

Sunday, November 8, 2020

Prelude:

Welcome: A warm welcome to all who are worshipping with us today.

We sing our **Gathering Song:** ELW 244 “*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*”

Greeting: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day: 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 Saviour and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading: Wisdom 6: 12 - 16

A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.

Wisdom is radiant and unfading, and she is easily discerned by those who love her, and is found by those who seek her. She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her. One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty, for she will be found sitting at the gate.

To fix one’s thought on her is perfect understanding, and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care, because she goes about seeking those worthy of her, and she graciously appears to them in their paths, and meets them in every thought.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 36: “*You Are the Fountain of All Life*”

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4: 13 – 14

A reading from First Thessalonians.

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. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Song to Welcome the Gospel: ELW 262 *“Wait for the Lord”*

Gospel: Matthew 25:1 - 13

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 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, all of them became drowsy and slept.

“But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 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.’

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. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ “Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

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

Homily: This morning, in our first reading from the Hebrew writings, we meet Lady Wisdom. In Jewish literature, the wisdom of God, at work in our world, is often portrayed as a woman. At this point, it is perfectly appropriate for the women present among us to say, “I told you so.” If this were a Southern Baptist Church, this is where the women in our parish would probably shout “Amen”.

Lady Wisdom is a personification of the Wisdom of God...a way of talking about God’s wisdom and in our first reading she calls us to listen to her and follow her ways on the Path of Life. God’s wisdom is readily available, we just have to listen and employ it in our lives. It is not forced upon us, but it is not hidden, either.

For Christians, of course, the wisdom of God is seen most clearly in Jesus our Lord and in all that he has taught us and shown us in this life. That should be our greatest treasure and our guide in this life and our true wisdom. Wisdom is shown in the five wise maidens in today’s Gospel who bring enough oil to wait for the bridegroom...it is a rather obvious portrayal of the early Church waiting for Christ.

Keep in mind that this is Matthew’s Gospel written first for Jewish Christians. It is heavily influenced by Rabbinic writings...the writings of famous Jewish Rabbi – where oil was often a metaphor of good works – a way of speaking about God’s work. The wise maidens had spent their time doing the holy work of God, and they had lots of oil for their lamps, as they wait for Christ to appear. What Matthew is saying is that the five foolish maidens were also lazy and had not embraced God’s wisdom and the work we are called to do as Christians.

Good works are important in our lives as Christians because they are the oil in our lamps and they flow from our faith and our faithfulness. They are also the way that Christ shines in this world...and how people around us meet the Christ in us. In the end, that is how people know we belong to Christ. Remember at our baptism we all heard “let your light so shine that others may see your good works and glorify your Father in Heaven.

One of our parishioners recently reminded me of my favourite bumper sticker: “If Christianity were a crime, would there be enough evidence to convict you?” Protestants often say the good works have nothing to do with salvation. This probably is not such a wise thing to say, because without good works faith is dead.

While God is not keeping track of what we do in the name of Christ, and our life in Christ is not a reward for us doing the work of Christ, you still cannot separate what you do in life from what you believe. If you do, you become a hypocrite. Most of us spend some time in that club, whether we like to admit it or not. I probably have a lifetime membership.

Our Gospel today from Saint Matthew’s Gospel, which often says things quite a bit more bluntly than the other Gospels, warns of the effect of living our faith in lacklustre ways. If our faith is not reflected in our lives and in what we do, we will very soon run out of oil for the lamp of our faith, or it will burn very dimly and maybe even cease to glow.

The story was likely first told to Christians who decided to do nothing in the world because they thought that our Lord would return at any moment - and the world as we know it would be ending soon anyway - so why bother exerting yourself. Against that was the belief that Christ was always in our midst, and

continually returns to us in our life, and would eventually lead us home. Both views exist side by side in our scriptures, although fundamentalists pretend it does not.

As Lutherans proclaim, we live every day in the presence of the Risen Christ, and everything that we do that is good is the work our Lord in us, for we are his body in the world now and our Lord is truly present in us. When we live our faith in what we say and do the light of Christ shines brightly in us, and we always have oil in our lamps, because it is continually being renewed and refreshed by the God who loves us with an everlasting love.

We thank God for oil in our lamps that lets our faith burn brightly. May God's gift of wisdom allow us to use our treasures of time, talents and resources to serve Christ with joy. When we do this, we will have plenty of oil for our lamps and the light of Christ will shine in our lives. Amen.

Hymn: ELW 436 *“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying”*

Prayers of the Faithful: Gracious God, your Son, our Lord, comes to us as your holy wisdom, and in his light we find light. Illumine our darkness with the light of Christ and make our faith shine like the stars in the sky. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Gracious God, we thank you for the gifts you have given us to serve as the Church and for helping so many share their gifts so freely and graciously. Continue to inspire us to do the good works our Lord calls us to with glad and generous hearts. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We offer a prayer of thanksgiving for the lives of your beloved ones, Wesley Weichenthal and Arnold Hoffman, who have journeyed with Christ our Lord to our Heavenly Home. Comfort

their families and all who mourn. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for Erin Dupuis, Florence Felske, Richard Hubert, Angela Lubitz, Dorian Verch, and all who seek your healing touch and the gift of your peace. Hold them in your mercy, and journey with them in their illness, bringing them healing and peace. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are anxious in these troubled times. Help us be gentle and understanding to all who are struggling. Make us slow to judge others, and quick to choose the ways of compassion and grace. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who are ill with Covid-19 and for all who care for them, and all who are working on vaccines. Bless this Holy Work. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things, and whatever else you see that we need, grant us, gracious God. **Amen.**

Gathering all our prayers into one, we pray the prayer that you have taught us:

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.**

Blessing: May our Gracious God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us in the Risen Life of Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Sending Song: ELW 664 *“Heaven Is Singing for Joy”*

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude:

News and Announcements:

Please Pray for Those Who are Ill, in Hospital, or Requested

Special Prayers: Erin Dupuis, Florence Felske, Richard Hubert, Angela Lubitz, Dorian Verch.

Please Pray For Those Who Mourn The Loss Of Loved Ones;

especially, this day we pray for the families of Wesley Weichenthal and Arnold Hoffman, that they may find comfort in the promises of our risen Saviour.

A NOTE REGARDING THIS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Today, a wreath will be placed in thanksgiving and in memory of all who served in past military actions and peacekeeping missions during the Prayers of the Faithful. A Prayer of Remembrance will also be offered during that time.

A NOTE REGARDING NEXT SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15

On Sunday, November 15, the Rev. Michael Hackbusch, a Lutheran military chaplain stationed in Petawawa, will serve as our Guest Presider and Homilist at our 10 a.m. celebration. We look forward to welcoming him.

EMERGENCY CLOSING - With Covid-19 creating so much uncertainty we feel it is necessary to have a plan in place on how we will notify our members if we need to close the church on short

notice. Should this be required there will be lots of media attention that should have the members questioning our closing. We will do the following:

- Have the voicemail message at the church office updated indicating our closing date and restrictions.
- A message will be posted on our Facebook account and our church website.
- We will send an email to all members who have an email account on file.
- We will identify people that have been attending our worship services by using the registration sheets completed each week and will call these people.

Susan Dupuis

LOST KEYS

A set of keys has been found at our Insdale Cemetery (corner of TV Tower Road and Bruham Avenue). If anyone has lost a set of keys there, please contact the church office or Diane Rull.

CLWR LEARNING AND LIVING KITS CANCELLED

We have just heard from our Dean of the Ottawa St. Lawrence Conference Area Bruce Thompson that due to the COVID Pandemic the learning kits will not be able to be shipped due to excessive cost and difficulty in shipping this year.

If you have already purchased items for the kits, we would still welcome your donations. We have made arrangement to give the school supplies to children in need in our own community. The

toothbrushes, toothpaste and soap, etc. will be packaged along with other items for the residents of Carefor at Christmas.

You may bring your donations into the church and we will collect them in the big yellow bag but the supplies will be used locally. We shall keep you updated when we receive more information. Thank you for your understanding.

Ellen Vandersleen, Chair Social Ministry Committee

THANK YOU TO SMITTY'S HOME HARDWARE

The Social Ministry Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank Kathy and Al Godin of Smitty's Home Hardware for shipping all the We Care Learning and Living Kits that Zion has collected over the years free of charge to St. Jacobs.

Every year after we had collected our donations and boxed them up, Kathy's employees would come and take the boxes for us right from the church and ship them out to Winnipeg. There were usually 7 - 10 large boxes of goods. We are most appreciative of their generosity and it is through acts of kindness like this that make the world a better place. Many thanks Kathy and Al!

JAM JAR FUNDRAISER

It is that time of year that your Social Ministry Committee is launching the Jam Jar Fundraiser. This year we have chosen **Gifts from the Heart** Program from CLWR (Canadian Lutheran World Relief). This is an exceptional program that assists families which in turn leads to self-sufficiency. It also helps their local economy.

Depending on the monies raised will determine how we will help. For example, last year \$75.00 would purchase a pair of goats for a family. These goats would provide milk to help feed their families. The goats would also breed in time to promote long term growth. A pair of oxen and plough was \$500.00. With a pair of oxen more soil can be tilled more quickly allowing time for other activities such as attending school. Some gifts are matched 3x (the oxen and plough) or 4x (Emergency food) thanks to Canadian Foodgrains and the Canadian Government. Our money has the potential to go far.

You may pick up a jar at the registration table to fill with change or other. Cheques are always welcome. If you wish to have a tax receipt, we will need your name and address or envelope number if there is cash only in the jar. This campaign will run until the first week of Advent - November 29, 2020. Thank you for your generous support.

Your Social Ministry Committee.

THANK YOU - Thank You, Thank You, Everyone for your support of our garage sale! This year we had a record amount of donations. We are most grateful!!! We also made a record amount this year also. Looking back 5 years even when we had matching grants, plant sales and our cafe we surpassed even those totals. Incredible! It was worth the effort but it did take great effort to organize and plan this event.

Special thanks to Peter and Patty Wegner, Al and Jill Kellough, Pamela Duplessis, Debbie Sitkiewicz, Denise Schizkoske, Edie Brumm, Susan Dupuis, Debbie Wegner, Roseanne Campbell, and Cheryl Sack for all the set up. A smaller group of these fine individuals spent a day packing up the leftovers and donating

them to Value Village, The Grind and the flower vases went to a floral shop who gave us a donation for the vases.

Thank you to Richard Faught who took 5 truckloads to Value Village. We truly helped many people of the greater community with this project. We made around \$4,507.85 which will be divided equally between The Robbie Dean Center and Zion's New AV equipment. Thanks be to God!

RAFFLE IN SUPPORT OF CAMP LUTHERLYN

Camp Lutherlyn is hosting a raffle with 13 various prizes to be given away. Tickets are \$10.00 each or 3 for \$20.00, and can be purchased from the church office, on line or from various members of the board. For more information, please check out their website (www.lutherlyncamp.ca) or their Facebook page. Draw date is December 12, 2020.

Today's Scheduled Worship Leaders

Counters: Gerry Vandersleen, Wayne & Linda Reiche

Greeter: Debbie Sitkiewicz

Guides: Debbie Wegner, Cheryl Sack

Projector Operator: Diane Hammel

Sexton: Diane Hammel

Worship Assistant: Ellen Vandersleen

This Week at Zion – November 9 - 15

Tuesday	7 p.m.	Narcotics Anonymous
Wed		BULLETIN DEADLINE
Sun	10 a.m.	Holy Communion with Rev. Michael Hackbusch

