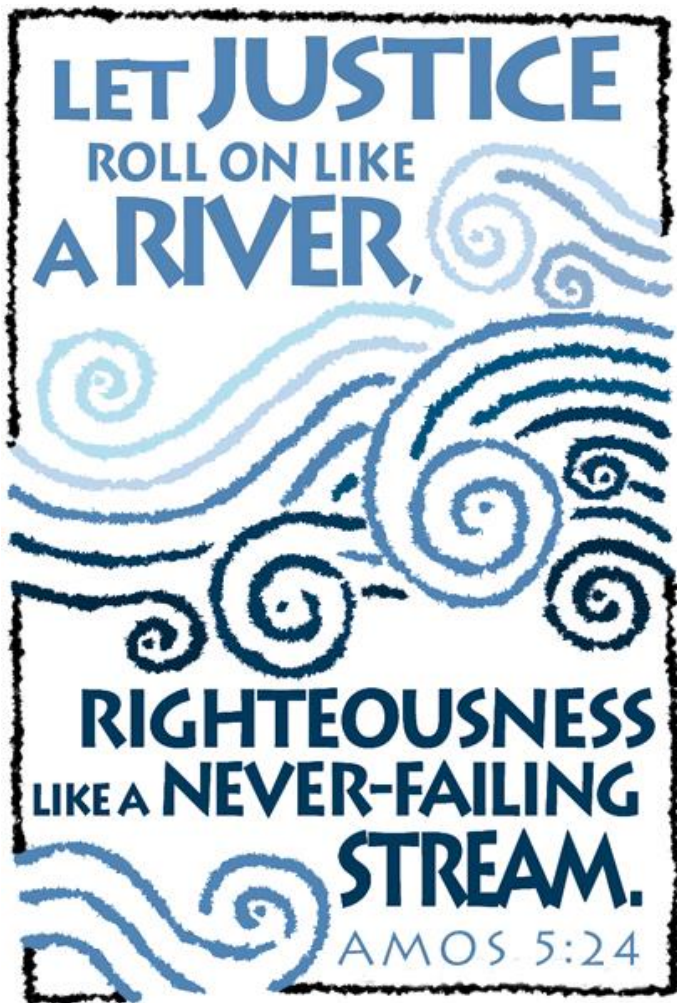


Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
November 12, 2023  
10:30 AM



*"Christ- Students- Community Coming Together"*  
444 Abbot Road | East Lansing, MI 48823 | (517) 332-0778  
[www.martinlutherchapel.org](http://www.martinlutherchapel.org)

*Why does the bridegroom come so late to the wedding celebration? Why, asked the early Christians, does Christ seemingly delay his promised return? And we, who live in an unjust and violent world may ask, Where is the Lord when we need him?*

*We do not know the hour of his final advent. But we do know that Christ has claimed us in baptism as his servants in this world. We have the witness of the word and sacrament to enlighten our path in life. We are strengthened in the eucharist as heralds of the coming reign of God's justice and peace. Between his first advent and his final coming, the church is called to serve the Lord Jesus in faith, hope, and love.*

## PRELUDE

*Stand*

## INVOCATION

**[P]** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**[C]** Amen.

## BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**[P]** If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. Let us confess our sin to God who is faithful and just and who has promised to forgive our sin and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Kneel/ Remain Standing*

**[P]** Most merciful God, **[C]** Have mercy on us.

**[C]** We confess to you that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not trusted you with our whole heart; we have not loved one another in deed and in truth. In your compassion forgive our sin and so uphold us by your Spirit that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our light and our truth. Amen.

**[P]** With joy, I proclaim to you that Almighty God, rich in mercy, abundant in love, forgives you all your sin and grants you newness of life in Jesus Christ.

**[C]** Thanks be to God!

*Stand*

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

*saying "Peace be with you/ And also with you", being mindful of those who do not wish to shake hands, you may give a head nod, bow or place your hand on your heart.*

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### OPENING HYMN

### “Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise”

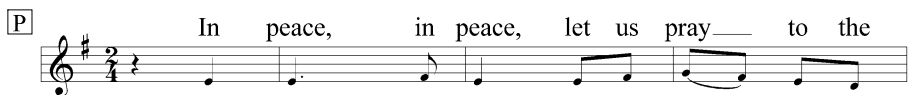
1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
 3 To all life Thou giv - est— to both great and small—  
 4 Great Fa - ther of glo - ry, pure Fa - ther of light,

In light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
 Nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, Thou rul - est in might;  
 In all life Thou liv - est, the true Life of all;  
 Thine an - gels a - dore Thee, all the veil - ing their sight;

Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
 Thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves on the tree  
 All laud we would ren - der: O help us to see

Al - might - y, vic - to - rious, Thy great name we praise.  
 Thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
 And with - er and per - ish— but naught chang - es Thee.  
 'Tis on - ly the splen - dor of light that hides Thee.

**[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.



**C** Lord.  
Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

For the reign of God, and for peace through-

Lord, have mer - cy.

out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray — to the

Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

For your peo - ple here, who have come to

Lord, have mer - cy.

give you praise, for the strength to live your Word, let us pray — to the

Lord.

**C** Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Help, save, and de -

Lord, have mer - cy.

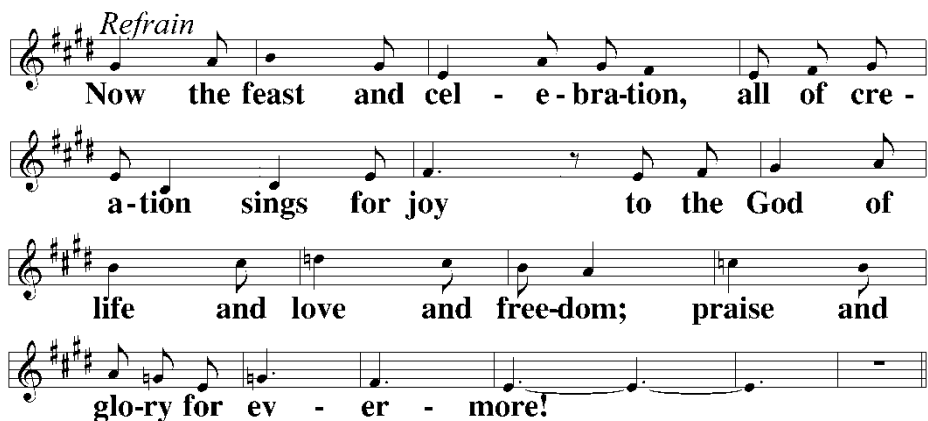
fend us, O God.

**A** -

(accompaniment/intro)

men.

Continue the following without interruption. All sing the Refrain.



1. *Choir or soloist:* Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has freed and united us to be one great people of God. *(brief interlude, then all sing the Refrain above)*
2. *Choir or soloist:* Power and riches, wisdom and might, all honor and glory to Christ forever. *(brief interlude, then all sing the Refrain above)*
3. *Choir or soloist:* For God has come to dwell with us, to make us people of God; to make all things new. *(brief interlude, then all sing the Refrain above)*

## SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

**[P]** The Lord be with you. **[C]** **And also with you.**

**[P]** Lord, when the day of wrath comes we have no hope except in your grace. Make us so to watch for the last days that the consummation of our hope may be the joy of the marriage feast of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **[C]** **Amen.**

*Sit*

*Children are invited to the Fireside Lounge for the Children's Lesson.*

## FIRST LESSON Amos 5:18-24

*In this speech, Amos takes up one of the central themes of Israel's faith and turns it against his Israelite audience. The Day of the Lord was understood to be a day of disaster and judgment for the Lord's enemies, but one of salvation and deliverance for the Lord's people. Now, Amos declares, because the people have turned away from God and failed to pursue justice and righteousness, Israel will be numbered among the Lord's enemies.*

**[R]** Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,  
and was bitten by a snake.  
Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,  
and gloom with no brightness in it?  
I hate, I despise your festivals,  
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.  
Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,  
I will not accept them;  
and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals  
I will not look upon.  
Take away from me the noise of your songs;  
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.  
But let justice roll down like waters,  
and righteousness like an everflowing stream.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

**SECOND LESSON** 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

*The Thessalonian Christians were eagerly awaiting the return of Christ and became distressed when loved ones died before this occurred. Paul's words about the second coming offer hope to all who grieve.*

**R** We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**R** This is the Word of the Lord. **C** **Thanks be to God.**

**ALLELUIA**

| - - - - Introduction - - - - |

**C** Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.  
Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e-  
ter - nal life. Al-le-lu - ia! (Repeat, starting after intro.)

## GOSPEL

**[P]** The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, Chapter 25, beginning at verse 1. **[C]**

### **Glory to You, O Lord.**

**[P]** Jesus said to the disciples: "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise replied, 'No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

**[P]** This is the Gospel of the Lord. **[C]** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## APOSTLES' CREED

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

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.**

**He ascended into heaven,**

**And sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.**

**From thence 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.**

*Sit*

## MESSAGE

*Stand*

**HYMNN “Let Justice Flow Like Streams”**

1 Let jus - tice flow like streams of spark - ling wa - ter, pure,  
2 Let righ - teous - ness roll on as oth - ers' cares we heed,  
3 So may God's plumb line, straight, de - fine our mea - sure true,

en - a - bling growth, re - fresh - ing life, a - bun - dant, cleans - ing, sure,  
an ev - er - flow - ing stream of faith trans - la - ted in - to deed.  
and jus - tice, right, and peace per - vade this world our whole life through.

Text: Jane Parker Huber, b. 1926  
Music: Aaron Williams, 1731–1776  
Text © 1984 Jane Parker Huber, admin. Westminster John Knox Press

ST. THOMAS  
SM

**PRAYERS**

**P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.

*Other prayers are inserted here. Each petition ends with “Lord, in your mercy,” to which the congregation responds, “hear our prayer.” The prayers conclude:*

**P** Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C Amen.**

*Sit*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SERVICE OF THE TABLE**

**OFFERING**

*You may contribute online using the QR code or place a gift in offering plate at the door along with the interest sheet.*

Give Now



OFFERTORY MUSIC

Stand

OFFERTORY SONG

**C** *introduction* *rit.* *Refrain*

As the grains of wheat once  
scat-tered on the hill were gath-ered in - to one to be -  
come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from  
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in

*Verses*

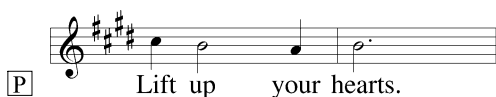
*(1st & 2nd times: go to verses; 3rd time: end)*

1. As this cup of bless-ing is  
2. Let this be a fore-taste of  
shared with - in our midst, may we share the  
all that is to come when all cre - a - tion  
pres - ence of your love. *(Sing Refrain & 2nd Vs.)*  
shares this feast with you. *(Sing Refrain once more)*

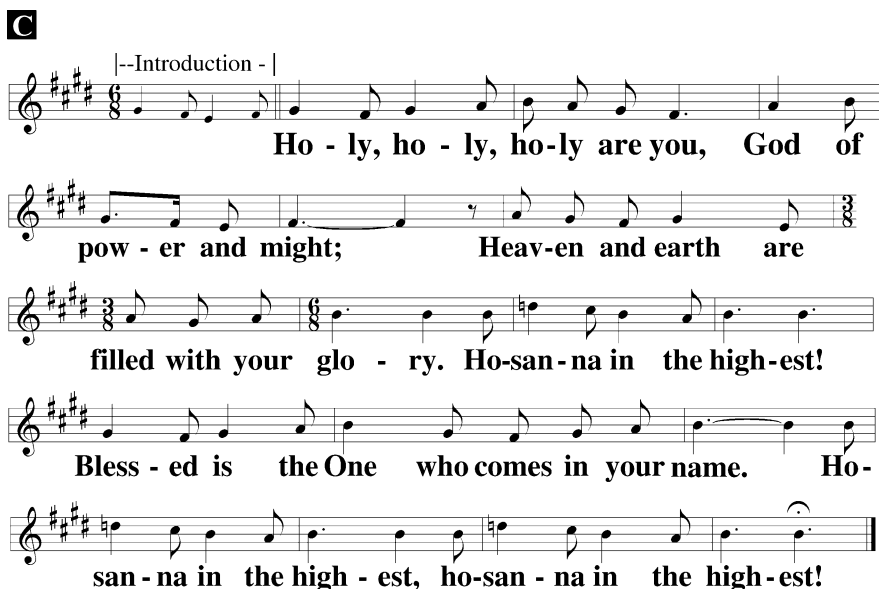
**P** Let us pray. God of every generation,

**C** we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—ourselves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



**P** It is our duty and delight... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**[P]** In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

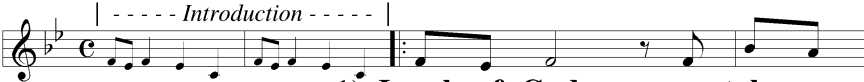
**[P]** Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

**LORD’S PRAYER**

*Recognizing that the church, and this congregation, are comprised of people from many cultures, languages, and backgrounds, please speak this prayer in the language or version closest to your heart.*

**[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

**AGNUS DEI**



----- Introduction -----

**[C]**

1) Lamb of God, you take a -

2) Lamb of God, you are the

way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us,

way of mer-cy and love: have mer - cy on us,

(hold) mer - cy on us, mer-cy on us. (Sing vs. 2 above)

(hold) mer - cy on us, mer-cy on us. (Sing vs. 3-->) 3) Lamb of

God, you take a-way the sin of the world:

grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Sit

**THE DISTRIBUTION** Please approach the altar as space is available. You may receive pre-packaged communion elements, or from the common loaf, along with an individual cup of wine or grape juice. Pre-packaged Gluten free options are available.

## HYMN "O Lord, How Shall I Meet You"

1 O Lord, how shall I meet You, How wel - come You a - right?  
2 Your Zi - on strews be - fore You Green boughs and fair - est palms;  
3 I lay in fet - ters, groan - ing; You came to set me free.  
4 Love caused Your in - car - na - tion; Love brought You down to me.

Your peo - ple long to greet You, My hope, my heart's de - light!  
And I too will a - dore You With joy - ous songs and psalms.  
I stood, my shame be - moan - ing; You came to hon - or me.  
Your thirst for my sal - va - tion Pro - cured my lib - er - ty.

O kin - dle, Lord most ho - ly, Your lamp with - in my breast  
My heart shall bloom for - ev - er For You with prais - es new  
A glo - rious crown You give me, A trea - sure safe on high  
Oh, love be - yond all tell - ing, That led You to em - brace

To do in spir - it low - ly All that may please You best.  
And from Your name shall nev - er With - hold the hon - or due.  
That will not fail or leave me As earth - ly rich - es fly.  
In love, all love ex - cel - ling, Our lost and fall - en race.

Stand

**[P]** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **[C]** Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE AND PRAYER

**[C]**



1) Praise to you, O God of mer - cy: Thanks be to  
2) From of old you loved and sought us: Thanks be to  
you for - ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and  
you for - ev - er! Truth and jus - tice you have  
low - ly: Thanks be to you for - ev - er! (*sing vs. 2*)  
taught us: Thanks be to you for - ev - er! (*cont.-->*)  
Strong is your faith - ful - ness, strong is your love, re -  
mem - b'ring your cove - nant of life with us.  
Praise to you O God of mer - cy: Thanks be to you for -  
ev - er! Rais - ing high the weak and low - ly: Thanks be to  
you for - ev - er. Thanks be to you for - ev - er!

**[P]** Let us pray. We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith towards you and in fervent love towards one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**[C]** Amen.

## BENEDICTION

- [P]** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **[C]** Amen.
- [P]** Go in peace; serve the Lord. **[C]** Thanks be to God.

## CLOSING HYMN “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”

1 Re - joice, re-joyce, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch-ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride-groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'ings bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.  
Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.  
Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.  
A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.

The Bride-groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride-groom is at hand.  
In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.  
The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

## POSTLUDE

----- *The liturgy is ended; let the service begin* -----

---

### Our Confession about Communion

#### Our Confession

1. Holy Communion is a divinely instituted act in which Jesus Christ gives His true (real) body and blood under the forms of bread and wine. We thus hold that the bread and wine are not mere symbols of Jesus' body and blood. When we receive the bread and wine we receive in fact the body and blood of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

2. We believe that Communion is a celebration of this forgiveness which comes to us through faith as we eat and drink. In communion we remember our Lord's passion and death, His resurrection and ascension, and the promise of His coming again. Communion is truly the Gospel made visible, and is offered for those who "hunger and thirst after righteousness."

3. We believe that as we eat and drink this Supper we are strengthened in our faith in Jesus Christ and in our love for one another.

Therefore, we invite to the Lord's Table all who:

a. have been instructed in the meaning of Communion; have been baptized in the name of the Triune God; have received Jesus Christ as their own personal and living Savior and Lord, and concur in our confession;

b. are not living in open rebellion against the Word of God, and do not hold willful and persistent form of hatred, resentment or anger against any other person.

Those who have questions about communion are welcome to talk to one of the Pastors.

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*Music by Marty Haugen from Hymnal Supplement 1991 © GIA Publications, Inc. The propers of the service from "Words for Worship", © 1998 by Augsburg Fortress. CCLI #1534397; One License A-703166.*