

Sending
God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*Benediction

*Hymn “Soon, and Very Soon” ELW #439

Dismissal

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

C: Thanks be to God.

THOSE SERVING TODAY

Ministers: All God’s People; Presiding Minister: Karen Sparling;
Organist: Nalani Bever; Reader: Barb Ornes

IN OUR PRAYERS

Gloria Meltesen, Darlene Babbitt, Judy Bever, Barbara Johnson, Sally Dana, Ken Schlaver, Linda Switz Johnson, Myrna Ottum.

CALENDAR

Thurs., Nov. 16	W-ELCA General Meeting	10:00 AM
Sun., Nov. 19	Sunday School	9:00 AM
	Worship	10:15 AM
Wed., Nov. 22	Soup & Sandwich	5:00 PM
	Thanksgiving Eve Worship	6:00 PM



St. Paul’s Evangelical Lutheran Church
Wilton, WI

24th Sunday after Pentecost
November 12, 2023

**Inviting People to
Journey with Christ’s Family
in Spreading God’s Love and Mercy**

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.

****(Indicates that the people should stand as they are able.)***

Announcements

Gathering
The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved.
Amen.

Sermon

Reverend Karen Sparling

*Hymn

“Rejoice, Rejoice Believers”

ELW #244

*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 INTERCESSION (Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

*PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

*Offertory Hymn

“Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow”

ELW#884

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading

In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 70

¹Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;
O LORD, make haste to help me.

²**Let 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.

⁴**Let 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 quickly, O God.
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

Second Reading

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

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.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation**

“Alleluia”

ELW p. 188

GOSPEL READING

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

The holy gospel according to Matthew 23:1-12

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.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**