

The Foolish Virgins
German, c. 1245, Magdeburg, Cathedral

DOVE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday, November 8, 2020

Lectionary 32

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WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

Pastor Stephen Springer

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.

PROLOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

Adagio (from Organ Symphony No. 6, Op. 42 no. 2)

Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)

Charles-Marie Widor was a French composer, organist, and teacher. His organ symphonies, a genre he contributed to greatly, are conceived on a grand, symphonic scale, and use the tonal resources of the instrument in an orchestral fashion. The Adagio movement from his 6th symphony features the flute, string, and foundation stops of our new organ, with lush harmonies and a syncopated melody soaring above.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

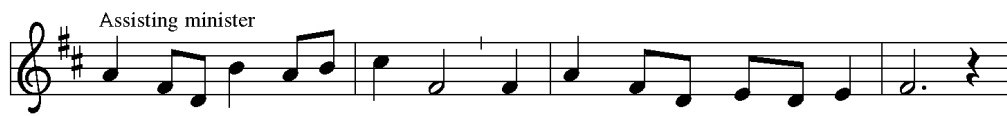
Through † Jesus you are forgiven,

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.



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Let us pray.

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.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Wisdom of Solomon 6:12-16

Wisdom is part of the structure of the universe and is easily accessible to those who want to find her. Wisdom actually seeks people out. People who are wise are free from care.

A reading from the Wisdom of Solomon.

¹²Wisdom is radiant and unfading,
and she is easily discerned by those who love her,
and is found by those who seek her.
¹³She hastens to make herself known to those who desire her.
¹⁴One who rises early to seek her will have no difficulty,
for she will be found sitting at the gate.
¹⁵To fix one's thought on her is perfect understanding,
and one who is vigilant on her account will soon be free from care,
¹⁶because she goes about seeking those worthy of her,
and she graciously appears to them in their paths,
and meets them in every thought.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY (ELW): Psalm 70

The refrain is first introduced by the leader, then repeated by the assembly.



Psalm 70:5

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.

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¹Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver 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. REFRAIN**

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 quick- | ly, O God.

You are my helper and my deliverer; O Lord, | do not tarry. **REFRAIN**

SECOND READING: I Thessalonians 4:13-18

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.

A reading from First 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Cantor: Keep awake | and be ready,*
for you do not know on what day your | Lord is coming. (*Matt. 24:42, 44*)

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

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

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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.

SERMON

Pastor Steve Springer



1 Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing, the watch-men
 2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, and all her
 3 Glo - ri - a! Let heav'n a - dore you! Let saints and



on the heights are cry - ing; a - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, at last.
 heart with joy is spring-ing. She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.
 an - gels sing be - fore you, with harp and cym-bal's clear-est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voice - es, and at the
 Her dear friend comes down, all glo - rious, the strong in
 Gates of pearl, twelve por - tals gleam - ing, lead us to



thrill-ing cry re - joice - es: "Come forth, you maid-ens! Night is past.
 grace, in truth vic - to - rious: her star is ris'n; her light is come.
 bliss be - yond all dream-ing, with an - gel choirs a - round your throne.



The bride - groom comes! A - wake; your lamps with glad - ness take!"
 Now come, O Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son.
 No eye has caught the light, no ear the thun-d'ring might



Al - le - lu - ia! Rise and pre - pare the feast to share;
 Sing ho - san - na! Oh, hear the call! Come one, come all,
 of such glo - ry. There we will go: what joy we'll know!



go, meet the bride - groom, who draws near.
 and fol - low to the ban - quet hall.
 There sweet de - light will ev - er flow.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*After each petition: "Lord in your mercy," the assembly responds **"Hear our prayer."***

With the whole people of Gd, let us pray.

We pray for ourselves as a church.

O Gd,

waiting as we must, we pray that we be renewed with wisdom from above, that we as a church, an assembly of your people, may be awakened, alert and made ready for the patient but expectant anticipation of the time of your coming in rightness, justice and peace.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

O Gd,

waiting as we must, let us not be weary of well doing, but find holy vitality in a living hope as we seek and find and fix our thoughts on the wisdom of your ways and, taking it to heart, offer to all the gifts of your mercy.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for nations and people on this earth.

O Gd,

we join with people of all lands and languages and pray, turn back those who dishonor and do harm. Waiting, we yet pray, O Lord, be quick to help. Let those who seek you find gladness in your salvation. Remembering that others do the same in their own nation, so also we pray for our country [in this time of elections], that populations and leaders be dedicated not to party divisions and personal advantage, but to a good and common welfare for all citizens.

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray that those in need be helped.

O Gd,

the presence of people with crucial needs continues to cry for attention. We name those we know and bring to mind those we hear about. Gather us together to work with unfading wisdom for the relief of suffering. Teach us to encourage and comfort those who mourn with the sure and certain word of the orderly rising from the dead. O Gd, be our helper and deliverer.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Finally O Gd,
we pray again for patience in waiting and wisdom in acting. We pray for vigilance and understanding. With hearts and hands uplifted we pray, let us see in time the signs of the redemption that comes to set people free, that rejoicing in believing, we keep the lamps of hope lit, holding steady and shining bright.
Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirt, let us pray as Jesus 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.**

MEDITATION

Members of the Dove of Peace Chancel Choir

Keep Your Lamps

Setting by André Thomas (b.1952)

This signature composition by André Thomas admonishes us to be watchful for Christ's coming, much like the five wise bridesmaids from today's Gospel.

COMMISSION

Pastor Stephen Springer

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Rejoice, Rejoice Believers

ELW #244



- 1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
- 2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride-groom near;
- 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'rings bore,
- 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night-ed sphere.



The bride-groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride-groom is at hand.
in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907
Music: HAF TRONES LAMPA FÄRDIG, Swedish folk tune

EPILOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

Wachet auf uns ruft die Stimme, BWV 645

Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)

Our hymn of the day today was written by Philipp Nicolai, a sixteenth-century Lutheran pastor. It has been labelled the "king of chorales." J. S. Bach's organ prelude based on the tune is his own arrangement of the central movement of his cantata based on the text and tune, BWV 140. It features the melody, unadorned, under a contrapuntal accompaniment.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Assisting Minister: Dianne Huston

Lector: John Hoelter

Cantor: Eric Holtan