jan Hazel & Jane Holst
Reader	Joy Olson

MILESTONES THIS WEEK

Birthdays: Carl Luecke 11/21

Anniversaries: Gail & John Maurer 11/16, Patty & Clarke Field 11/17, Jennifer & Khoa Nguyen 11/16, Linda & Kenneth Turk 11/19

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

REMINDERS FOR THIS TIME OF COVID-19

If you are ill, have a fever, or have potentially been exposed to COVID-19 in the past two weeks, please stay home. If you cannot follow these requirements, enjoy the taped worship service at home.

- Please always wear a mask.
- Hand sanitizer will be available outside, in the Narthex and in the pews.
- Keep your physical distance:
 - Follow the markers outside.
 - Greet people outside. No handshakes or hugs.
 - No socializing inside.
- Place your offering in the offering plates on stands as you enter the Sanctuary.
- Sit in your reserved seat. An usher will accompany to your seat, and your bulletin will be in your seat.
- Pew materials have been removed.
- Although there will be music, please do not sing.
- Speak the responses softly.
- If Holy Communion is served, there will be a special process for distribution.
- We will not pass the peace.
- Pastor Jason will coordinate dismissal by rows beginning at the rear of the Sanctuary.
- You are welcome to bring a water bottle.
- There is no coffee social, and all meeting rooms are closed.
- Restrooms are open, but please use them one person or family at a time.

Giving Thanks for Twenty-five Years

