

AUGUSTANA
where Lutherans and Anglicans worship together
Pentecost 24 November 15, 2020
Remembrance Service

Welcome to worship. ...

Thanks just like on a Sunday morning when we worship together there are many who make it possible for us to worship together.

GATHERING SONG Bring peace to Earth Again # 700 v. 1, 2, 4

Where armies scourge the countryside, and people flee in fear,
where sirens scream through flaming night, and death is ever near;
O God of mercy, hear our prayer bring peace to earth again!

Where anger festers in the heart, and strikes with cruel hand;
where violence stalks the troubled streets, and terror haunts the land;
O God of mercy, hear our prayer bring peace to earth again!

O God, whose heart compassionate bears ev'ry human pain,
redeem this violent, wounding world till gentleness shall reign;
O God of mercy, hear our prayer bring peace to earth again!

GREETING

As we begin our time of worship we ask that the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us.

CHILDREN'S TIME

Things to Remember

- Times tables
- Eat your vegetables
- My daily alarm on my phone to remind me to go home before dark .. if I happen to have the car that day it is time for me to drive home right away before dark.
- Why do we remember ... it is important stuff
- On November 11th I remember all the stories of elders who have lived or served during times of war ...
- On November 11th we remember so that we can recommit our selves to being peace makers in our homes, at school and at work, in all our work ... so that peacemaking and justice overtake war and conflict.

Prayer of Remembrance

Pastor: Almighty God, we pause in silence to remember all who died that we might live, all who endured pain that we might know joy, all who suffered harsh imprisonment that we might know freedom. We recall all who be sea, land, and air laid down their lives to rid the world of tyranny. May the sacrifice of so many men, women, and children inspire us to live for peace and to care for those maimed by war. For the sake of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ our Lord.
AMEN.

Last post

Silence

Rouse

The music for these is on this website:

<https://legion.ca/remembrance/remembrance-day/ceremony-music>

Pastor: "They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old. Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn. At the going down of the sun and in the morning we will remember them."

ALL: We will remember them.

READINGS

A reading from 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

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

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

ALLELUIA

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

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew 25:14-30 **Glory to you O Lord**

'For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 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." 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." 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." 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." 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; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours." 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? 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. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 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. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth." The Gospel of our Lord, Praise to you, O Christ.

MEDITATION

Harsh words from the Gospel of Matthew ... That's the way Matthew is ... weeping and gnashing of teeth 7 times in the NT 6 of them in Matthew ... the violence of the phrase calls our attention to how important the message is. (it is like a literary device). A bit – just a bit – like the children's stories about monsters that are designed to help children make safe choices ...

The Qallupilluit is a mythical creature from Inuit folklore. The legend's practical purpose is to keep children away from thin ice or bodies of water, as this is where the creatures are said to live. [Wikipedia](#)

So Matthew is dramatically pointing out how important it is to make good choices.

Very fitting as we mark Remembrance Day: make good choices so or there will be the weeping and gnashing of teeth of war and conflict.

As I read this and put myself in the least servant's place and I ask myself: What does it matter? Why even try. And in our own time: Why try to be a peace maker in this world of ours? Why bother -- Let's just dig a hole and hope for the best.

- And yet we long for peace and security.
- Story of my playing ball in elementary school – I was terrible – really terrible -- did not have a hope of hitting the ball – I probably should have been wearing glasses sooner than I did – However, I learned that if I just let the balls whiz by I would likely get to walk to 1st base (my guess is that the pitcher needed glasses as well) Once I was on 1st base I was OK – I was a fast runner. So by doing nothing, I usually got to stay in the game Kind of like burying the money ... doing nothing and hoping for the best.
- Why did I do nothing? I was afraid of being made fun of ... [by doing nothing I could at least pretend that I had a good eye for a bad pitch.]
- And why did the servant bury his share of the loot? He was afraid. His fear immobilized him. He was waiting for the other shoe to drop ... and so he dug a hole and hoped for the best.
- **Fear** is a vital response to physical and emotional danger—if we didn't feel it, we couldn't protect ourselves from legitimate threats.”
["https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/fear](https://www.psychologytoday.com/basics/fear)
- fear responds with -- fight, flight or freeze.
- **Fight** ...fists or words ... it's still a fight. Election in the US – reaction of those unwilling to let go of power ... fear of losing their place in the world.
- And fear is often at the root of disagreements in churches and other organizations. When you look deeper into a situation of conflict, it often boils down to fear: ... I'm afraid we will run out of money. I'm afraid the church will have to close Or the lodge ... or the organization. I'm afraid that something that is precious to me will disappear.
- **Flight** Run as fast as you can in the opposite direction
- I'm afraid I cannot live up to what is expected of me. And so I will flee in the opposite direction from what can seem too difficult.
- The **freeze** response is less obvious ... it is a much more invisible response. AND It's meant to be: if I stay still and do nothing I will be invisible The thing that caused my fear might go away.
- It is a more subtle response but also it can be a very damaging response to fear
- It is the “WHY BOTHER” So should we give in to fear?
- No. It is good to examine our fear – to dig it up -- so that we might make use of that fear.
- We can use that fear to care for family, church, friends, and neighbours. And we will look at this more closely next week as we continue to read through the Gospel of Matthew.

- We are called Not to be passive bystander ...but to be active peace makers ... active caregivers. Especially in this time of pandemic: to recognize our fears of infection for ourselves and our loved ones, but to not let those fears immobilize us. To use our fears to find safe and creative ways to care for one another. Hope comes through caring for the vulnerable

Almighty God, walk with us in our fear. Give us the peace and courage to act despite that fear. In hope, teach us how to care for one another. In Jesus name. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC from Choir "Credo"

CONFESSION OF SIN AND ABSOLUTION

As we mark Remembrance Day, when the stain of war is ever before us, and the memory of sacrifice and loss is present with us, let us confess our sin in the presence of God, and one another.

Almighty God, we are people of clay, molded and mended by our societies and cultures, formed in ways that misshape us from the work of your hands. Forgive us for the ways in which we have judged others by our standards and not by yours. When our notions of justice and peace fall short of your standards of pure justice and holy righteousness. Forgive us for creating and perpetuating conflict both within the borders of our community and countries, and across the borders of others. We have become people of words, and not actions. Others have perished while we have stood by. Forgive us for our inaction, and bless us to become people of living justice and not just bystanders. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, renew our spirits and our hearts that we may seek and serve you in newness of life. May God strengthen us, empower us, and forgive us

By grace we have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen us with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in our hearts through faith. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Let us join hearts and voices together in prayer. Each short prayer will end with the words "Lord in your mercy" and you can make the prayer your own by responding "**hear our prayer.**"

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, we pray for the outpouring of God's power on the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

Lord of the church, ignite your people with the passion of your love. By the fire of your Holy Spirit, unify us across ministries, congregations, and denominations, and refine us to participate

in your activity throughout the world. We pray for the Council of General Synod of the Anglican church of Canada and the National Church Council of the ELCIC. Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer**

Remembering that war is an ever-present reality of this world, from the first humans, let us remember and pray for those whose lives have been touched, shaped, and shattered by it. We pray for people who live in places of war. We pray for the human lives affected by war: for refugees like the Alhamad-Wahid and Iqbal families, for displaced persons, and those who seek to rebuild their broken nations, Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer**

Let us pray for world leaders, that peace and the common good may prevail. We pray for the leaders of every nation and tribe of this earth. May they see the human cost of their pride and hubris, and be humble of heart. Give them the strength to act righteously to protect the weak and the innocent, and the power to prevail over evil. Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer**

Lord of all in need, search out all who cry to you in distress. Scatter the heavy clouds of depression, chronic illness, unemployment, and loneliness with your radiant light. We remember especially: Hannah, Marguerite, Bruce, Gloria, Logan, William, Marcus, Bishop Gomez, Brodie, Karin, Anthony, Robert, Curtis, Linda, Marci, Gayle, Evelyn, Lisa, Danielle, Inger, Anne Jane, Deanna, Ron, Marlene, Martha, for those who feel alone, and all those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts

(a pause to offer time to name others).

May they know your healing. Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Lord of the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all the saints at rest from their labors. Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love. Lord, in your mercy; **hear our prayer**

Receive our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior, until that day when you gather all creation around your throne where you will reign forever and ever.

Amen.

Knowing how God loves us as a mother and father let us pray in the words Jesus taught us

LORD'S PRAYER

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 blessing of God who is Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you now and always. AMEN.

DISMISSAL

SENDING SONG Day by Day 790 all verses

Day by day, your mercies, Lord attend me,
Bringing comfort to my anxious soul.
Day by day, the blessings, Lord you send me
Draw me nearer to my heav'nly goal.
Love divine, beyond all mortal measure
Brings to naught the burdens of my quest;
Savior lead me to the home I treasure,
Where at last I'll find eternal rest.

Day by day, I know you will provide me
Strength to serve and wisdom to obey;
I will seek your loving will to guide me
O'er the paths I struggle day by day
I will fear no evil of the morrow,
I will trust in your enduring grace.
Savior help me bear life's pain and sorrow
Till in glory I behold your face.

Oh, what joy to know that you are near me
When my burdens grow too great to bear
Oh, what joy to know that you will hear me
When I come, O Lord, to you in prayer.
Day by day, no matter what betide me.
You will hold me ever in your hand.
Savior with your presence here to guide me,
I will reach at last the promised land.

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Remembrance Day confession and Intercessory petitions adapted from Lt(N) Rev. Michael Macintyre (2018; ELCIC)
Last Post and Rouse: <https://legion.ca/remembrance/remembrance-day/ceremony-music>

THANKS

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