Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

P.O. Box 100, Durham PA, 18039 610-346-8500 durhamlutheran.org

Rev. James Heckman, Bridge Pastor

November 19, 2023 Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost



Introduction to Worship

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread, and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ's coming among us.

You can find the live stream at the following locations: www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

Worship from Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB170076.

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License # 715933-A. All rights reserved.

Prelude: Come, Ye Thankful People, Come

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness (Stand if you are able)

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity,

→ one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved.

C: Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One,

C: 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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.



PROVIDENCE

We Gather Together 131 1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless-ing; God with us 2. Be guide us, our join - ing, side 3. We ex tol thee, thou lead - er tri - um-phant, he chas - tens and has - tens will his to make known. or dain - ing, main - tain - ing his king - dom di - vine; and pray that thou still our de fend - er wilt The cease from dis - tress - ing. wick - ed op - press - ing now from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win-ning; Let trib - u - la - tion; thy con-gre ga - tion cape es Sing he for gets not prais - es to his name; his own. thou, Lord, wast at our side, all glo - ry be thine! be ev - er praised! Lord, make free! name

WORDS: Nederlandtsch Gedenckclanck, 1626; trans. by Theodore Baker, 1894 MUSIC: 16th cent. Dutch melody; arr. by Edward Kremser, 1877 KREMSER Irr. P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, The Love of God, and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Kyrie



Prayer of the Day

- L: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.
- L: 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.

C: Amen. (Please be Seated)

First Reading – Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18

Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.

L: A reading from Zephaniah, the first chapter.

⁷Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand; the Lord has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests.

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 he do harm." Their 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 his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

L: The Word of the Lord. C: THANKS BE TO GOD.

Psalm: 90:1-8, 12

- L: ¹Lord, you have been our refuge from one generation to another.
- C: ²Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the earth were born, from age to age you are God.
- L: ³You turn us back to the dust and say, "Turn back, O children of earth."
- C: ⁴For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past and like a watch in the night;
- L: ⁵you sweep them away like a dream, they fade away suddenly like the grass:
- C: 6in the morning it is green and flourishes; in the evening it is dried up and withered.

- L: ⁷For we are consumed by your anger; we are afraid because of your wrath.
- C: 8Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance. 12So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.

A reading from Thessalonians, the fifth chapter:

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.

L: The Word of the Lord. **C: THANKS BE TO GOD.**

Gospel Acclamation (Please stand if you are able)



The Gospel – Matthew 25:14-30

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.

P: The Gospel according to Matthew. C: Glory to you, O Lord

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.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] 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. 18 But 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.' 23 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.' 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."

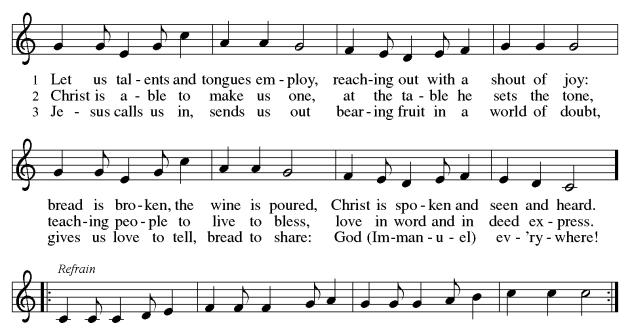
P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you. O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: ELW 674

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ



Je - sus lives a-gain, earth can breathe a-gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a - bound!

Text: Fred Kaan, b. 1929

Music: LINSTEAD, Jamaican folk tune; adapt. Doreen Potter, 1925–1980

Text and music © 1975 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

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

Apostles' Creed

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

C: 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 OF INTERCESSION

P: Let us turn our hearts to God, our breath and life, as we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P: Gracious God, you give talents and gifts to all your people, and you equip the church to serve. Turn us from fear and self-serving ways, that we use our talents to glorify you and encourage our neighbor. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: You have been our dwelling place from one generation to another. Sustain the life of the planet; protect farmlands and harvests. Direct all people in wise stewardship of all the earth's resources. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: You call us to honesty and integrity. Instill these values in the hearts of all nations and their leaders. Free any who are oppressed, expose all corruption, and bring redemption to victims of injustice. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: You teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart. Where there is sickness or sorrow, bring healing, and where there is loneliness, reveal your love in community. We remember before you (especially those we name aloud or in our hearts). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We pray for the faith formation ministries of our church. Give to all children, youth, and adults who study your word the breastplate of faith and love. Shape us by your love and show us how to encourage one another. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: We offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace

P: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

Choir Anthem: Thanks Be to God - Judy Hunnicutt

Presentation of the Gifts

WE ARE AN OFFERING - ELW 692

We lift our voices, we lift our hands,
we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering.
Lord, use our voices, Lord, use our hands.
Lord, use our lives, they are yours: we are an offering.
All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be,
We give to you, we give to you.
We lift our voices, we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you:
We are an offering, we are an offering.

Offering Prayer

P: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

C: Amen.



THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Eucharistic Prayer (said by Pastor)

- P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:
- C: 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.

Invitation to Communion

P: There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at Jesus' table.



Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow ushers)



Hymn during Communion: ELW 461

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly



Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993 Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Moore, *Columbian Harmony*, 1825; arr. hymnal version Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Arr. © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

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

Prayer after Communion

P: Lord Jesus, in this simple meal you have set a banquet. Sustain us on the journey, strengthen us to care for the least of your beloved children, and give us glad and generous hearts as we meet you on the way.

C: Amen.

Announcements

BLESSING

P: 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.

.C: Amen.



SENDING SONG: ELW 840

Now Thank We All Our God



Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586–1649; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878 Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

DISMISSAL

P: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

<u>ANNOUNCEMENTS</u>						
	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	BAPTISMS			
19	Hans Rilling	Miriam & Ken Anderson (40)				
21	Ken Anderson					
22			Bob Fox			
23	Faye Gadwell		Addyson Mammana			
24	Chase Aquino		Paula Eck			
25	Dan Froehlich	Cathy & Chris Mueller	Helen Dungan, Cheryl Eck			
19	Hans Rilling	Miriam & Ken Anderson (40)				
21	Ken Anderson					

THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES					
Sunday, November 19	10:00 AM	Worship - Pr. Jim Heckman			
(communion)	After worship	Worship Committee meeting			
Monday, November 20	7:00 PM- 8:30 PM	Crop Walk retrospective @St. Peter's			
Wednesday, November 22	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Choir rehearsal			
	11:00AM – 1:00 PM	Office Hours			
	12:00 PM	Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim			
Thursday, November 23		Thanksgiving			
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES					
Sunday, November 26	10:00 AM	Worship - Pr. Jim Heckman			
Christ the King Sunday					
(communion)					
Wednesday, November 29	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Office Hours			
	11:00 AM - 11:15 PM	Care -A-Lot Visit			
	12:00 PM	Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim			
Thursday, November 30	10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Choir rehearsal			
	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Office hours			
	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's			
Sunday, December 3	10:00 AM	Worship - Pr. Jim Heckman			
First Sunday in Advent	After Worship	Advent family event			
(Communion)	·	·			
Monday, December 4	7:00 PM	Palm Meeting @ St. Luke's, Ferndale			
Wednesday, December 6	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Office Hours			
	11:00 AM - 11:15 PM	Care -A-Lot Visit			
	12:00 PM	Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim			

Thursday, December 7	10:00 AM - 11:00 PM	Choir rehearsal
	11:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Office hours
	1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's
Sunday, December 10	10:00 AM	Worship - Pr. Jim Heckman
Second Sunday in Advent	After Worship	Congregational Meeting – 2024
(Communion)		Budget Approval



November Outreach - The November envelope will go to Help to Help, a joint project of Emmanuel church and Rotary in Souderton, who are raising funds to build a school building in Santa Barbara, Honduras.



For Healing of those in our Congregation:

Joanne & David Antoni; Brian Ashmore; Esther Crouse; Frank Erceg; Kenneth Hager; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Wes Simmons; Ed Xander; Joanne and Bobby Ziegenfuss.

Lynn Bailey; Ron & Kathy Ballek; Jason Bigley; Melissa Carafa; Deb Carmichael; Peggy Coleman; Stephanie Courtney; Rev. Dennis Durasoff; Nancy Edelen; Diane Ellington; Leon Errico; Fred Foerster;

Gerry Foran; Debbie Gardner; Cindy Gilligan; Candie Gimbar; Josephine Gimelson & family; Baree Lee Goodman; Penni Griffith; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Sue Kiry; Jim McAnally; Letitia McCrea; Sue Odor; Cindy Oswald; Lucia Otero; Jennifer Phelps; Jean Pratt; Connie Rugen; Linda Saunders; Paul Sauter; Debbie Schultz; The Schutt Family; David Sebring; Alex Sempt; Shawn Stadt; Pat Stangil; Kay Stokes; Donna Storm; Russ Trauger; Kelly Walsh; Henry Wong and Scotty Yurconis.

For those who are Homebound:

Cleo & Ken Eck; Norma Fox; Phyllis Lanshe; Jayne Miller; and Silas Rodenbach.

For families and friends grieving the loss of:

Stan Aagaard; Michael Barats; Sharon Fogelman; Joann Gary; Betty Kreitz; Lani Schlegel; Don Seipt; Marilyn Seipt; Shawn Stadt; Hal Taylor; Ann Valent

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at:

PrayerChain@durhamlutheran.org

Helping in Worship

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman
Choir Director / Organist	Carolyn Williams
Greeter(s)	Dave Sauter
Altar Guild	Linda Sauter & Becky Praster
Acolyte	Nate Roberts
Lector	Scott Gaun
Head / Communion Usher	Dave Sauter
Council Counting Team	Barb Naska & Dave Sauter
Administration & Technology	Ken Anderson
Custodian	Dianna Streletz