

23rd Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 32 A

November 8, 2020 + Mount Olive Lutheran Church



Focus on the Season: The Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 32 A

Today Jesus speaks with some urgency about what we do while we await God's restoring all things. As we live in these times, we consider what it might be to live lives prepared for Christ's return, taking care of the work God needs us to do. The good news? In Christ's resurrection, our invitation to the feast is re-given, even while the risen Christ calls us to live prepared lives.

Keep this document open on the screen, to aid in your worship today. The links are embedded in this pdf, so you don't have to return to the email. You can also print these pages and use the links in the email.



Centering and Gathering

Light your candle. **[Start the video by clicking here](#)**; it will continue through the Postlude.

PRELUDE: Aria on a Chaconne Joel Martinson
Recorded on the 13th Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 23 A, September 7, 2014.

ENTRANCE HYMN: ELW 244 "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"
Recorded at the Advent Procession Service, November 27, 2016.

Word

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY *(Apostolic greeting is on the video)*

O God of justice and love, 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.

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25; reader – Jim Bargmann, lector

¹ Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, and summoned the elders, the heads, the judges, and the officers of Israel; and they presented themselves before God. ² And Joshua said to all the people, "Thus says the LORD, the God of Israel: Long ago your ancestors—Terah and his sons Abraham and Nahor—lived beyond the Euphrates and served other gods. ³ Then I took your father Abraham from beyond the River and led him through all the land of Canaan and made his offspring many.

¹⁴ "Now therefore revere the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness; put away the gods that your ancestors served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. ¹⁵ Now if you are unwilling to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served in the region beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."

¹⁶ Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the LORD to serve other gods; ¹⁷ for it is the LORD our God who brought us and our ancestors up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight. He protected us along all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed; ¹⁸ and the LORD drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the LORD, for he is our God."

¹⁹ But Joshua said to the people, “You cannot serve the LORD, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. ²⁰ If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm, and consume you, after having done you good.” ²¹ And the people said to Joshua, “No, we will serve the LORD!” ²² Then Joshua said to the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen the LORD, to serve him.” And they said, “We are witnesses.” ²³ He said, “Then put away the foreign gods that are among you, and incline your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel.” ²⁴ The people said to Joshua, “The LORD our God we will serve, and him we will obey.” ²⁵ So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and made statutes and ordinances for them at Shechem.

PSALMODY: Psalm 78:1-7 (*sing along with the leaders; the tone is printed in the video*)

¹ Hear my teaching, ¹ O my people; * incline your ears to the words ¹ of my mouth.

² I will open my mouth ¹ in a parable; * I will declare the mysteries of ¹ ancient times—

³ that which we have heard and known, and what our fore- ¹ bears have told us, * we will not hide ¹ from their children.

⁴ We will recount to generations to come the praiseworthy deeds and the power ¹ of the LORD, * and the wonderful works ¹ God has done.

⁵ The LORD gave a decree in Jacob and established a ¹ law in Israel, * commanding our ancestors to teach it ¹ to their children;

⁶ that the generations to come might know, and the children ¹ yet unborn; * that they in their turn might tell it ¹ to their children;

⁷ so that they might put their ¹ trust in God, * and not forget the deeds of God, but keep ¹ God’s commandments.

Recorded on November 4, 2020.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; reader – Kat Campbell-Johnson, assisting minister

Paul writes: ¹³ 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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: “Alleluia”

D. Cherwien

Recorded on the 24th Sunday after Pentecost, Lectionary 33 A, November 19, 2017.

HOLY 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. 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, ‘I tell you the truth, I do not know you.’ ¹³ Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

SERMON

Encouragement

Pastor Joseph Crippen

Silence for reflection

HYMN: ELW 705 “God of Grace and God of Glory”

Sung at Mount Olive on the 8th Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 17 A, July 30, 2017.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Our Assisting Minister for today, Kat Campbell-Johnson, has prepared intercessory prayers for us to pray this morning. As our prayers rise up from all over the metro area and beyond, once more we are joined together in Christ. (Our weekly prayer list is on the last page.) **Response: Hear our prayer.**

PEACE *Please greet one another with Christ's peace.*

OFFERING

There are ways to continue to give of your gifts to our shared work at Mount Olive during this time apart. *The Olive Branch* has suggested ways both electronic and by mail. See:

<https://www.mountolivechurch.org/resources/olive-branch-newsletter/>

Sending

LORD'S PRAYER *Pray the Lord's Prayer together.*

BLESSING *Response: Amen*

HYMN: ELW 327, “Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow”

Sung at Mount Olive on the 23rd Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 33 C, November 17, 2019.

DISMISSAL *The assisting minister leads the dismissal.*

☒ Go in peace to love and serve as Christ.

☑ Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

Improvisation on EBENEZER

David Cherwien

Recorded on November 4, 2020.



In Our Prayers

- *Please pray throughout the week for the following persons: Heather Halen; Mary Lee; Elizabeth Beissel, Nancy Flatgard; Leila Froehlich; Victor Gebauer; Leanna Kloempken; Kandi Jo Nelson; Jerry Ostlund; Pariann Schenk; Christine Walberg, Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; Jodi Royce, daughter of Julia Adams and daughter-in-law of Evelyn Royce; Kjell Thompson, Reba Zumberge, relatives of Nancy Anderson; Tommie and Susie Hunter, Danna Nelson, Jacques, friends of Jim Bargmann; Tom McCarr, friend of Keith Bartz; Arthur Kaemmer, friend of David Bryce; Randy Caverly and Nancy Stelling, nephew and friend of Marcia & Dan Burow; Lela Frazier, sister of Irene Campbell; Klarrisa Ramirez, friend of Gretchen Campbell-Johnson; Logan Bushaw and Judy Williamson, friend of Allen & Lora Dundek and cousin of Lora Dundek; Greg Eklund, son of Harry & Jeanette Eklund; Susan Bary, friend of Judy Graves; Dolores & David G. Gutierrez, Sr., Chris and David Gutierrez, Jr., parents and brothers of Consuelo Gutierrez-Crosby; Carol Halter (missionary in Hong Kong), friend of Eunice Hafemeister;*

Lynn Kernkamp, friend of Peggy Hoeft; Tami Huisinga, relative of Wes Huisinga; Craig Cunningham, brother-in-law of Brian Jacobs; Donald Johnson, father of Nicholas Johnson; Nicole Sanders and Ann Clark, daughter and friend of Mary Rose Kaliher; Danielle Pitzen, friend of Ellen Kormanik; Barbara Dahl, sister of Carla Manuel; Dani Olson, Harper Linqvist, Steve Camper, relatives and friend of Julie Manuel; Jan McCuen, mother of Matt McCuen; Martha Johnson, sister of Rhoda Nelson and aunt of Sherry Nelson; Janet Freeburg, friend of Lisa Nordeen; Michael Waechter, friend of Rod & Connie Olson; Kathleen Austad, sister of Jerry Ostlund; Jay Heffern, friend of Gary Pagel; Jerry Baack and Todd Erickson, friends of Jean & Doug Parish; Rudd Rayfield, Jolie Meshbesh Hassler, Katelyn Bowden, Cindy Williams, father and friends of Robin Rayfield; Leila Jeffers, mother of Lynn and Lisa Ruff; Miranda Alvis, niece of Tim Sneer; Carrie, friend of Paul & Melissa Stone; Norlene Bateman, aunt of Ted Thompson; Jennifer Kobylinski, cousin of Kathy Thurston; David Duran, friend of Kevin Vazquez; Andrew Weichman, Levi Boswell, son and nephew of Grace Wiechman; BJ Wilkes, Joshua Wilkes, LaTrell Wilkes and Julius Underwood, and Lonnell Wilkes, son, nephews, grandson and brother of James Wilkes; Sandra Dycus, Becky Groska, Diane Ristrom, Cathy Reid, Karen Swanson, Patrick Clark, Annie Hose-Ryan, Marcia Van Gorden, friends of Sue Ellen Zagrabelny; Anne-Marie Lundberg, cousin of Eric Zander; Jeff Sartain, husband of former Mount Olive Cantor, Mark Sedio; Judy Bonnes, Tommie & Susie Hunter; Barbara C. Johnson, friends of Mount Olive..

- **At the death of:** Jan Harper (spouse of former Mount Olive vicar, the late Jean Hay).
- **For those celebrating their baptism anniversaries this week:** Iris Hanson
- **Prayers for all in the health care system here and around the world** who put their lives at risk to care for those infected with COVID 19 and caring for all others who are ill as well.
- **Our continual prayers are offered for peace:** We pray for all of the world's governments, leaders and peoples, especially for those who work overseas toward peace: Solveig & Philip, daughter and son-in-law of Karen Johnson; and Tyson Crosby, relative of the Crosby family.
- **We remember the saints who have gone before us:**

Wednesday, November 11: St. Martin, Bishop of Tours, died 397 – 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.

Wednesday, November 11: Søren Aabye Kierkegaard, teacher, died 1855 – 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.