



**ELW Service of the Word**  
**24th Sunday after Pentecost**

**November 15, 2020**  
**First Lutheran Church - Sandpoint, ID**

**GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Welcome!** We are thankful for this time you have set aside for worship of God and care of one another. These last weeks of the Church year, draw us into visions of the reign of God. They speak of The Day of the Lord and the fulfillment of God's dream for creation. Depending upon how you view God, people either expect violence and destruction or the peaceable kingdom. Rapture or God coming to dwell among God's people and drawing all creation to God's self, through the grace of Jesus Christ. How will you enter into the joy of the Lord, our God?

Please note the following things to support you in your worship:

- First, thank you for adjusting to and heeding the precautions we have put in place to reduce the spread of the Covid-19 virus, while we gather.
- In addition to wearing face masks, remaining 6' apart from other family groups or friend cohorts, staying home if you do not feel well, and refraining from shaking hands or hugging:
  - we have placed the offering plates at the entrances and exits of the worship space, so you do not have to touch any surfaces. We also encourage online giving, which you can find on our website: <https://firstlutheransandpoint.breezechms.com/give/online>.
  - Frequently touched surfaces are cleaned before groups gather and after.
  - The bathrooms are located to the right, as you exit the back of the church. We ask that one family unit use the facilities at a time. Hydrogen peroxide is available to disinfect touched surfaces.
  - The Children's Playroom and Nursery is not available for use.
  - Doors and windows are kept open and the fans running for ventilation.
  - We ask that you meditate on or hum the songs as the music plays, **rather than singing**.
  - During the passing of the peace, we invite you to wave, show a peace sign, extend your arms in a gesture of blessing, etc. as you remain in your pew.
  - At the end of the worship, please remain seated until the ushers dismiss you by rows. The upright piano side of the sanctuary will leave through the door up front. The lectern side will exit the way you came in.
  - Fellowship is encouraged with social distancing, once you are outside of the building.
  - We requested your name and phone number in case we need to notify you of a potential exposure to Covid-19. We will heed HIPAA laws if or when the need arises.
  - On Sundays, the fellowship hall door that leads out to the Ontario St. parking lot will be exit only for anyone who might be seated in the overflow seating. The Main Ontario St. door and the doors nearest the church office will be the only doors unlocked for entry.
- Even with all of this, we cannot eliminate the risk of contracting the Covid-19 virus while gathering indoors. Therefore, we will record each worship and post for those who choose to stay home. If you are using this bulletin at home to worship God, please create a space in your home with a candle, Bible or other symbols of God to help you focus your attention on God's presence with you. Yes, the Holy Spirit connects us all together wherever we are, with the saints today, and all those who have gone before us in the faith.

## **Prelude**

### **Welcome and Announcements**

#### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

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.**

**Sin 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.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,  
and through his death and resurrection,  
Christ has made us his own.

Hear the truth that God proclaims:

Your sins are forgiven in the name of ✚ Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

#### **GATHERING SONG -**

*Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus*

**Turn your eyes upon Jesus  
Look full on his wonderful face  
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of his wonder and grace**

#### **\*GREETING (ELW p. 213)**

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

**And also with you.**

**\*KYRIE**

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christe eleison: **Christ, have mercy.**

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

**\*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.**

**WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**FIRST READING: Psalm 90**

<sup>1</sup>LORD, you have been our dwelling place  
in all generations.

<sup>2</sup>Before the mountains were brought forth,  
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,  
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

<sup>3</sup>You turn us back to dust,  
and say, "Turn back, you mortals."

<sup>4</sup>For a thousand years in your sight  
are like yesterday when it is past,  
or like a watch in the night.

<sup>5</sup>You sweep them away; they are like a dream,  
like grass that is renewed in the morning;

<sup>6</sup>in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;  
in the evening it fades and withers.

<sup>7</sup>For we are consumed by your anger;  
by your wrath we are overwhelmed.

<sup>8</sup>You have set our iniquities before you,  
our secret sins in the light of your countenance.

<sup>9</sup>For all our days pass away under your wrath;  
our years come to an end like a sigh.

<sup>10</sup>The days of our life are seventy years,  
or perhaps eighty, if we are strong;  
even then their span is only toil and trouble;  
they are soon gone, and we fly away.

<sup>11</sup>Who considers the power of your anger?  
 Your wrath is as great as the fear that is due you.  
<sup>12</sup>So teach us to count our days  
 that we may gain a wise heart.  
<sup>13</sup>Turn, O LORD! How long?  
 Have compassion on your servants!  
<sup>14</sup>Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,  
 so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.  
<sup>15</sup>Make us glad as many days as you have afflicted us,  
 and as many years as we have seen evil.  
<sup>16</sup>Let your work be manifest to your servants,  
 and your glorious power to their children.  
<sup>17</sup>Let the favor of the LORD our God be upon us,  
 and prosper for us the work of our hands —  
 O prosper the work of our hands!

The word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? Al - le -  
 lu - ia. You have the words of e - ter - nal life.  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

**\*GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

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

**SERMON**

# Let Streams of Living Justice



1 Let streams of liv - ing jus - tice flow down up - on the earth;  
 2 For heal - ing of the na - tions, for peace that will not end,  
 3 Your ci - ty's built to mu - sic; we are the stones you seek;



give free - dom's light to cap - tives, let all the poor have worth.  
 for love that makes us lov - ers, God grant us grace to mend.  
 your har - mo - ny is lan - guage; we are the words you speak.



The hun - gry's hands are plead - ing, the work - ers claim their rights,  
 Weave our var - ied gifts to - geth - er; knit our lives as they are spun;  
 Our faith we find in ser - vice, our hope in oth - ers' dreams,



the mourn - ers long for laugh - ter, the blind - ed seek for sight.  
 on your loom of time en - roll us till our thread of life is run.  
 our love in hand of neigh - bor; our home - land bright - ly gleams.



Make lib - er - ty a bea - con, strike down the i - ron pow'r;  
 O great weav - er of our fab - ric, bind church and world in one;  
 In - scribe our hearts with jus - tice; your way—the path un - tried;



a - bol - ish an - cient ven - geance: pro - claim your peo - ple's hour.  
 dye our tex - ture with your ra - dian - ce, light our col - ors with your sun.  
 your truth—the heart of strang - er; your life—the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934  
 Music: THAXTED, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934  
 Text © 1989 William Whitla.

## **\*CREED**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.\***

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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**

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*\*Or, He descended to the dead.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

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.**

## **PEACE**

*The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, while remaining in your pew.*

## **THANKSGIVING**

### **OFFERING -**

*Take this time to reflect upon what you are grateful for.*

*Offerings may be placed in the plates as you go out from this worship to live in service to God throughout the week.*

*Or you can give online <https://firstlutheransandpoint.breezechms.com/give/online>.*

### **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

*The presiding minister leads one of the following or another appropriate prayer.*

Let us pray.

We thank you, O God, for your life-giving Word,  
for calling creation into being,  
declaring forgiveness from the cross,  
and delivering the spirit of rebirth.  
**we praise you, O God, for your Word.**

Gen. 1:3  
Luke 23:34  
John 3:5

Your word is a lamp lighting our path,  
a mirror reflecting our selves,  
a shield providing us refuge,  
a fire burning for justice and truth.  
We receive your promises, more treasured than gold.  
**we bless you, O God, for your Word.**

*Ps. 119:105*  
*James 1:23*  
*Prov. 30:5*  
*Jer. 23:29*  
*Ps. 19:10*

Open our ears to your prophets, apostles, and saints,  
and to all the cries of the needy.  
Breathe into your church the mighty Spirit of Christ,  
that heeding your voice of beauty and power  
we are strengthened to serve wherever we are called.

*Eph. 2:19-20*  
*James 5:4*  
*John 20:22*  
*Ps. 29:9*  
*Rom. 16:25-26*

To you, Father, Son, and Spirit – the Source, Word, and Breath --  
**we offer our thanks for your life-giving Word.**  
**Amen.**

### **LORD’S PRAYER**

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

**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.**

### **SENDING**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## **BLESSING**

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.*

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. **Amen.**

## **\*SENDING SONG**

*To Be Alive*

*(Dakota Road)*

*Chorus:*

To be alive is to live the love  
that is alive in God's saving Son  
who brought us back from a life of death  
to be alive

Join the singing, join the celebration  
Jesus lives, we are restored  
Love alive, giving and forgiving  
Loving another to be whole (Chorus)

There is nothing I can do to save me  
Only God carries us home  
So we live mercy, hope and freedom  
Loving another to be whole (Chorus)

## **DISMISSAL**

Beloved of God,  
go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

### **WORSHIP NOTES:**

**Liturgy** From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

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### **Songs:**

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Recording shared by Organ: Carol Churchill; Voices: Angela Roesler-Lombardi, Eva Lam, Anastasia Urchick; Coordinating, Film Editing/Audio Engineering, Mixing and Mastering: Sung Lee  
Produced by Samm Hills Worship (Sammamish Hills Lutheran Church)

**Cover** - Graphic from [SundaysandSeasons.com](http://SundaysandSeasons.com)

**WORSHIP TEAM:**

Rev. Lori C. Morton - Pastor

Rev. Steve Neuder - Pastor

Piano Recordings created by Colleen Culwell and Daniel Hughes

Scott Youngren and Don Farnham- Video and Sound



A Service of  
**Thanksgiving**

**In the Northwest Intermountain Synod**

A PRE-RECORDED WORSHIP SERVICE GIVING THANKS TO GOD  
PRODUCED FOR AND BY THE NWIM SYNOD FAMILY.

**Available for download and use at your  
congregations' discretion starting  
Monday , November 23.**

**YOU CAN HELP!**

**WE NEED:**

**VIRTUAL CHOIR:** Record yourself singing along with a practice track to be joined in a singing of *This Is My Song* (ELW 887)

**READERS / LECTORAS:** Record yourself reading scripture or leading a spoken piece of literature in a language of your choice

**GIVE THANKS / DAR GRACIAS:** Record yourself giving thanks to God for something in your life in a language of your choice

**PROVIDE MUSIC / CANTAR:** Help provide pre-recorded songs of thanksgiving to be integrated into the worship service

**TO PARTICIPATE**

e-mail [thanksgiving.nwims@gmail.com](mailto:thanksgiving.nwims@gmail.com) and let us know how you want to join in.