

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

L: Holy, living and loving God, we praise you for creating the heavens and the earth. We give you thanks for Jesus who, living among us, healed the sick, fed the hungry, and with a love stronger than death, gave his life for others.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore, his life-giving death and glorious resurrection, we await your promised life for all this dying world. Breathe your Spirit on us and on this bread and cup: Carry us in your arms from death to life, that we may live as your chosen ones, clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

A: Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever. Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, A: 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

L: Jesus invites you to this table. Come, eat and live.

Communion Music Video  
“Come to the Table” by Sidewalk Prophets

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L: Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way. A: Amen.

SENT FOR WORK AND WITNESS BLESSING

L: 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.. A: Amen.

SENDING HYMN- “The Trees of the Field” (Isaiah 55:12) Worship & Praise, pg. 138

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! A: Thanks be to God!

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Worship Steward: Greg Putnam  
SS Teacher: Amanda Zuerchner  
Greeters: Mark Mackinson  
Musician: Sandy Erickson  
Lector: Sandy Erickson  
Ushers: Judy Sykes & Karen Hoegger  
Communion Prep: Marty & Shelly Heller  
Comm. Asst: Denny & Mary Leach  
Counters: Denny Leach & Marty Heller  
Hospitality: Mary & Sadie Leach  
Livestream: Louis Kehinde



St. Paul Lutheran Church  
November 12, 2023  
24th Sunday after Pentecost

Introduction: Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ’s coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Altar Flowers are sponsored by Rosemary Sutton in memory of David Sutton

GATHERING HYMNS

“Surely the Presence of the Lord” - words on screen  
“Thy Word” - Worship & Praise pg. 144

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, the fountain of living water, the rock who gave us birth, our light and salvation. A:Amen.

L:Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God’s mercy and forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water may be poured into the font.  
A: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight.

L: Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons, making us heirs of your promise and servants of all. A: We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ. Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace and love.

L: To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord In the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. A: Amen.

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L 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.  
**A: Amen.**

Children’s Message—Dismissal to Children’s Chapel

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading- Amos 5:18-24

L: A reading from Amos  
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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life  
**A: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 70

A reading from Psalm 70  
L: 1Be pleased, O God, to deliver me; O Lord, make haste to help me.  
**2Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded; let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**  
3Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me turn back because of their shame.  
**4Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you; let those who love your salvation say forever, “Great is the Lord!”**  
5But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quicky, O God. You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, do not tarry.  
L: Holy Wisdom; Holy Word.  
**A: Thanks be to God.**

Second Reading – 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

L: A reading from 1 Thessalonians  
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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.  
**A: Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise, as you are able, for the reading of the Holy Gospel.*

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (music available ELW 171)

“Hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah.  
“Hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le, hal-le-lu-jah.

Gospel - Matthew 25:1-13

L: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew  
**A: Glory to you, O Lord.**  
[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.”  
L: The Gospel of the Lord.  
**A: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon Pastor Wayne Shelksohn

HYMN OF THE DAY “Have no Fear Little Flock” ELW 764

APOSTLE’S CREED

L:Let us confess our faith in the words of the Apostle’s Creed.  
**A: 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

Each petition will end “Hear Us, O God,” and the congregation will respond “Your Mercy is Great.”

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**A: And also with you.**  
*You are invited to share a sign of God’s peace with your neighbors by turning to the people near you saying, “Peace be with you.”*

OFFERING

*Offerings can also be sent by mail or given online. You can send a check to St. Paul Lutheran Church 210 Deerfield Rd Pontiac, IL 61764 or give online at [stpaulpontiac.org](http://stpaulpontiac.org)*

Offering Prayer

**L:** God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.  
**A: Amen.**

MEAL

*All are welcome at Christ’s table. Communion is distributed in front of the altar by intinction. Please dip the wafer into the lighter colored liquid which is grape juice or the darker liquid which is wine. If you prefer not to receive communion you may come forward with your hands crossed over your chest to receive a blessing or you may remain in your seat.*

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: The Lord be with you.  
**A: And also with you.**  
L: Lift up your hearts.  
**A: We lift them to the Lord.**  
L: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**A: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and ever living God. But chiefly we are bound to praise you for the glorious resurrection of our Lord; for he is the true Passover Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin, who by his death has destroyed death; And by his rising has brought us to eternal life. And so with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy” (music on screen)