

Dear members of God's family at Resurrection Church,

Today, we turn our attention to Stewardship Sunday at Resurrection Lutheran Church, but more importantly, today's readings point us yet again to Jesus Christ and the promised reign of God made manifest in Christ. If you are able, join the congregation with your own worship at home **at 10am on Sunday** or otherwise engage our home worship resources in ways appropriate to your circumstances at home.

RESURRECTION EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



**The Twenty Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 15, 2020
Our Common Prayer at Home**

You may choose to participate in this home prayer simply by using this text, or by adding into it the printed text of Pastor Linman's sermon, or by adding one or more of the clip-based worship videos, or by engaging the entire worship video. Find a peaceful place to pray, perhaps a table. You may wish to light a candle near where you pray. One person may lead in this acclamation and then pray the Prayer of the Day.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

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.

Then the readings for this Sunday may be read, as follows:

FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

A reading from Zephaniah.

⁷Be silent before the Lord GOD!
For the day of the LORD is at hand;
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice
and has consecrated those who are called.

¹²At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,
and I will punish the people
who rest complacently on their dregs,
those who say in their hearts,
“The LORD will not do good,
nor will the LORD do harm.”

¹³Their wealth shall be plundered,
and their houses laid waste.
Though they build houses,

they shall not inhabit them;
though they plant vineyards,
they shall not drink wine from them.

¹⁴The great day of the LORD is near,
near and hastening fast;
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,
the warrior cries aloud there.

¹⁵That day will be a day of wrath,
a day of distress and anguish,
a day of ruin and devastation,
a day of darkness and gloom,
a day of clouds and thick darkness,
¹⁶a day of trumpet blast and battle cry
against the fortified cities
and against the lofty battlements.

¹⁷I will bring such distress upon people
that they shall walk like the blind;
because they have sinned against the LORD,
their blood shall be poured out like dust,
and their flesh like dung.

¹⁸Neither their silver nor their gold
will be able to save them
on the day of the LORD's wrath;
in the fire of the LORD's passion
the whole earth shall be consumed;
for a full, a terrible end
the LORD will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

This Psalm is sung or read in response to the First Reading. Music may be found at:
<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20201115/playlist>

PSALM 90:1-12

- ¹Lord, you have | been our refuge
from one generation | to another.
- ²Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,
from age to age | you are God.
- ³You turn us back to the | dust and say,
“Turn back, O child- | ren of earth.”
- ⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past
and like a watch | in the night;
- ⁵you sweep them away | like a dream,
they fade away suddenly | like the grass:
- ⁶in the morning it is | green and flourishes;
in the evening it is dried | up and withered.
- ⁷For we are consumed | by your anger;
we are afraid because | of your wrath.
- ⁸Our iniquities you have | set before you,
and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.
- ⁹When you are angry, all our | days are gone;
we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.
- ¹⁰The 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.
- ¹¹Who regards the power | of your wrath?
Who rightly fears your | indignation?
- ¹²So teach us to num- | ber our days
that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

A reading from 1 Thessalonians.

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When they say, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon

a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! ⁴But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; ⁵for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. ⁶So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober, ⁷for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. ⁸But 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. ⁹For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 25th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Having read these readings, think of this:

Here at the end of the church year and at the end of Matthew the readings from the Bible are as harsh as they ever get. But much in our world seems to fit these pictures. When we fail to act in justice and to use for the common good what God has entrusted to us, a day of darkness and gloom — Matthew’s “outer darkness” — descends upon us. We rightly pray, as Jesus taught us, “Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.” And God does save us. The good news this Sunday is in the second reading: in Jesus Christ, God has made salvation and not wrath to be our future. By the power of the Spirit poured out from the risen Christ, we have been clothed in faith and love and hope, like armor in dangerous times. The word of God awakens us to live as if in a light-filled day, even when surrounded with darkness. But, amazingly, Paul also says that whether we are awake or asleep, Christ has shared our death that we may live with him. In gratitude, we have a chance again to use what we have been given for the well-being of our neighbor.

At this point, read or listen to Pastor Linman’s 24th Sunday after Pentecost sermon. It may be found in the RELC News, on the RELC website, or at:
<https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20201115/playlist>

You might now sing the following hymn. Music may be found at <https://www.relcarlinton.org/hw/20201115/playlist>

HYMN OF THE DAY #730

Lord our God, with Praise We Come

1 Lord our God, with praise we come be - fore you.
2 God is God, though lands were all for - sak - en.
3 Vales and hills shall move from their foun - da - tions;

Let all na - tions hum - bly now im - plore you.
God is God, though all by death were tak - en.
heav'n and earth shall crash in con - ster - na - tion;

May we en - deav - or to praise you ev - er, and
Al - though all rac - es had left no trac - es, in
moun - tains tran - scend - ing will have their end - ing. Then

ceas - ing nev - er, may we for - ev - er a - dore you.
star - ry spac - es God's love em - brac - es cre - a - tion.
Christ de - scend - ing shall bring un - end - ing sal - va - tion.

Text: Petter Dass, 1647–1707; tr. Peter A. Sveeggen, 1881–1959, alt.
Music: ROMEDAL, Norwegian traditional, arr. hymnal version
Text © 1951 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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Then pray these intercessions:

Longing for Christ's reign to come among us, let us pray to see God's power in the church and in the world, responding to each petition with the words "Hear us and help us."

A brief silence.

We pray, O God, for the church in our community and throughout the world. Raise up and sustain believers who will use their talents to assist with worship and to lead congregational ministries in this difficult time. Grant an extra measure of the Spirit to Pastor Linman. Protect your people with the armor of your Word.

A brief silence.

O God, you are the Temple of your people:

Hear us and help us.

For the earth we pray. During this autumn season, give to plants and wild animals a time of rest. Keep the coronavirus and other pathogens away from the animals that we farm.

A brief silence.

O God, you are the Maker of the heavens and the earth:

Hear us and help us.

For all the nations we pray. Bring an end to war and terrorism. Cultivate a world-wide spirit of cooperation that will seek just international agreements and shared human rights. Rescue humankind from the worship of wealth, and give a homeland to migrants.

A brief silence.

O God, you are the Haven we seek:

Hear us and help us.

For the United States we pray. Quell attempts at violence, and restore national good will. End prejudice of all kinds, and lead us into a unity that embraces diversity. Comfort those who live in fear of the future. Bless all newly elected officials, especially President-elect Biden, with a passion for justice and a commitment to honesty.

A brief silence.

O God, you are our Mighty Fortress:

Hear us and help us.

We pray for all who are in need. Visit with health and good medical care all the sick, especially the thousands who each day are contracting the coronavirus. Prepare a vaccine to save our world from COVID. Give food, employment, and housing to the countless who are struggling to live. We pray especially for Barb Jensen, Charlotte Boeck, Don Hansen, Gretchen Zeltner, Angie, Kyler, Debbie, Kat, Jeanne, and Russ.

A brief silence.

O God, you are our Physician, our Nurse:

Hear us and help us.

For many of us, what the ancient prophet said is now true: these are days of distress and anguish. We beg you to listen to the prayers of our hearts.

A longer period of silence.

O God, you are Father, Mother, Lover, Master, Friend:

Hear us and help us.

We remember before you all the saints who have lived and died in the faith, especially Elizabeth of Hungary in her ministry to the sick, and those we name here now: Don Oaks. At the end of time, bring us all into your peace.

A brief silence.

O God, you are the Light perpetual:

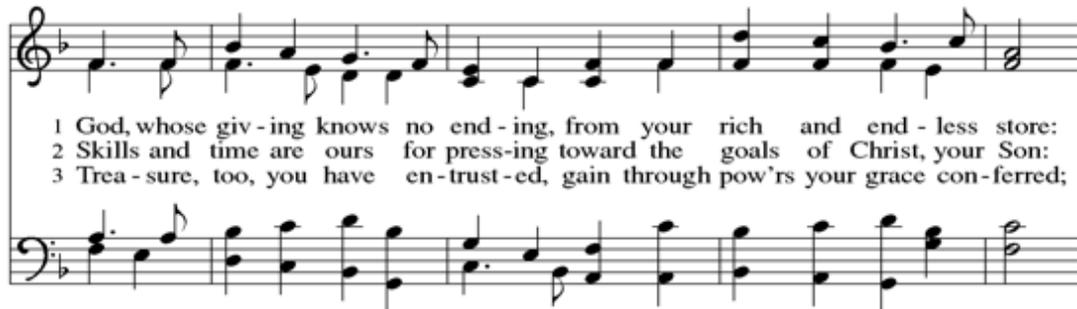
Hear us and help us.

Receive these prayers, and in your gracious mercy grant your strength to our neediness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

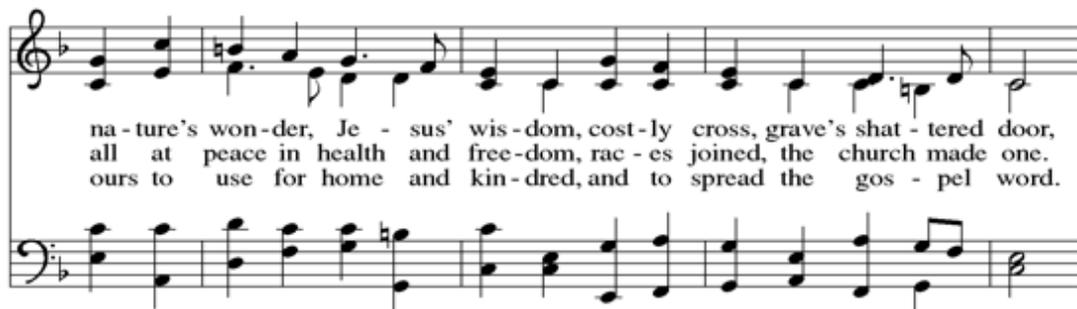
Amen.

Now read or sing the following Hymn. Accompaniment is at <https://www.relcarlington.org/hw/20201115/playlist>

HYMN #678 God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending



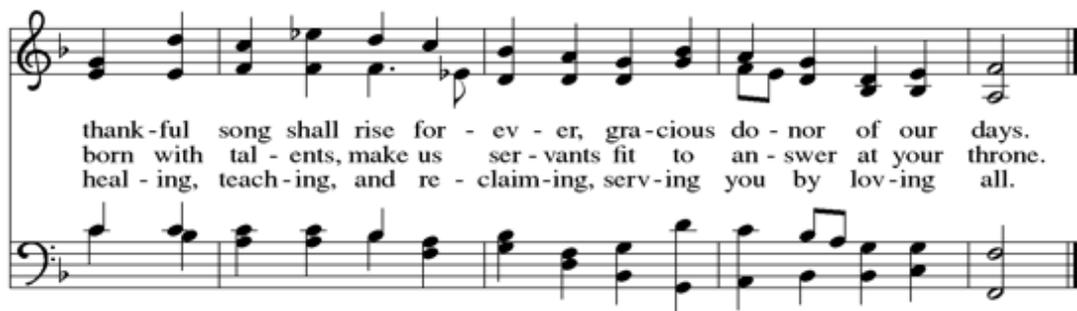
1 God, whose giv - ing knows no end - ing, from your rich and end - less store:
2 Skills and time are ours for press - ing toward the goals of Christ, your Son:
3 Trea - sure, too, you have en - trust - ed, gain through pow'rs your grace con - ferred;



na - ture's won - der, Je - sus' wis - dom, cost - ly cross, grave's shat - tered door,
all at peace in health and free - dom, rac - es joined, the church made one.
ours to use for home and kin - dred, and to spread the gos - pel word.



gift - ed by you, we turn to you, of - f'ring up our - selves in praise;
Now di - rect our dai - ly la - bor, lest we strive for self a - lone;
O - pen wide our hands in shar - ing, as we heed Christ's age - less call,



thank - ful song shall rise for - ev - er, gra - cious do - nor of our days.
born with tal - ents, make us ser - vants fit to an - swer at your throne.
heal - ing, teach - ing, and re - claim - ing, serv - ing you by lov - ing all.

Text: Robert L. Edwards, 1915–2006
Music: RUSTINGTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918
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Then conclude with these prayers:

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

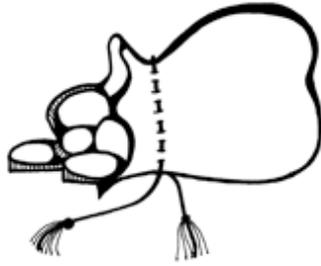
O Holy One of wisdom, throughout human history and today among us here, you call us to walk the paths of justice and peace. We praise you, O God of truth, for your precious words. Grant that sheltered under their richness as under the tree of life, we live in gratitude and faithfulness, through Jesus Christ, your Word and our Wisdom, now and forever. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.**

Then speak the Blessing:

Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever.
Amen.



We cannot now celebrate the Holy Communion. But you can pray at your table in your home, a table which always echoes the Holy Supper. Christ is always present at your meal. Your meal is holy. Here is one prayer you might use, at breakfast, lunch, or dinner, to celebrate that presence.

**Come, Lord Jesus, be our guest,
and let this food to us be blessed.
Blessed be God, who is our Bread,
may all the world be clothed and fed.**

Readings for the Week:

Monday Psalm 9:1-14. **Tuesday** (commemoration of Elizabeth of Hungary, renewer of society, died 1231) Zechariah 2:1-5; 5:1-4. **Wednesday** Matthew 24:24-51. **Thursday** Psalm 95:1-7a. **Friday** Revelation 22:1-9. **Saturday** Matthew 12:46-50. **Christ the King** Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24; Psalm 95:1-7a; Ephesians 1:15-23; Matthew 25:31-46.

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