



MT. TABOR LUTHERAN CHURCH

1000 B Avenue • West Columbia • South Carolina • 29169 • 803.796.5948

**November 15, 2020 — 24th Sunday after Pentecost
Contemporary Worship Service — 9:35 AM**

24th Sunday after Pentecost
Setting Eight—Non-Communion—Contemporary

INTRODUCTION

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the LORD will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Holy One, we confess that we are not awake for you. We are not faithful in using your gifts. We forget the least of our siblings. We do not see your beautiful image in one another. We are infected by sin that divides your beloved community. Open our hearts to your coming, open our eyes to see you in our neighbor, open our hands to serve your creation. Amen.

Beloved, we are God’s children, and Jesus, our Beloved, opens the door to us. Through † Jesus you are forgiven, by Jesus you are welcome, in Jesus you are called to rejoice! Let us live in the promises prepared for us from the foundation of the world. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

“Build Us Up, Lord”

Hymn 670

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.

KYRIE

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Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev’ry day.

For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the unity of all; for this holy house, for all who worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev’ry day.

That we may live out your impassioned response to the hungry and the poor; that we may live out truth and justice and grace, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev’ry day.

For peace in our hearts, for peace in our homes, for friends and family; for life and for love, for our work and our play, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

For your Spirit to guide; that you center our lives in the water and the Word; that you nourish our souls with your body and blood, let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord

Kyrie eleison, on our world and on our way, Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.

HYMN OF PRAISE (congregation sings *refrain*)

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Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Refrain

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

Refrain

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen. Amen. Amen.



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Righteous God, our merciful master, you own the earth and all its peoples, and you give us all that we have. Inspire us to serve you with justice and wisdom, and prepare us for the joy of the day of your coming, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

FIRST READING

Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the LORD as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the LORD.

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." ¹³Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. ¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. ¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, ¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. ¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. ¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM HYMN

"O God, Our Help in Ages Past" (verses 1-4)

Hymn 632

SECOND READING

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia, alleluia.**

GOSPEL**Matthew 25:14-30**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; ¹⁵to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ¹⁶The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. ¹⁷In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. ¹⁸But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money. ¹⁹After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. ²⁰Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.’ ²¹His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²²And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, ‘Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.’ ²³His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.’ ²⁴Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; ²⁵so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ ²⁶But his master replied, ‘You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? ²⁷Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. ²⁸So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. ²⁹For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. ³⁰As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.**SERMON****HYMN OF THE DAY***“Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love”***Hymn 708****CREED**

I believe in God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. I believe that God has created me and all that exists.

I believe that Christ died on a cross for my sin, conquered Death and was raised to new life on the third day. New life is mine because of Jesus' words and work.

I believe in the Holy Spirit in response to God's overwhelming love. I believe that the Holy Spirit is here among us and lives within each of us. The Spirit continues to call people by the Gospel and creates and builds the Church of Christ. Through the Holy Spirit, I have the power to stand in strength against all adversity.

I believe that Jesus Christ has gone to prepare a place for me and will come again to take each of us to be with Him. 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.

ANTHEM

"There Is a Redeemer"

Green/arr. Harlan

OFFERING

OFFERING HYMN

"We Are an Offering"

See Hymn Insert

OFFERING PRAYER

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. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father in heaven,

hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come,

your will be done,

on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those

who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

and the glory are yours,

now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

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. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

“I’m So Glad Jesus Lifted Me”

Hymn 860

DISMISSAL

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Altar Flowers. *Today’s altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Jack, Lilli, Courtney & Jackson Sox and Claire Lawson in loving memory of Robert H. Sox.*

Bulletin Covers. *Today’s bulletin covers are given to the glory of God by Penny Timmerman in honor of Pastor Wade Roof’s birthday on November 14th.*

Lord Teach Us To Pray:

As God's people called to love one another, let us pray for the following members of our church family, who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this week: Rebekah Bouye, Emma Chandler, Clay Crawford, Peter Crawford, Pete Davis, Paul Dufries, Grayson Elledge, Georgia Loadholt, Jeannie McQuillen, Alex Morris, Rebekah Morris, Jenny Osterhaus, Barbara Popkowski, Georgia Popkowski, Roxanne Rich, Emily Richardson, Lisa Richardson, Blake White.

Most Recent Prayer Concerns:

Gary Spainhour, Todd Smith, Kim Redmond, Cheryl Hall, Alice Pollock.

Ongoing Prayer Concerns:

Linda Wessinger, Mindy Williams, Tara Hinson, Herb Brazell, Elise Harmon, Penny Timmerman, Lucky Jones, Jennifer Brazell, Hazel Rauch, Matthew Hook, Mary Hamson, Ann Callison, Adele Rodgers, Faye Smith, Lisa Long.

Family & Loved Ones of Mt. Tabor:

Carl Ray Watson Jr., Brandon & Marianne Steuck, Deborah Stokes, Trent Jeffcoat, Shelton Hall, June Roof, Sydney Richardson, Betsy Adams, Chris Riggins, Nancy Reed, Isabelle Sundlie, Bill Hunnicutt.

Members of Mt. Tabor Serving in the Military:

Adam Davis, Andrew Hamson, Samuel Davis, Mike Willhide, Scott Hash, John Post.

Family and Loved Ones Serving in the Military:

Marcus Hayes, Tristan Mullen, Cory Fabian, Hayden Henneman, Edwin Taylor, Patrick Taylor, Edwin Torres, Josh Watson, Jacob Henry Burgan, Patrick Morris, Ben Barron, Barry Duncan, Michael Barfield, Adam Mintz, David Mathews, Bernd Koehler, John Ward.

The Family Of:

Tommy Roof, Eleanor Dunlap, Kay Stalcup, Eddie Harmon, Freddie Fulmer.

Please help us keep our prayer list up to date by calling the church office with any names to be added or removed. Otherwise, names remaining on the prayer list for more than 2 months will be removed.

Worship Leaders

Rev. Wade T. Roof, III, Senior Pastor

Mrs. Elise Helms, Interim Choir Director

Mrs. Jenny Wright, Guest Musician

Rev. Rus Stilwell, Pastor of Visitation

Vicar Gayle Nelson, Intern