

A stylized, light green graphic of a plant with several leaves and stems, positioned in the upper half of the page. The leaves are simple, teardrop-shaped, and arranged in a cluster. The stems are vertical and slightly curved.

Time after Pentecost

OUR SAVIOR
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Twenty-Third Sunday after
Pentecost
Sunday, November 8, 2020



OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
745 Front Street S., Issaquah, WA 98027
425-392-4169

SERVICE OF THE WORD

GATHERING: THE HOLY SPIRIT CALLS US TOGETHER AS THE PEOPLE OF GOD.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers (v. 1 & 2)

#244

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660-1722 tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823-1907; Music: Swedish folk tune

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
The evening is advancing and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is a rising 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.

WELCOME

Pastor Jim Kruse

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

PM: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us confess our sin.

C: Gracious God, have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, know and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PM: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life.

C: Amen.

GREETING

PM: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Glory to God

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Amen.
Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PM: Let us pray. 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.

WORD: GOD SPEAKS TO US IN SCRIPTURE READING, PREACHING AND SONG.

FIRST READING

Amos 5:18-24

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the Lord! Why do you want the day of the Lord? It is darkness, not light; ¹⁹as 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. ²⁰Is not the day of the Lord darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

²¹I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. ²²Even 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. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

AM: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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.

AM: Word of God, word of life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, Alleluia,
Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1-13

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.”

PM: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Whatever it Takes

Pastor Jim Kruse

For several weeks now, when I, our golden retrievers, for their walk on Saturday and Sunday afternoon, a couple of blocks over from our house, there has been a man working his way up and down the street on special roller skates. The skates are design to simulate the movements of cross-country skiing. And the slight slope of the street must be just right for him to practice his movements. With poles in his hands he swooshes back and forth, working hard to go up the street, then gently gliding back down. His movements are so well choreographed that, if you could see only the man and not the street, you would think that there really was snow that he was skillfully slicing through on a crisp winter day.

What this man is doing is particular to the northwestern United States. In typical northwest style, he is preparing for winter. When I moved from Wisconsin to Washington 25 years ago, I discovered an important difference between the two places. In both places, in late October and November you knew winter was coming. And in both places, those who are smart prepared for it. But the preparation in the two places is quite different.

In the Midwest, winter is something to be feared, or at least respected. Late in the fall, those who were smart, stocked their cars with several important things: jumper cables, blankets or extra jackets, a small snow shovel, and a bag of sand or kitty-litter; maybe even a tow-rope.

Out here, however, winter is something to be anticipated and welcomed. Late in the fall you put away the golf clubs and you get out your ski equipment. You winterize the boat and you tune up the snowmobile. Out here, winter is just another season for recreation, with all of its own toys and equipment to prepare.

Winter is coming, and those who are smart prepare for it.

“The bridegroom is coming,” we are told in the Gospel reading for today. And we think it means, “Get ready! Be prepared!” At first reading, there is an implication in this parable that the maidens who are smart are the ones who are properly prepared for the bridegroom’s arrival. And that the foolish maidens are foolish because they failed to be properly prepared for the return of the bridegroom.

But after a closer reading, we realize that being properly prepared is not really the problem. At the end of his story Jesus does not say, “So you better be prepared!” No, he says, “Stay Awake! Keep Watch!” And in this story, all of the bridesmaids fall asleep. And all of their lamps go out in the middle of the night.

When half the maidens are caught without extra oil, they had an option open to them which they did not even consider. Instead of listening to the bidding of the wise ones, and running off to fill their lamps, they could have stayed put. They could have kept on keeping watch in the darkness. They could have been there to greet the Bridegroom even if their oil was gone. To do so would have meant that they would have been guilty of failing to do their job. But then again, maybe they misunderstood what their job really was.

What if, instead of thinking that their job was to provide light, they understood that their job was to be there when the bridegroom arrived no matter what? What if they realized that they had been invited to the wedding to help the bridegroom celebrate his marriage? In fact, he was counting on it. In that case, true dereliction of duty would be doing anything that caused them to be gone when he arrived.

There is a story told about the early days of UPS, when the United Parcel Service was just getting started. In those days the originator of UPS impressed on his managers that their job was to do whatever it takes to deliver packages. Their job was not to drive a truck. Their job was not to label packages, not to lift boxes, not to ring doorbells, not to get signatures, or any of the hundreds of other little tasks it may take to get packages delivered. They may have to do those things in order to get the job done, but their one and only job was to get the package delivered.

And so, the story goes, in the middle of a blizzard, in the middle of the state of Maine, when the storm closed the only roads available, that a young manager took it upon himself, without discussing it with his supervisor or anyone else in the company, to charter a helicopter to deliver a package. Even though the expense of delivering that one package was thousands of times greater than the fee that had been collected to do so, the company directors praised this manager for what he had done and lifted him up as an example for the rest of the company.

Here was a man who understood what his job was. And he made sure he did it.

This congregation, Our Savior Lutheran Church, is now about 60 years old, and the Transition Team has just completed a self-study as part of the process of calling a new pastor. For 60 years, we have been doing the work of being the church in this place. But what does that mean? What is the job of the church?

One way to look at our job is to believe that God expects us to do certain things here. God expects there to be a preacher and interesting and inspiring worship here every Sunday, even if it is prerecorded like this one is. God expects us to have Bible studies and fellowship events, and a Church Council for leadership. God expects there to be a budget and careful management of funds. God expects there to be a building that is kept in good repair. And there should be fund raising programs for helping the poor and needy in our community and around the world.

We could even say that, as long as these things are being done, we are doing a pretty good job of being the church. After all, this is what we have been doing here for more the last 60 years.

But what if all of these things are not our really our job? What if they are just the things we have been doing to get our real job done? Then what really is our job?

Another way, a better way, to see the purpose of this church, any church, is to do whatever it takes to be God's presence in service to the world. Everything that we do, we do to accomplish this job. If we conduct public worship, if we appoint church leaders, if we raise and manage funds, if we build and maintain a building, and if we conduct programs to teach the faith and help the poor—we do all these things in order to be God's presence in service to the world.

But there is a problem if we lose sight of the big job and just keep on doing the same thing we have always done. All of us know that the circumstances of our world have changed dramatically since Our Savior started trying to be the church in the ways I just described. The way music touches the heart of people has changed in the last 50 years. The way that people hear the spoken word is different. The way we organize our lives for getting things done is different.

If our job is really to do whatever it takes to be God's presence in service to the world, then continuing to do things in the way we have may no longer be good enough. Like the foolish maidens, we realize that we have run out of oil. But instead of running away to get more, we can face the bridegroom with humility and joy, thankful for the invitation to continue to participate in whatever way that is. If you will do that, our job continues to be fresh and exciting.

"Keep awake," our Lord tells us. "For you know neither the day nor the hour."

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Are Called

Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!
We are called to be light for the kingdom,
to live in the freedom of the city of God.

Refrain: We are called to act with justice,
We are called to love tenderly;

We are called to serve one another, to walk humbly with God.

Come! Open your heart! Show your mercy to all those in fear!
We are called to be hope for the hopeless
so hatred and blindness will be no more.

Refrain

Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be one!
God will reign, and we'll walk with each other as sisters and brothers
united in love.

Refrain

OFFERING

As you consider how your life has been sustained emotionally, physically and financially, during the challenging events of 2020, please take this opportunity to give your gratitude to God through your generous financial support of the ongoing ministries of Our Savior Lutheran Church.

OFFERING PRAYER

PM: God of life, you give us these gifts of the earth, these resources of our life and our labor. Take them, offered in great thanksgiving, and use them to set a table that will heal the whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Light.

C: Amen.

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 THE PEOPLE

Everlasting God, stir your church to be ever vigilant and awake.

+ We give thanks for your precious gift of life. Embrace us in your love and deliver us from every fear and distraction, that we might be found faithful on the day of the Lord.

+ We lift up those who are hungry. Stir us to action as we support our neighbors in need. We give thanks for our partnership with ELCA World Hunger - helping us find sustainable solutions.

+ We pray for our neighbors who are in danger in their relationships. And we lift up those who protect, support, and advocate for victims of domestic violence.

Creator and Sustainer of the universe.

+ Keep us faithful in our stewardship of your creation. Inspire our serving, our care-taking, and the use of our talents, as well as those of our mission partners, especially our partners at Earth Ministry and Lutherans Restoring Creation.

+ We pray for those who are living through the challenges of natural disasters. We are mindful of the powerful storms that have brought destruction to the southeastern states. We hold in our hearts the victims of wildfires in California, Oregon and Washington. Grant safety and endurance to all people as they recover and rebuild.

Almighty God, you establish all nations and call us govern with justice and peace.

+ We pray that the leaders we have elected on Election Day this week will be guided by the teachings of Jesus and our concern for justice, reconciliation, and the well-being of all people.

+ We give thanks for those have served to defend and protect our nation, especially those who are veterans of military service. May they be honored among us for their dedication and sacrifice.

+ We lift up people for whom insecurity and violence are a daily experience. Help us to bring healing and safety to all.

+ We pray for families who are balancing working and helping children do their school work from home. Grant strength and grace in the midst of these challenges.

God of all mercy, defend the weak, the ill, and those in any need.

+ We pray for those who are facing ongoing challenges and health concerns: Jerry, Mary, Ron, Carol, JD, Marlene, Nancy, Carmen; Doyle and his family, Jeremy, communities across the country, Dave, Guests of the Community Meals Program, Sonja, Nicole, Josee and Jeannie.

+ We continue to pray for those affected by the COVID-19 crisis: provide healing for those infected; protect and sustain care providers; grant peace to those who have lost loved ones; and sustain those who have lost their jobs and businesses.

+ We lift up anyone experiencing anxiety and depression. Empower us to reach out to those who need care and support. For those who are in despair, remember you are never beyond God's mercy, grace and love.

O God, giver of all life, raise us from every grief.

+ Wrap your arms of love and hope around all who are experiencing any kind of loss or disconnection. We lift up the family and friends of: Talton, Jean, Dee, Marlene, Nikki, Dick, Germaine, and Bob. Meet us with your merciful embrace and bear us along in the hope of your salvation.

For what and for whom else do the people of God pray this morning?

Receive these, our prayers, O God, and give us all we need for this day and the days to come, through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

BLESSING

PM: The blessing of almighty God, the Father of glory, Jesus Christ our peace, and the Spirit of truth, be upon you and remain with you always.

C: Amen.

POSTLUDE

Wachet auf, ruf uns die Stimme
(Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying) — J.S. Bach

Jiyoung Lee

Commemorations for the Week

Martin, Bishop of Tours, died 397, Wednesday, November 11

Martin's pagan father enlisted him in the Roman army. Approached by a beggar, Martin cut his cloak in half and gave part to the man, whom he later understood as representing Christ. He asked to leave the army, but was jailed instead. After his release, he became a preacher, and later a bishop.

Søren Aabye Kierkegaard, teacher, died 1855, Wednesday, November 11

Kierkegaard was a Danish theologian whose writings also gave rise to the modern philosophy of existentialism. He frequently attacked the complacency of the state church of his day, as well as its desire to be accepted by polite society rather than be a stumbling block.

Serving in Worship:

Worship Leader:	Pastor Jim Kruse
Assisting Minister:	Mary Ann Hult
Song Leaders:	Lori Downey, David Hersey, Alice Lewis
Piano:	Jan Hazelton
Music Director:	Jan Hazelton
Videographer:	Leslie Waltzer
Video Editor:	Dave Carlson
Banner:	Elaine Stamm
Bulletin Cover:	Craig Gillin

Readings for Next Sunday: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30

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Our Savior Lutheran Church Staff

Rev. James R. Kruse, *Transition Pastor*
Shari Lundberg, *Parish Administrator*
Dr. Jiyoung Lee, *Parish Organist*

Scott Hafso (On Leave), *Director of
Worship & Music*
Kate Gagnon, *Lay Visitation Minister*



Additional worship resources:

Reading: Psalm 70

Suggested Hymn for Listening: *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

Prayer is putting our faith into action. We invite you to include these people in your daily prayers. You can make prayer requests via email at office@oslcssaquah.org. All written requests will remain on this list for 4 weeks.

Jerry Nack preparing for upcoming surgery for spinal stenosis. (Kate Gagnon)

Mary healing, wholeness, comfort and a clear sense that God is in control. (Marilyn Carlson)

Ron Gerde healing for recent medical issues. (Brother to Bob Gerde)

Carol Johnson ongoing medical issues, and mourning the recent loss of her husband & her brothers. (Mary Fricke)

JD Golick diagnosed with stage 3 stomach cancer, completed one cycle of chemotherapy. (nephew to Patty Gerde)

Marlene Pickering discernment in medical decisions to alleviate pain. (Mary Fricke)

Nancy Cumming peace as she awaits an opportunity to move into Timber Ridge. (Mary Fricke)

Nancy Anderson comfort and healing. (Cheryl Neeb)

Carmen Saavedra hope with new medication. (Cheryl Neeb)

Washington, Oregon and California Wildfires firefighters and those affected. (Marilyn Carlson)

Doyle Watson his caregiver and their families, all positive for COVID 19. (Marilyn Carlson)

Jeremy healing broken legs after a motorcycle accident. (brother to Diane Murff)

Safety and peace for communities being torn apart during these difficult times. (Karen Hansen)

Dave Carlson continued healing and following kidney transplant surgery.

Guests of the Community Meals Program safety, health and peace of mind. (Connie Fletcher)

Sonja 3 years old undergoing treatment for cancer. (granddaughter of Henrik & Patty Christopherson)

Nicole DeCamp healing and strength. (Ken DeCamp and Cheryl Leiter)

Josee Jordan peace of mind as she faces health challenges. (Dianne Tanner)

Jeannie Lindquist continued healing and strength.

Healing and peace of mind: Henrik & Patty Christopherson (Dianne Tanner); **Vern Lindquist**; **Mike Golick** (Patty Gerde); **Marian James**; **Gregory** (nephew of Joanne Suttmeier); **Doug Patur**; **Katie Moeller**; **Margot Inman**; **Ken Acker** (son of Lucy Acker); **Marilyn Carlson**; **Taufik Hidayut**

(Ken Konigsmark); **Don Wilkinson** (husband of Gwynn Wilkinson); **Rebecca Thomas**; **Tanisha Foote** (Marilyn Carlson); **Dorothy Soland**; **Randi Strom**; **Jeanne Kuipers**; **John Pass**; **Florence Kinnune**; **Carol Harbolt**; **Sandy Aldworth**; **Jen Winslow**; **Larry Pruitt**.

Undergoing cancer treatment: **Amy Aldworth** (daughter-in-law of Sandy Aldworth) **Les Carlson** (father of Dave Carlson); **Harold Mandt** (brother of Mary Ann Hult and Lorna Robertson); **Chris Howe** (brother of Mark Howe); **Peggy Scalise** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Eileen Letts** (cousin of Mark Howe); **Keith DeCamp** (brother of Ken DeCamp); **Barbara Jones** (mother of Ron Sordahl); **Doug McVety** (Helen Nychay); **Al Batt** (Connie Fletcher); **Larry Harbolt** (Ray Harbolt); **Gerald Welch** (Vern and Jeannie Lindquist); **Christy Williams** (Bill Bergsma); **Dana Mancini** (Jan Setterlund); **Greg Petersen** (Wes Collum); **Barry Donker** (Joan Parish); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Kathryn Aitcheson** (Gerrie Hendrickson); **Yuko Takiguchi** (Teiko Soland); **Barb** (Janette Singley)

Living with cancer: **Liz Kidd** (Bob Beck); **Duane Jacobson**; **Mary Lewis** (sister-in-law of Lyle and Alice Lewis); **Mark Becker** (uncle of Paula Seeger); **Barbara Krogh Jarvis** (sister of Steve Krogh); **Suzanne Lewis** (daughter-in-law of Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Mira Bergsma**

Mourning the death of loved ones: For peace and comfort during this time of grieving for the family and friends of: **Talton Johnson** (husband of Carol Johnson); **Jean Stanley** (sister-in-law to Alice Lewis); **Delores "Dee" Bakamus** (Dar Boni); **Marlene Braun** (sister to Cheryl Neeb); **Nikki** (niece to Doug & Dianne Tanner); **Richard "Dick" Birdsall** (Dianne Tanner); **Germaine Korum** (Lyle & Alice Lewis); **Bob Gray** (Doug & Dianne Tanner)

Members and friends serving in the military; fire & police departments, & emergency rooms: **Mike** special ops, unexpectedly called up. (nephew of Dave and Marilyn Carlson)

Global Missions and Missionaries: For peace in Hong Kong. (Global Missions). Congregations in Chiclayo, Peru: **Pepe** at Las Brisas, **Merci** in San Antonio and **Harold** at Las Lomas. **MaaSae Girls Lutheran Secondary School** in Tanzania.