

Nativity Lutheran Church Worship November 15, 2020
24th Sunday after Pentecost

Prelude

Welcome

Call to Worship/Call for Peace

O God of Every Nation ELW #713

Confession and Forgiveness

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.

Opening Hymn

O Happy Day When We Shall Stand ELW #441

Prayer of the Day

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.**

New Testament Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

You may follow along in your Bible if you would like to

Psalms 90:1-12

¹Lord, you have been our refuge
from one generation to another.

²**Before 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 children of earth."

⁴**For 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:

⁶**in 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.

⁸**Our 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.

¹⁰**The 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?

¹²**So teach us to number our days
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

You may follow along in your Bible if you would like to

Sermon

Hymn: *God Whose Giving Knows Ending* ELW #678

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers

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. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of creation, we stand in awe at the works of your hands and praise you for the beauty of nature (*local places of natural beauty may be named*). Bless the earth for your glory and restore its integrity where exploitation has caused ruin. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of the nations, sound forth your justice in the ears of all leaders. Increase concern for those who are most vulnerable, especially as international leaders forge trade agreements and cooperate to end human rights abuses. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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. Send us as encouragement and signs of your healing. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Lord of the stranger, stir up holy restlessness in us to extend love to those at the margins. Release our desire for control and open us to learn from the perspectives of others. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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 (*especially*). Rouse us to live by their example, that saints yet to come may also know your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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.

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Offering Prayer

God of all goodness, **generations have turned to you, gathered to worship, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather the gifts of your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant. Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Blessing

May the God of all creation,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved,
who strengthens us for service,
give you reason to rejoice and be glad!
The blessing of God,
Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit,
be with you today and always.
Amen.

Closing Hymn: *We Praise You, O God* ELW #870

Postlude

Dismissal

Beloved of God, our worship has ended but our service has just begun. Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God

Announcements

Fellowship time

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Scripture for individual devotions or study this week:

Mon – Nov 16	Zechariah 1:7-17	Romans 2:1-11	Psalm 9:1-14
Tue – Nov 17	Zechariah 2:1-5, 5:1-4	1 Thessalonians 5:12-18	Psalm 9:1-14
Wed – Nov 18	Job 16:1-21	Matthew 24:45-51	Psalm 9:1-14
Thu – Nov 19	1 Kings 22:13-23	Revelation 14:1-11	Psalm 85:1-7a
Fri – Nov 20	1 Chronicles 17:1-15	Revelation 22:1-9	Psalm 95:1-7a
Sat – Nov 21	Isaiah 44:21-28	Matthew 12:46-50	Psalm 95:1-7a

Revised Common Lectionary readings for next Sunday, November 22, Christ the King Sunday
Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24 Psalm 95:1-7a, Ephesians 1:15-23 Matthew 25:31-46

Please remember in your prayers this week:

Our country, Roger Bodamer, Connor Schnackenberg, Sue Dawson, Corey Underhill, Dick Pelletier, Christopher LeLacheur, Cindy Lockwood, Tina Huntley, Irene Olson, Carla Sykora, Karin Pratt, Esther, Peter Perry, Pastor Tim Roser, Healthcare workers, Helen Robinson, Michael Wessling, Marty, Ray Geraldson, Irene Eaton, Jessica Isakson, Peter DeRuiter, Beth Guiseley, Peter Perry II, Sharon Rowling, Kathleen Sheets and family, Linda and Timothy Pratt, and children in need. (Please let Pastor Anderson and Sue Ann know of persons to be added to the prayer list and those who can be removed.)

Announcements for this week

- Today, November 15, we will hold a special congregational meeting, immediately following worship on Zoom. The purpose of the meeting is to vote on the adoption of statements of mission, vision and values proposed by the Congregation Council. No other business will be conducted. Check your email from November 2 for more information and please plan to attend.
- Check the View for overall items needed for our Thanksgiving boxes then call Ann Walker (860) 917-7678 to find out what is still needed and let her know what you will contribute. If you would like to contribute financially rather than shopping, mark your check "Thanksgiving Boxes" and mail it to church or drop it off when you see Pastor's car. (Please wear a mask).
- Believe it or not it will soon be Advent. Pastor and the Worship Team have some new things and some familiar things planned for that "season" of preparation. One familiar thing will be the wonderful service of *Holden Evening Prayer* offered virtually on Tuesday evenings in December at 7 pm. Mark your calendars. Watch for upcoming announcements