

# Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 15, 2020 (Real Church Virtual)



## Welcome and Announcements

## Confession and Forgiveness

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

C: Amen.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

P: Holy One,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

## We Walk by Faith

### Verse 1

We walk by faith and not by sight; with gracious words draw near, O Christ who spoke as none e'er spoke: "My peace be with you here."

### Verse 2

We may not touch your hands and side, nor follow where you trod; but in your promise we rejoice, and cry, "My Lord and God!"

### Verse 3

Help then, O Lord, our unbelief; and may our faith abound to call on you when you are near and seek where you are found:

### Verse 4

For you, O resurrected Lord, are found in means divine: beneath the water and the word, beneath the bread and wine.

### Verse 5

And when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light may we behold you as you are, with full and endless sight.

## Greeting

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all!

C: And also with you!

## Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray together,

**C: 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 Message – Annie Slabaugh

### Psalmody: Psalm 90:1-6,10,12

<sup>1</sup>Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.

<sup>2</sup>Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.

<sup>3</sup>You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth."

<sup>4</sup>For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;

<sup>5</sup>you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:

<sup>6</sup>in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.

<sup>10</sup>The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow, for they pass away quickly and we are gone.

<sup>12</sup>So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

### Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

*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.*

P: A reading from... **C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

Jesus said to the disciples: <sup>14</sup>"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then 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.' <sup>21</sup>His 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.' <sup>22</sup>And 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.' <sup>23</sup>His 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.' <sup>24</sup>Then 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; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup>But 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? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For 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. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **Sermon – Pastor Ruth Overdier**

### **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 the Church / Sign of the Peace**

#### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

#### **Final Blessing**

**P:** 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.

**C: Amen.**

#### **Dismissal**

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Children of Light**

#### **Verse 1**

**It's a new day. Ev'rything changed when Your love came into the darkness. You sent the light of the Son. You sent the light of the Son.**

#### **Chorus**

**Wake up! Open your eyes. No longer dead, we are alive. Rise up, children of light. Open the doors, go let it shine.**

#### **Interlude**

**Woah! Woah! Woah! Woah!**

#### **Verse 2**

**There is freedom in Your Kingdom. For You Jesus we will be dancing. Forever Your joy is our song. Forever Your joy is our song.**

#### **Chorus**

**Wake up! Open your eyes. No longer dead, we are alive. Rise up, children of light. Open the doors, go let it shine.**

**Interlude**

Woah! Woah! Woah! Woah!

**Bridge**

Song for the broken, let it shine. Into the shadows, let it shine. Hope for the whole world, let it shine, let it shine.  
Song for the broken, let it shine. Into the shadows, let it shine. Hope for the whole world, let it shine, let it shine.

**Chorus**

Wake up! Open your eyes. No longer dead, we are alive. Rise up, children of light. Open the doors, go let it shine.

**Interlude**

Woah! Woah! Woah! Woah!

**Ending**

It's a new day. Ev'rything changed when Your love came into the darkness. You sent the light of the Son. You sent the light of the Son.



**Bethlehem**  
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*November 15, 2020*

**Stewardship Encouragement 2021 is On the Way!** Greetings Fellow Bethlehemites! We are in the fall season again, and it is time for us to look forward to Bethlehem's ministry in the coming year. We thank you for the way you have given your support to Bethlehem with your time, your talents and your treasure in 2020. It has been a very difficult year for many. However, we hope and pray that you will find many new blessings in 2021. Our emphasis on financial stewardship will be rolled out very soon. Please be mindful of all the ways you can contribute in ways big and small (including automatic giving), as we invite you to start now to pray and think about how you can generously support your church and its ministry as it does the will of our Lord Jesus. *Your BLC Stewardship Committee*

**"2.0" is here!** We are excited to announce that a new experience is now here for our online worship, and we're calling it "2.0"! On **Wednesday Nights**, join Pastor Paul and others for an online **Holden Evening Prayer or Taize service**, as we begin melding some of our typical "Celebrate!" content, along with footage from outdoor communion and other gatherings into a new Wednesday experience. We may also look to YOU for help with readings if you are willing/able!

**The NOVEMBER issue of the STAR is ready!** The STAR is no longer being subsidized by anonymous donors. We thank them for the generosity for 3 months and their hard work in preparing it for mailing. (There is even a rolling pin involved!!!) The cost of postage for the STAR is now being taken from the general fund. If anyone wants to make an extra donation towards postage due to the monthly cost of keeping all members informed, a notation can be made on any check or envelope. If you read the STAR on line and have not told us, please make certain you contact the office so we are not sending out copies needlessly. Printed STARS will also be available in the "Shooting Star box" outside the church entry later this week. Feel free to check online at [www.bethlehemtc.org](http://www.bethlehemtc.org) < About Us > "The Online Bethlehem Star" or type this URL to get these directly: <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/the-bethlehem-star-newsletter>

The outdoor **"Shooting STAR Dispenser" at BLC is now full** with several paper publications, including the November STAR. If you would like a copy of a DVD, please contact the church and one will be produced for you.

**Calling all Knitters!!** There is an overabundance of yarn skeins in the bin under the mailboxes in the narthex. PLEASE feel free to grab some and make hats, mittens, prayer shawls, etc.! The yarn is sorted according to kind, so you can be sure to find something appropriate for whatever project you have in mind. Questions? Call Betty R. (947-1013)

**Christ in Our Home Devotionals for Oct, Nov, Dec have arrived.** They can be picked up at the name tag table on Sunday mornings, from the STAR box below the outside mailbox, or during parking lot communion. The newest *Living Lutheran* magazine is also available in the same locations.

**Altar flowers have returned to our worship services.** If you would like to sign up for a particular weekend, you can call Sharon at 231-947-9880 or email her at [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) – the cost is \$40 per week.

**The daughter of one of our members, Kathi Ivany-Mort, is in need of a vehicle.** She is a single parent of three children, two of which have special needs. She has limited funds but would be open to a fair price and/or payment plan if desired. If you have a vehicle that would seat five people and possibly AWD or 4WD, please contact Kathi on her cell at 231-313-1647 or Kathi's husband, Jef Mort, at their home phone 231-929-4911.

**"Help the Children School Supplies Project"**: So far, we have been able to send school supplies to Traverse City High School and Blair Elementary, along with gift cards to two families at Silver Lake Elementary so they could purchase fall/winter clothing for their children. And we have added monies to send school supplies to Traverse Heights Elementary. We thank our Bethlehem family for the support of this important project.

**The BLC book club** will be meeting by ZOOM on Tuesday Nov. 24 at 5:30. We will discuss *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. If you are not already on the list to receive the ZOOM link just send an email to Cindy Monroe at [cmonroe@chartermi.net](mailto:cmonroe@chartermi.net). Also contact her if you would like to borrow a book. We have the Book club bag checked out from the library and there are some extra copies available.

**Keep "Hope Spreading"**: Don't forget our blog "Hope Spreads Further" is still going strong! We've had many very inspiring entries and hope to read more. We invite you to help us build this blog or just read current entries at <http://www.bethlehemtc.org/hope-spreads-further>. Reach out to Pastor Paul at [paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:paul.busekist@bethlehemtc.org) or Sharon at [admin@bethlehemtc.org](mailto:admin@bethlehemtc.org) if you'd like to contribute to the blog!

**Pecans are ordered but are still available**. The Worship and Music committee, with the help of Thrivent, are still selling the popular Schermer pecans again this fall. The *Dark Chocolate Pecans, Caramel Cluster Pecans and Cinnamon Glazed Pecans* that were pre-ordered have either been picked up or are in the process of being delivered. The \$12 bags are perfect for holiday or hostess gifts or just plain munching. **Please note that we sold out of the Caramel Cluster Pecans and we have three (3) bags of the Dark Chocolate Pecans and nine (9) bags of the Cinnamon Glazed Pecans available.** Please contact Barbara Oster (231-668-7038 or [beo6475@yahoo.com](mailto:beo6475@yahoo.com)) if you still want to order.

**"Zoom Bible Study", gathering via Zoom is going strong each Wednesday from noon until about 1:15pm, and each week we are having great conversation and fellowship.** We are using the Augsburg Fortress study of two of Paul's letters: 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians. Please contact Pr. Paul if you are interested in joining.

**We're still collecting Oleson's receipts,** and we're hoping you've been saving yours for Bethlehem. Please drop them off in the bin under the mailbox counter. Thanks.

**Online Fellowship Time on ZOOM continues and will start as soon as worship is over, or approximately 7:30pm on Wednesdays with a crossover to WBLC on Facebook around 7:45pm.** We will **not** be sharing the Zoom information publicly on Facebook or our website, so we can avoid hacking. An email will be sent out the day before either the Fellowship or the Bible Study. If someone you trust wants to join our Zoom Fellowship time or the Wednesday Bible Study, feel free to share this information with them privately.