

THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 12, 2023

“Ready for Jesus’ Coming”

AS WE GATHER

We are nearing the end of the Church Year, and the readings ask us to consider the end of time. It will come, ready or not. The people in Amos’s day weren’t ready, for they were ignoring the poor and downtrodden. Jesus continued the warning to the people of His day. But Paul reminds us that Christ has made us ready by giving us faith to trust in His death and resurrection. We might be surprised when our Lord returns, but He has provided the oil of faith which we need to welcome Him. So wake up and give Him thanks!

THE WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN #516 *“Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”*



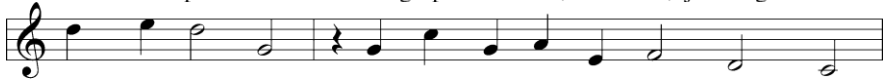
1 “Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing,” The watch - men on the
2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing, And all her heart with
3 Now let all the heav’ns a - dore Thee, Let saints and an - gels



heights are cry - ing; “A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!”
joy is spring - ing; She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
sing be - fore Thee With harp and cym - bals’ clear - est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es And at the thrill - ing
For her Lord comes down all - glo - rious, The strong in grace, in
Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, Where, join - ing with the



cry re - joic - es: “Oh, where are ye, ye vir - gins wise?
truth vic - to - rious; Her star is ris’n, her light is come.
choir im - mor - tal, We gath - er round Thy ra - diant throne.



The Bride - groom comes, a - wake! Your lamps with glad - ness take!
Now come, Thou Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God’s own Son,
No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might



Al - le - lu - ia! With brid - al care Your - selves pre - pare
Hail! Ho - san - na! We en - ter all The wed - ding hall
Of Thy glo - ry; There - fore will we E - ter - nal - ly



To meet the Bride - groom, who is near.”
To eat the Sup - per at Thy call.
Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

(please stand)

THE INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unfailing love;

C: According to Your great compassion blot out my transgressions.

P: Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin.

C: For I know my transgressions, and my sin is always before me. *(Psalm 51:1-3)*

(Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.)

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: We confess to You and to one another, that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You above all things nor our neighbor as ourselves. Forgive us our sins and grant us the aid of Your Holy Spirit to amend our sinful lives.

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✕ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE INTROIT OF THE DAY Psalm 84:1, 9-12; *antiphon*: Psalm 84:3

P: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,

C: at Your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

P: How lovely is Your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

C: Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of Your anointed!

P: For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

C: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

P: For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor.

C: No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly.

P: O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in You!

**C: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

P: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,

C: at Your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

THE KYRIE

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer-cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

P: For the Holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy; Christ have mercy; Lord, have mercy.

THE HYMN OF PRAISE #515 *“Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”*



1 Re - joyce, re-joyce, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride-groom near;
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'nings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.
Go forth as He ap - proch - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.
Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.
A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride-groom is at hand.
In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.
The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING Amos 5:18-24 (ESV)

Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD? It is darkness, and not light, as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. Even though you offer Me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. Take away from Me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE EPISTLE 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 (ESV)

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(please stand)

THE ALLELUIA VERSE *(page 205 in the hymnal)*

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 25:1-13 (ESV)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

[Jesus said] "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry,

'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(please be seated)

THE BIBLE MEMORY VERSE FOR NOVEMBER ~ 1 Thessalonians 5:11

"Encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing."

THE CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

THE HYMN OF THE DAY #514 *"The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us"*



1 The Bride - groom soon will call us, "Come to the wed - ding feast."
2 There shall we see in glo - ry Our dear Re - deem - er's face;
3 There God shall from all e - vil For - ev - er make us free,
4 In that fair home shall nev - er Be si - lent mu - sic's voice;



May slum - ber not be - fall us Nor watch - ful - ness de - crease.
The long - a - wait - ed sto - ry Of heav'n - ly joy takes place:
From sin and from the dev - il, From all ad - ver - si - ty,
With hearts and lips for - ev - er We shall in God re - joice,



May all our lamps be burn - ing With oil e - nough and more
The pa - tri - archs shall meet us, The proph - ets' ho - ly band;
From sick - ness, pain, and sad - ness, From trou - bles, cares, and fears,
While an - gel hosts are rais - ing With saints from great to least



That we, with Him re - turn - ing, May find an o - pen door!
A - pos - tles, mar - tyrs greet us In that ce - les - tial land.
And grant us heav'n - ly glad - ness And wipe a - way our tears.
A might - y hymn for prais - ing The Giv - er of the feast.

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THE SERMON *"Ready for Jesus' Coming"* Text: Amos 5:18-24

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR OFFERINGS *"Lord of All Good"* (#786 verse 1)



1 Lord of all good, our gifts we bring You now;



Use them Your ho - ly pur - pose to ful - fill.



To - kens of love and pledg - es they shall be



That our whole life is of - fered to Your will.

(please stand)

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(Each petition concludes with the following response: "Lord, in Your mercy," "hear our prayer.")

THE LORD'S PRAYER (printed inside the back cover of the hymnal)

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord lift up His countenance on you and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

(please be seated)

THE CLOSING HYMN #917 "Savior, Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise"



1 Sav - ior, a - gain to Thy dear name we raise
2 Grant us Thy peace up - on our home - ward way;
3 Grant us Thy peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;
4 Grant us Thy peace through - out our earth - ly life,



With one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;
With Thee be - gan, with Thee shall end, the day.
Turn Thou for us its dark - ness in - to light.
Our balm in sor - row and our stay in strife;



Once more we bless Thee ere our wor - ship cease,
Guard Thou the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,
From harm and dan - ger keep Thy chil - dren free;
Then, when Thy voice shall bid our con - flict cease,



Then, low - ly bend - ing, wait Thy word of peace.
That in this house have called up - on Thy name.
For dark and light are both a - like to Thee.
Call us, O Lord, to Thine e - ter - nal peace.

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS