

**St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School**  
624 Jennings St. Sioux City, Iowa 51101  
Church: (712)252-0338 School: (712) 258-6325  
[www.siouxcitystpauls.org](http://www.siouxcitystpauls.org)



For when the **foolish** took their lamps,  
they **took no oil** with them,  
but the **wise** took  
**flasks of oil** with their lamps.

Matthew 25:3-4

10:45 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 8, 2020  
Sermon "The Now And The Not Yet!" Matthew 25:1-13



# St. Paul's Lutheran Church & School

- A Family to Whom You Belong -  
Our Mission is to: **Make More & Better Disciples**

## THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

10:45 a.m. Sunday, Nov. 8, 2020

**Servants of God's House Today:**

**Pastor:** Rev. Kenny Hsu

**Praise Team Accompanist:** Doris Hill

**Ushers:** Doug Lehr Team

**Missionaries:** Charles Cortwright, Rev. Tim & Lisa Beckendorf,  
Rev. Shauen & Krista Trump, Rev. Paul Flo

**Reader:** Marge Delzell

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**WELCOME!** We are glad that you are here worshipping God with us. We pray for God's blessings to you and invite you to come back again soon.

**AS WE GATHER** We cannot enter the eternal marriage feast on our own, for we are all unprepared. But Christ has prepared us, filling us with His Word and Sacraments; our lamps of faith are full, with wicks trimmed. Jesus is with us now, even as we shall see Him at His physical return. We shall enter with Him and all those who have preceded us in faith. The sacrifices the Lord was refusing to receive from Israel in Amos's day have all been superseded by the all-atoning sacrifice of our Savior. We already have a foretaste of the feast to come; the door is open, and Christ has made us ready.

**PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP** Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His Bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

### Worship Service

(The congregation is invited to respond in the words written in **bold**.)

**The Ringing of the Bells**

**The Wave of Fellowship**

### The Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

### Opening Sentences

P: Make haste, O God, to deliver us!

C: **O Lord, make haste to help us!**

P: May all who seek the Lord rejoice and be glad in Him!

**C: May we say evermore, "God is great!"**

P: For Christ is coming soon.

**C: Soon, He will descend from the heavens.**

P: Soon, He will raise the dead.

**C: And we will always be with the Lord.**

P: He is our help and our deliverer.

**C: O Lord, do not delay!**

### **Opening Song**

### **"Shout to the Lord"**

My Jesus my Savior Lord there is none like You  
All of my days I want to praise the wonders of Your mighty love  
My comfort my shelter tower of refuge and strength  
Let every breath all that I am never cease to worship You  
Shout to the Lord all the earth let us sing  
Power and majesty praise to the King mountains bow down  
And the seas will roar at the sound of Your name  
I sing for joy at the work of Your hands  
Forever I'll love You forever I'll stand  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You (repeat)

Forever I'll love You forever I'll stand  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You

Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

(Words & music by Darlene Zschech, 1993 Darlene Zschech/Hillsongs Australia, Integrity Incorporated, used by permission CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

### **Apostles' Creed**

#### **First Lesson** Amos 5:18–24 NIV (The day of the Lord is coming.)

<sup>18</sup>Woe to you who long for the day of the Lord! Why do you long for the day of the Lord? That day will be darkness, not light. <sup>19</sup>It will be as though a man fled from a lion only to meet a bear, as though he entered his house and rested his hand on the wall only to have a snake bite him.

<sup>20</sup>Will not the day of the Lord be darkness, not light—pitch-dark, without a ray of brightness? <sup>21</sup>"I hate, I despise your

religious festivals; your assemblies are a stench to me. <sup>22</sup>Even though you bring me burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them. Though you bring choice fellowship offerings, I will have no regard for them. <sup>23</sup>Away with the noise of your songs! I will not listen to the music of your harps. <sup>24</sup>But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream!

**Second Lesson** 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 NIV (We will always be with the Lord.)

<sup>13</sup> Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

<sup>15</sup> According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen

asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.

<sup>17</sup> After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup> Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Please stand, as you are able, for the Gospel)

**Holy Gospel** Matthew 25:1–13 NIV (The parable of the ten virgins.)

<sup>1</sup>“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. <sup>4</sup>The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. <sup>6</sup>“At midnight the cry rang out: ‘Here’s the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’

<sup>7</sup>“Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish ones

said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>“‘No,’ they replied, ‘there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’

<sup>10</sup>“But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>“Later the others also came. ‘Lord, Lord,’ they said, ‘open the door for us!’

<sup>12</sup>“But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I don’t know you.’ <sup>13</sup>“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

**Confession and Absolution**

P: Indeed, Christ is coming soon to raise the dead and bring us into everlasting life with Him. Yet there are times when we have lived as if Christ’s return was not important and not imminent. Yet, our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

*(Silence for reflection.)*

P: Heavenly Father,

**C: we confess that we have ignored You and our neighbors in need. We have sinned in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have failed by our inactivity.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, O Lord, that we might be encouraged by Your presence and forgiven of our sin.**

P: God hears your confession and has promised to always be with you. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen. We are forgiven. We look for the return of Jesus.**

### **Children's Message**

#### **The Song of Instruction "Amazing Love"**

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken I'm accepted, You were condemned  
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit lives within me Because You died and rose again

Amazing love, how can it be? That you my King should die for me  
Amazing love, I know it's true. It's my joy to honor you. In all I do, to honor You.

I'm forgiven because You were forsaken I'm accepted, You were condemned  
I'm alive and well, Your Spirit lives within me Because You died and rose again

Amazing love, how can it be? That you my King should die for me  
Amazing love, I know it's true. It's my joy to honor you. In all I do, to honor You.

You are my king  
You are my king  
Jesus, You are my king  
Jesus, You are my king

Amazing love, how can it be? That you my King should die for me  
Amazing love, I know it's true. It's my joy to honor you. In all I do, to honor You.  
(Words & music by Billy Foote, EMI Christian Music Publishing, CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

### **The Word**

*"The Now And The Not Yet!"* Matthew 25:1-13

#### **WE WORSHIP GOD THROUGH OUR GIVING**

We honor God with the gifts He has given to us.

**St. Paul's members** have pledged to support our ministry in their tithes and offerings. Please place your offerings in the box upfront.

**To our guest:** Thank you for joining us today and please do not feel that you are obligated to participate. We invite you to come back again.

Please put your **Welcome Card** in the box at the back of the church.

*Exodus 35:21—And they came, everyone whose heart stirred him, and everyone whose spirit moved him, and brought the Lord's contribution to be used for the tent of meeting, and for its service, and for the holy garments.*

### **Offertory      “Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)”**

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now I'm found, was blind but now I see.

Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed.

My chains are gone. I've been set free, my God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood His mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.

My chains are gone. I've been set free, my God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood His mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

My chains are gone. I've been set free, my God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood His mercy reigns, unending love, amazing grace.

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun for-bear to shine.

But God, who called me here below, will be forever mine,

Will be forever mine. You are forever mine.

(Words/music by John Newton, Chris Tomlin & Louie Giglio, 2006 worshiptogether.com songs, sixsteps Music, Vamos Publishing, CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

### **The Prayer of the Church**

**P:** For those celebrating their baptismal anniversaries that they remain faithful to your Word including; Darlene Campbell, Carter Bertrand, Cole Bertrand, Kevin Bock III, Caleb Jager, Jayce Burke, Kylee Eickholt, Melissa Lyons, Tanaeya Worden, Doug Mc Bride, James Albright, Gabriel Gomez, Jaxen Felix, Sean Herfel, and Niki Knowles. For until Your return, we pray,

**C: come quickly, Lord Jesus.**

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

### **The Benediction**

**The Going Out Song                    “Jesus Messiah”**

He became sin, who knew no sin that we might become His righteousness.

Know He humbled Himself, and carried the cross.

Love so amazing, love so amazing.

Jesus Messiah, Name above all names,

Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.

The rescue for sinners, the ransom from Heaven.

Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.

His body the bread, His blood the wine, broken and poured out, all for love.

The whole earth trembled and the veil was torn.

Love so amazing, love so amazing.

Jesus Messiah, Name above all names,

Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.

The rescue for sinners, the ransom from Heaven.

Jesus Messiah, Lord of all. All our hope is in You, all our hope is in You.

All the glory to You, God, the Light of the world.

Jesus Messiah, Name above all names, Blessed Redeemer, Emmanuel.

The rescue for sinners, the ransom from Heaven.

Jesus Messiah, Lord of all. Jesus Messiah, Lord of all.

You're the Lord of all, the Lord of all.

(Words & music Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Daniel Carson and Ed Cash, used by permission CCLI #11440148 and 20162974)

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# "The Now And The Not Yet"

Date: 11/08/20

Text: Matthew 25:1-13

## Verse for Meditation

***"Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."***

*Matthew 25:13 (NIV)*

## Points to Ponder

### 1. Let's do the math:

- for college
- for career
- for eternity

### 2. In what church season are we now? What is the next season?

### 3. "Once saved, always saved"?

### 4. The Parable of the ten virgins:

- Bridegroom
- Virgins
- Lamps
- Feast

### 5. *The now and the not yet*

- How do we face the distractions?
- Our oil gets used up as our lamps shine forth.
- How do we keep our lamps filled?