



# Keep Us Watchful

Grace Lutheran Church  
Yorba Linda, California

November 8, 2020  
23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Pentecost



The week was Holy and Jesus was preparing for his battle to secure heaven for us. He also used that last week to prepare his disciples – and us – for his departure to prepare a place for us and what to do while we wait. That preparation is what Matthew 25 is all about. In three parables Jesus encourages us to pray:

Today: Keep Us Watchful (Matthew 25:1-13)

Nov.15: Keep Us Faithful (Matthew 25:14-30)

Nov.22: Keep Us in Your Kingdom (Matthew 25:31-46)

Nov.25 – Keep Us Thankful (Thanksgiving Eve)



## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Gathering around Grace – Growing in Grace – Going with Grace*

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Music – Online: David and Alexis Stansfield  
In person: Phyllis Lindley  
Video editor: Eric Ericson

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**Note:** Text in grey indicates not section is not part of the physical church service, but not included in the video.

## ***DIVINE SERVICE 1***



L: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

### **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

L. Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C. Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

### **LORD, HAVE MERCY – *Kyrie***

L. God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C. Amen.

*John 20:21-23*

M: In the peace and joy of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.



## GLORY TO GOD

All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

L. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory!

All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

L. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer, receive our prayer.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

L: For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father.

All: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Glory to God, glory to God!

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

*Sometimes referred to as the "Collect," these ancient prayers "collect" the thoughts of the day for the people in the form of a petition.*

L: Let us pray.

Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*God's people are  
tempted to  
sleepwalk through  
a life of trouble,  
but Isaiah cries,  
"Awake!" God will  
triumph!*

## THE FIRST READING

Isaiah 52:1-6

Awake, awake, Zion, clothe yourself with strength!  
Put on your garments of splendor,  
Jerusalem, the holy city.  
The uncircumcised and defiled will not enter you again.  
<sup>2</sup> Shake off your dust; rise up, sit enthroned, Jerusalem.  
Free yourself from the chains on your neck,  
Daughter Zion, now a captive.  
<sup>3</sup> For this is what the LORD says:  
"You were sold for nothing,  
and without money you will be redeemed."  
<sup>4</sup> For this is what the Sovereign LORD says:  
"At first my people went down to Egypt to live;  
lately, Assyria has oppressed them.  
<sup>5</sup> "And now what do I have here?" declares the LORD.  
"For my people have been taken away for nothing,  
and those who rule them mock," declares the LORD.  
"And all day long my name is constantly blasphemed.  
<sup>6</sup> Therefore my people will know my name;  
therefore in that day they will know that it is I who foretold it.  
Yes, it is I."

## Keep Us Watchful



## GOSPEL and SERMON LESSON –

based on Matthew 25:1-13

"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. <sup>4</sup> The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

<sup>6</sup> "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

<sup>7</sup> "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

<sup>9</sup> "'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

<sup>10</sup> "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

<sup>11</sup> "Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!'

<sup>12</sup> "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'

<sup>13</sup> "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

This hymn is based on the parable we just heard and which we will focus on in a few minutes where we will hear Jesus encourage us to be watchful.

Philipp Nicolai is the author of the hymn, often referred to as the "King of Chorales" (you can hear JS Bach's well known setting by searching for "Zion Hears the Watchmen"). Nicolai was a Lutheran pastor in a town in Germany at the time of an outbreak of the bubonic plague in 1597. During this outbreak, 1400 people died in a seven-month period in Nicolai's town. It is reported that Pastor Nicolai conducted as many as 30 funerals per day.

In the face of death all around him, Nicolai found joy in his Savior. See if you can sense that in the hymn. He wrote these words in the year after the plague outbreak:

*O Jesus, how I wish  
that I might speak  
of Thee in shouts of  
joy like those of the  
choirs of angels! O  
how happy I should  
be to use my  
thoughts and  
talents in the  
service of Thy  
praise. How  
devoutly I should  
sing angelic hymns  
with heavenly  
melodies in the  
midst of the  
congregation to  
Thy glory and  
honor forever!*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

Wake, Awake (#206)

- 1 **"Wake, awake, for night is flying,"** The watchmen on the heights are crying,  
**"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"**  
Midnight hears the welcome voices And at the thrilling cry rejoices:  
**"Oh, where are all you virgins wise?**  
The Bridegroom comes—awake! Your lamps with gladness take! Alleluia!  
With bridal care Yourselves prepare To meet the Bridegroom who is near."
- 2 Zion hears the watchmen singing, And all her heart with joy is springing;  
She wakes, she rises from her gloom,  
For her Lord comes down all-glorious, The strong in grace, in truth victorious;  
Her Star is ris'n, her Light is come.  
**"Now come, O Blessed One, Christ Jesus, God's own Son. Hail! Hosanna!**  
The joyful call We answer all And follow to the wedding hall."
- 3 Now let all the heav'ns adore you; Let saints and angels sing before you  
With harp and cymbal's clearest tone.  
Of one pearl each shining portal, Where, dwelling with the choir immortal,  
We gather round your radiant throne.  
No vision ever brought, No ear has ever caught Such great glory;  
Therefore will we In victory Sing hymns of praise eternally.

## APOSTLES' CREED

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

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

**who was conceived of 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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.**

**From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the Holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Offerings are part of our worship life and our life in the church. During this time of social distancing, your offering may be left at the door or mailed or you may give online at [www.gracelutheran.church](http://www.gracelutheran.church).*

## OFFERING

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH and LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## BLESSING

**M:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**



## CLOSING HYMN

**Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun (#582)**

- 1 Awake, my soul, and with the sun Your daily stage of duty run;  
Shake off your sleep and joyful rise To bring your morning sacrifice.**
- 2 All praise to you, who safe have kept And have refreshed me while I slept.  
Grant, Lord, when I from death shall wake, I may of endless light partake.**
- 3 Lord, all my prayers ascend to you: Disperse my sins as morning dew,  
Guard my first springs of thought and will, And with your light my spirit fill.**
- 4 Direct, control, suggest this day All I design or do or say  
That all my pow'rs with all their might In your sole glory may unite.**
- 5 Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise him, all creatures here below;  
Praise him above, you heav'nly host—Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**



**OPPORTUNITY** – If you would like to support ministry to our active duty military personnel and veterans and families, a door offering is being taken this morning to help support Gospel and counseling ministry. Look for the ammo can in the entry way

## CALENDAR

**Today** – Thanksgiving basket construction  
Confirmation

**Monday** – Church Council

**Thursday** - Bible Study online – 10 AM or 7 PM

**Sunday**– Worship online or in-person at 9:30 AM.  
Confirmation class

**November 25<sup>th</sup>** – Thanksgiving Eve worship

## PRAYERS

- *For our veteran*
- *For unity in our country*

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God the Heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit  
joyfully invite you and a guest to witness the uniting  
of the Son-  
the Lord Jesus Christ  
and  
his bride to be- the Holy Church  
on this day,  
at this time,  
through his Word.  
Your presence will be a blessing to us.

Wedding Feast and Dance to follow for all  
eternity  
at the Banquet Hall of Heaven

