

ZION WORSHIP
November 19th, 2023 – 10 AM

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – Southern Ocean Medical Center/Hackensack Meridian hosts 2 Caregiver Support groups @ the Stafford Library (129 N. Main St., Manahawkin.)

- **GENERAL CAREGIVERS** - Held the third Monday of each month at noon. For more information, call 1-800-560-9990.
- **SPECIALIZED CAREGIVERS** - For those caring for a loved one with signs of Alzheimer's Disease, a meeting is held on the first Monday of each month at noon. For more information, call 1-800-DOCTORS.

FREE VACCINES - The LBI Health Dept. in Ship Bottom is offering free flu shots and Covid test kits.

THANKSGIVING WITH ST. PETER'S – TONIGHT!! Join us for our annual Thanksgiving dinner and worship with St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Dinner here at 6pm. Worship at 7pm. Come and join in the Feast!

ASSISTING MINISTERS TRAINING – we will offer training for all who wish to join the ministry at the Lord's Table. This meeting is for all who are and who wish to be our Greeters, Readers and Communion Assistants. We ask all that already do so be present for this training as well. Your experience will help those who are beginning. The half hour training will take place immediately after the 8:30 and the 10:00 am worship services. This is your chance to serve at the Lord's Table. We invite everyone who hears the call to serve in this way to step forward. If you'd like to assist worship and can't make this training. Please notify Gayle Regan (908-612-6517). She will help you find a time that works best for you!

CONFESSIONS & 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!

HYMN: ELW #825 – You Servants of God

Prayer of the Day - 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.**

God's Holy Word

FIRST READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11



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.

The Word of the Lord...**Thanks be to God!**

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 children 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.

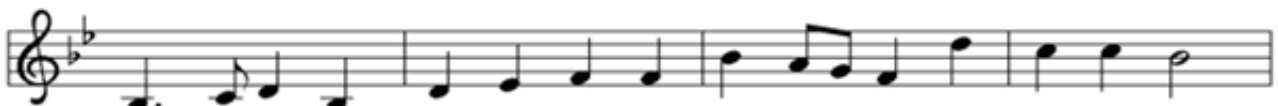
⁸Our iniquities you have set before you, and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

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 number our days that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.
Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le - lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Matthew 25:14 – 30; **Glory to You, O Lord!**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹⁴For 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, Lord Jesus Christ!**

REFLECTIONS

HYMN: ELW#689 - Praise and Thanksgiving

PRAYERS FOR THE PEOPLE

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.*

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.**

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.**

We pray for those nations and peoples who are at war, those who live with fear and the threat of violence. **We pray for the people of the Ukraine and Russia, and those living in Middle East, Israel and Palestine. Lord help them all!**

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 our sick** (*especially, names are spoken aloud*).

Gracious God, you are faithful in all generations. **For the promise of life and rest and for the witness of those who have died in faith we praise your goodness.**

Heavenly Father, we offer our spoken prayers and those held in our hearts trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY

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. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

Invitation to Communion – There is a place for you at the banquet. Come and feast at the Table of the Lord!

OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

COMMUNION HYMN: ELW#483 - Here is Bread

Here is Bread, here is wine, Christ is with us, he is with us.
Break the bread. Taste the wine, Christ is with us here.

Chorus

Here is grace, here is peace, Christ is with us, he is with us.
Know his grace, find his peace, feast on Jesus here.

Chorus

Here we are, joined in one, Christ is with us, he is with us.
We'll proclaim till he comes Jesus crucified

Chorus

Closing Prayer - 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. **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: ELW#679 – For the Fruit of all Creation

Dismissal: Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

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*"God calls us to share our faith in Christ
with the community in all seasons"*



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