

Peace Lutheran Church
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Pastor Ricky Adams



November 15, 2020
24th Sunday After Pentecost
“Preparing to Fly”

Whoever you are...
Wherever you are in your JOURNEY OF FAITH...
YOU are WELCOME here!

We Gather In The Presence Of God

“Preparing to Fly”

Matthew 25:14-30

Our readings during November speak of the end times. 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. Thank you for joining in worship.

Invocation and Psalm (Psalm 90:1-12, A Prayer of Moses, the man of God. Please stand)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Lord, you have been our dwelling place in all generations.

People: **Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God.**

Pastor: You turn us back to dust, and say, “Turn back, you mortals.”

People: **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night.**

Pastor: You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning;

People: **in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.**

Pastor: For we are consumed by your anger; by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

People: **You have set our iniquities before you, our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

Pastor: For all our days pass away under your wrath; our years come to an end like a sigh.

People: **The days of our life are seventy years, or perhaps eighty, if we are strong; even then their span is only toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we fly away.**

Pastor: Who considers the power of your anger? Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.

People: **So teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.**

Opening Song – Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand

(LBW #351. Please remain standing)

Oh, happy day when we shall stand
in heaven with the saved;
all peoples at the Lord's right hand
shall find their names engraved,
shall find their names engraved.

O Lord, your grace is ev'rything;
your love has made us free
to stand among the saints and sing
the glory that we see,
the glory that we see.

Text: Wilhelm A. Wexels, 1797-1866; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
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God Speaks Through His Word

First Reading - 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 (Please be seated)

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.

Pastor: 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. ... This is God's Word

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading - Matthew 25:14-30 (Please remain seated)

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.

Pastor: [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.’” ... This is the Gospel of our Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Message Song – Lord of All Hopefulness (LBW #468, please remain seated)

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy:
be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm:
be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

Text: Jan Struther, 1901-1953. Text © Oxford University Press 1931.

Message

“Preparing to Fly”
Matthew 25:1-13

We Bring Our Praises, Prayers And Gifts

Affirmation of Faith (Please stand)

Pastor: We believe that everything belongs to God, who calls us as the church to live as faithful stewards of all that God has entrusted to us.

People: **As servants of God, we are called to be wise and faithful stewards of God's many blessings. God, who in Christ has given us new life, has also given us spiritual gifts to use for the church's growth and mission in the world. The message of reconciliation has been entrusted to every believer, so that through the church the mystery of the gospel might be made known to the world.**

Pastor: The church does this while looking forward to the coming of our Master and the restoration of all things in the new heaven and new earth.

The Prayers (Please remain standing)

Pastor: 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. - Lord of the church, ignite your people with the passion of your love. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, unify us across ministries, congregations, and denominations, and refine us to participate in your activity throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: Lord of creation, we stand in awe at the works of your hands and praise you for the beauty of nature (local places of natural beauty may be named). Bless the earth for your glory and restore its integrity where exploitation has caused ruin. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: Lord of the nations, sound forth your justice in the ears of all leaders. Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable, especially as international leaders forge trade agreements and cooperate to end human rights abuses. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Lord of the stranger, stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control and open us to learn from the perspectives of others. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Additional Prayers

Pastor: Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: Lord of the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors (especially). Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love. Hear us, O God.

People: Your mercy is great.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (Please remain standing)

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.

Benediction (Please remain standing)

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

Dismissal (Please remain standing)

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

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Song - Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

(ELW #843, please remain standing)

Praise the One who breaks the darkness
with a liberating light;
praise the One who frees the pris'ners,
turning blindness into sight.
Praise the One who preached the gospel,
healing ev'ry dread disease,
calming storms and feeding thousands
with the very bread of peace.

Praise the one true love incarnate:
Christ, who suffered in our place;
Jesus died and rose for many
that we may know God by grace.
Let us sing for joy and gladness,
seeing what our God has done.
Praise the one redeeming glory;
praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955. Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission. CCLI #209714

Announcements

Information About Peace Lutheran Church - If you desire to know more about Peace Lutheran Church such as teachings; affiliations, membership or other questions, please feel free to contact Pastor Adams.

Office Phone – (415) 388-2065

Home Phone – (415) 388-7190

Email – pastor@plcmarin.org

Worship Returns to the Sanctuary – This Sunday, November 15, we will return to worshipping in the Sanctuary at 9:30 a.m.

Worship Services – There are three ways to worship at Peace Lutheran Church during this time of Covid.

Live Stream - Zoom

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73855305624?pwd=ZlZpQkZlbnEx5VmtUYTBKUnlLQjJkZz09>

Meeting ID: 738 5530 5624

Passcode: plcmarin

Facebook users

www.facebook.com/PeaceLutheranMill

(available beginning 10:00 a.m. Sunday Morning)

Non-Facebook Users

www.plcmarin.org

Just go to the front page, scroll to the bottom, and click on the video.
It is that easy!

Communion – After worship from 10:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. You may also call Pastor Adams to make an appointment.

Calendars – Calendars for 2021 are being collected for Fireside. Please feel free to place them in the basket in the lounge.

Weekly Devotional Helps

November 15 - 21, 2020

Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Prayer For The Sick

By your power, great God, our Lord Jesus healed the sick and gave new hope to the hopeless. Though we cannot command or possess your power, we pray for those who want to be healed. Mend their wounds, soothe fevered brows, and make broken people whole again. Help us to welcome every healing as a sign that, though death is against us, you are for us, and have promised renewed and risen life in Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Scripture Readings Through The Week

Monday – November 16

Psalm 95:1-7a
Jeremiah 31:1-17, 23-34
Matthew 27:1-10

Tuesday – November 17

Psalm 95:1-7a
Jeremiah 33:1-22
Matthew 27:11-32

Wednesday – November 18

Psalm 95:1-7a
Jeremiah 37:1-21
Matthew 27:33-56

Thursday – November 19

Psalm 95:1-7a
Jeremiah 38:1-28
Matthew 27:57-66

Friday – November 20

Psalm 95:1-7a

Daniel 1:1-21

Matthew 28:1-20

Saturday – November 21

Psalm 95:1-7a

Daniel 2:1-23

Revelation 18:1-24

Scripture Readings For Next Sunday**Last Sunday Of The Church Year**

Ezekiel 34:11–16, 20–24

Psalm 95:1-7a

1 Corinthians 15:20–28

Matthew 25:31-46

Commemorations

November 17 - Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society, died 1231: Born in Hungary, Elizabeth was betrothed to the son of the Landgrave of Thuringia, and at age four was taken to be raised with him at the Wartburg Castle. Ten years later they were married. She was very generous to the poor, and after her husband's death she lived in cruel hardship until her own death at age twenty-four.

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