



*Yes, you are our glory and joy!*

## **DOVE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**

---

**Sunday, November 15, 2020**

Separated in Person, Not in Heart

# Sunday, November 15, 2020

Separated in Person, Not in Heart

**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY**

Pastor Stephen Springer

---

**PROLOGUE**

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

---

Prologue: K, and A, from *Annum per Annum*  
Arvo Pärt (b. 1935)

*This Sunday, our organ music features a piece by the contemporary composer Arvo Pärt. Pärt is one of the most significant and widely performed living composers. His music is in a highly unique minimalist style, using a technique he pioneered called Tintinnabulation, a word which comes from the Latin for "bell." Pärt uses triads (chords with three notes) as his building blocks for both melody and accompaniment. Annum per Annum was commissioned for the 900th anniversary of the Cathedral in Speyer, Germany. The piece consists of five sections that form a set of variations on a sequentially changing melody. Pärt has titled each section by a letter corresponding to a section of the mass ordinary, in celebration of the daily ritual that has been celebrated at the Cathedral for over 900 years. K and A correspond to the Kyrie (Lord, have mercy) and the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) from the liturgy, which we also celebrate as ELCA Lutherans.*

## 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.

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.**

## **FIRST READING: I Kings 17:8-16**

---

A reading from First Kings.

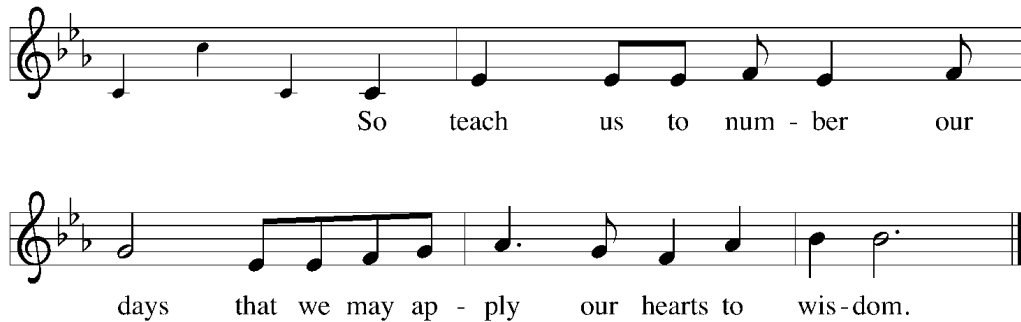
<sup>8</sup>Then the word of the Lord came to him, saying, <sup>9</sup>'Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.' <sup>10</sup>So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, 'Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.' <sup>11</sup>As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, 'Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.' <sup>12</sup>But she said, 'As the Lord your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.' <sup>13</sup>Elijah said to her, 'Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son. <sup>14</sup>For thus says the Lord the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the Lord sends rain on the earth.' <sup>15</sup>She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days. <sup>16</sup>The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the Lord that he spoke by Elijah.

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.*



<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 child- | ren 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; REFRAIN**

<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>7</sup>For we are consumed | by your anger;  
we are afraid because | of your wrath.

<sup>8</sup>**Our iniquities you have | set before you,  
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance. REFRAIN**

<sup>12</sup>So teach us to num- | ber our days  
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom. **REFRAIN**

## SECOND READING: I Thessalonians 2:17-20

---

A reading from First Thessalonians.

<sup>17</sup>As for us, brothers and sisters, when, for a short time, we were made orphans by being separated from you—in person, not in heart—we longed with great eagerness to see you face to face. <sup>18</sup>For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, wanted to again and again—but Satan blocked our way. <sup>19</sup>For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you? <sup>20</sup>Yes, you are our glory and joy!

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW #169

---



*Cantor:* Then people will come from east and west, from | north and south,\*  
and will eat in the king- | dom of God. (*Luke 13:29*)

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-29**

*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.*

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

*Pastor Steve Springer*





- 1 "How long, O God?" the psalm-ist cries, a cry we make our own,
- 2 The e - vil lurks with - in, with-out, it threat-ens to de - stroy
- 3 Your grace, O God, seems far a - way; will heal - ing ev - er come?
- 4 How can we hope? How can we sing? O God, set free our voice
- 5 "How long, O God?" the psalm-ist cries, a cry we make our own.



for we are lost, a - lone, a - fraid, and far a - way from home.  
the frag - ile cords that make us one, that bind our hearts in joy.  
Our bro - ken lives lie bro - ken still; will night give way to dawn?  
to name the sor - rows, name the pain, that we might yet re - joice.  
Though we are lost, a - lone, a - fraid, our God will lead us home.

Text: Ralph F. Smith, 1950–1994

Music: LAND OF REST, North American traditional

Text © 2003 Augsburg Fortress

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

---

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

With the whole people of God we bring ardent prayers for the cares of the church, the world and all in need.

Almighty God, your Holy Spirit equips the church with a rich variety of gifts. Grant that its people use them to bear witness to Christ in lives that are built on faith and love. May the church's witness to the world be a message of hope and peace during this turbulent time.

Lord in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

O Lord, Christian love is the tie that binds us together, and even though we are separated now it is in person, not in heart. We long to see faces filling our pews, we long to touch and be touched, and we feel lost and fearful of the evil that threatens to destroy our sense of community. We wonder if healing will ever come, and so we turn to you with a plea that you would break into our lives with your eternal love and grace. Enable us to see something of your will and purpose during these trying days, intersperse them with hours of joy, and lead us back to our church home soon.

Lord in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Almighty God, we pray for the nations, lifting before you all who govern. May they understand that it is a trust from you to be used, not for personal glory or profit, but for the service of the people. Drive out selfishness and corruption, and grant the kind of just and honest government that brings peace and unity.

Lord in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Loving God, your gifts to us are immeasurable. Help us to see that all that we have is a gift from you. Lead us to follow the example of the widow who brought the first fruits of her meager fare to Elijah. Her trusting obedience was rewarded with a never ending supply. Give us generous hearts with a desire to bless others as we have been blessed.

Lord in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Dear Lord, you came into the world as one of us, and suffered as we do. We pray for all who are afflicted with illness, pain, or hopelessness. Hear the names of those we hold dear . . . And remember with compassion those outside our awareness. Hold all the suffering in the security of your embrace.

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

For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give you thanks, O Lord. Teach us so to number our days that we may gain hearts of wisdom, and be established in the righteousness that will lead us to join them in your courts in endless praise.

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

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

---

With hearts gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, 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.**

*The Road Home*

Setting by Stephen Paulus (1949-2014)

*One of Paulus's hallmark choral works, today's anthem weaves the familiar American hymn tune PROSPECT from the influential Southern Harmony hymn book of 1835 to a recent text by long-time Paulus collaborator Michael Dennis Browne. The text speaks to the comfort of home, particularly when removed from it through distance or adversity.*

*Tell me, where is the road  
I can call my own,  
That I left, that I lost,  
So long ago?  
All these years I have wandered,  
Oh, when will I know  
There's a way, there's a road  
That will lead me home?*

*After wind, after rain,  
When the dark is done,  
As I wake from a dream  
In the gold of day,  
Through the air there's a calling  
From far away,  
There's a voice I can hear  
That will lead me home.*

*Rise up, follow me,  
Come away, is the call  
With the love in your heart  
As the only song;  
There is no such beauty  
As where you belong,  
Rise up, follow me,  
I will lead you home.*

**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***Blest Be the Tie that Binds*ELW #656

---



- 1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;  
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.

Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

**DISMISSAL**

---

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## EPILOGUE

Kevin Seal, pipe organ

---

*G, C, and S, from Annum per Annum*  
Arvo Pärt

*The central movements from Annum per Annum are symbolic of the Gloria (G), Credo (C), and Sanctus (S) from the mass ordinary. Arvo Pärt's music is heavily influenced by his Orthodox Christian spirituality, and his settings of these three variations show this, building up to the high point of the mass, the consecration of the body and blood.*

## DISMISSAL

---

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Assisting Minister: Dianne Huston  
Lector: Gail Eifrig  
Cantor: Eric Holtan