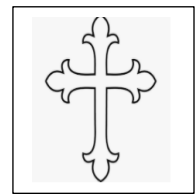


Perley Lutheran Parish
November 8th, 2020
Lectionary 32



Gathering Hymn: Blessed Assurance

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long:
This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Welcome and Announcements

Newsletter this past week – lots going on even amongst this crazy time
Haven't been reached out for Sunday school packet – please contact office or myself
Kirkebo council meeting today after the service
Help our Digital Light Shine – if you can't do go fund me you can drop check (go fund me in the subject line)

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, +one God, in whose image we are made, who claims us and calls us beloved. Amen

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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 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**

Prayer of the Day

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen

Psalm 70 (Read Responsively)

Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O LORD, make haste to help me! **Let those be put to shame and confusion who seek my life. Let those be turned back and brought to dishonor who desire to hurt me.** Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!" turn back because of their shame. **Let all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you. Let those who love your salvation say evermore, "God is great!"** But I am poor and needy; hasten to me, O God! You are my help and my deliverer; O LORD, do not delay!

First Reading Amos 5:18-24

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 ever-flowing stream.

Holy Gospel according Matthew 25:1-13, **Glory to you O Lord**

“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.

The Gospel of our Lord, **Praise to you, O Christ**

Children’s Message

Theme: Be prepared to meet Jesus

Object: Bells, flashlight

Scripture: Matthew 25: 1-13

Wow! In the past year we’ve seen many natural disasters in our world, such as floods, hurricanes, earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes, and fires. One thing that we hear over and over again these days is that it’s very important for us to be prepared in case of an emergency.

I remember when I was in school, we used to have disaster drills. Sometimes it was a fire drill. They would ring the school bell three times. (Invite kids to ring their bells three times.) All of the students lined up and marched outside the school building to a safe place. When they were sure it was safe, they rang the bell two times and the students returned to their classrooms. (Invite kids to ring their bells two times.) If there was a tornado drill, they rang the bell four times. (Invite kids to ring their bells four times.) The students lined up and marched to a safe room in the center of the building where they would "duck and cover." (Invite kids to practice ducking and covering.) The teachers always carried flashlights in case the lights went out. When it was safe, they rang the bell two times. (Invite kids to ring their bells two times.) Then the students returned to their classrooms.

It’s important to be prepared when something unexpected happens. In our school, it was important for all of the students and teachers to know the warning signal, where to go, and the signal that told them it was safe to return to their classrooms. In a tornado drill, the teachers had to make sure there were batteries in the flashlights and the flashlights were working properly. (Turn on the flashlight and shine it around the room.) Being prepared can mean the difference between safe or sorry...so be prepared.

Jesus once told a story to teach us the importance of being prepared. In Jesus' story, ten bridesmaids took their oil lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Jesus said that five of them were foolish because they had their lamps, but they didn't bring any extra oil to put in their lamps. When it was time to go out and meet the bridegroom, they were out of oil. The other five were very wise and well-prepared. They had brought plenty of oil for their lamps. When it was time to go out and meet the bridegroom, they were ready.

In this story, the bridegroom is Jesus and you and I are the bridesmaids. One day we’re going to meet Jesus and we must be prepared because we don’t know exactly when He’s coming. The great news is, what we do to prepare is pretty simple. We must invite Jesus to come into our hearts. When we do that, we are ready.

Dear Jesus, we know one day we’ll get to meet you face to face. Help us get ready for that wonderful day. In Jesus’ name, amen.

Message

Grace and peace to you from our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

I am super lucky to have my grandson stay at my house during the week for at least one night if not more. Because of when his mom and dad need to be at work I drive him to school 2-3 days a week right now when he actually has classes on campus. I forgot how wearing it was when my kids were younger to get them moving in the morning. No matter what time I get him to bed the night before, no matter how many times I ask him nicely to get up and get moving, no matter how many times I send puppy Asher in to jump on his bed and head.... It's a struggle. I am forever telling him to "get ready", "hurry up honey we need to get going", "have you brushed your teeth", "why don't you have your socks and shoes on?" - You get it! AND you probably remember it! HA

This is a great example of how kids "get ready" but we all have many times in our lives as well – get ready for work, get ready for meetings, get ready for vacations and visits we seem to always be getting ready for something, right? Our Gospel calls the early Christians to "get ready" – get ready for the return of Jesus and Matthew issues that call to readers many, many times including today's Parable of the Foolish Bridesmaids. Obviously it's been awhile and Jesus is yet to come but that doesn't mean that this lesson cannot still apply to us and our daily lives and continued walk of faith.

Original text for this passage actually entitled this parable as the foolish virgins – rather than bridesmaids – and the reality is that I believe either of these labels or title was to help the listener imagine that these young woman were just that – YOUNG and foolish. Not mature in their thinking and definitely not street smart or aware of how the real world worked. When you look at some of their actions you can't help but think that they are not laugh worthy but down right foolish indeed. Who brings a lamp but doesn't bother to bring the oil? Who instead of going out to buy some oil just lays down to go to sleep? When the bridegroom actually arrives who rushes off to find some oil and misses him altogether? As Jesus told this story he would've most likely be surrounded by laughter and giggling. Actually sounds a bit like who's on first, right?? A mixture of foolishness, silliness and even misdirection.

When we as Christians think about Jesus' return – ok, you can admit that you and I don't probably think about it often – we most likely think about the times where we've heard in scripture where the prophets predict it. There have been many proclamations over time of the predicted moment that Jesus will arrive – some as recent as the Daybells – the couple who were charged in connection with the disappearance and deaths of their children- believed that the day of Jesus' second coming was July 22, 2020. If you google this concept – the second coming of Christ - the lists go on and on and on of those predicting the rapture. One wrote a book in 1988 called the "88 reasons while rapture will be in 1988" and of course when it didn't happen he wrote his next book "89 reasons why the rapture will be in 1989". How many of you remember when we went through the Y2K phenomenon? How the idea that all of our technology and computers would meltdown and we can now laugh about those fears just like those that have so re-assuredly state the date that we will once again see Jesus. However, as crazy and as silly these people and their predication seem to be there is one thing that is for sure. THEY are at least taking Jesus' promise to return seriously.

This Parable isn't necessarily by chance, but it is honestly a bit challenging in that it's calling us, as disciples, to be aware, alert and open to what is coming, what God's dramatic future, will bring. Now you can do this in one of two ways. You may be or know of those that look at life – perhaps because of things, horribly hard things that you have or are dealing with – which causes you to see a grim diagnosis or understanding of what that day will bring. Or maybe you or others you know are in a constant Carpe' Diem manner – seize the day, live your life to the fullest every moment. My youngest brother, Mike, was someone like that. He was killed in a car accident when he was 21 and I honestly can say it was like he must've known his life would be short because he jam packed more in those 21 years than most of us do in 90. We're talking

here more about living with an awareness, an alertness and a preparedness for when Jesus' will make his return to bring us home.

We can be certain, the day WILL come when Jesus returns to establish his kingdom completely. However, it's not yet but that doesn't mean he's not with us. Jesus is in our lives in so many ways and at all times. He comes in answered prayers, he comes in peace that passes all understanding, he comes when we forgive unconditionally like he would, and of course in the sharing of love that overflows like his love for us.

The hard part is – especially for me with little patience – is he waiting. I don't know if you watch KVLV Valley News in the morning but each day they have Facebook questions and recently there were a couple of questions that I thought were appropriate this morning. First – According to a new Pay Pal survey, the average American is willing to wait four minutes for this- not a second longer. What is it? Coffee ☺ Here's another one 76% of us say we can only do THIS for one minute. What is it? Wait on hold. We're not a society that likes to wait obviously.

That also means that we can admit that waiting for Jesus' return is difficult for us to understand and entertain then. But let's think of it this way instead – waiting can and should help us to recognize and appreciate the presence of Jesus' in our lives all around us each and every day. Each time we do for others as we would want them to do for us. Each time we love and forgive and serve and be present for our neighbor – we are testifying to the presence of Jesus' in our lives here. The presence of a Risen Christ who gave his life for us and will come again to judge the living and the dead.

True – this kind of waiting, this long time of preparing, this never-ending need for patience is not easy to sustain. We can indeed get tired. We can indeed doubt and get frustrated in what we see going on around us. We can indeed be distracted and give in to the ways of this world rather than waiting for the world that is yet to come. Let's be honest, you and I can be just as foolish as these bridesmaids on any given day – we too can forget to use our heads, be irresponsible with our work, be absent when we are supposed to be preparing. However, we don't have to allow ourselves to fall into that trap. We are blessed to have a place and a community that can keeps us preparing.

Take a moment and remember who you are – a Christian – and that you are amongst brothers and sisters in Christ who can be reminded that Church is a place where we can find hope, were this is support and help and where others will be waiting as well. We can find in the ending of the Book of Revelation – the book that reveals the story of the apocalypse – the following words, “surely, I am coming soon. Amen, Come Lord Jesus. The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints – remember we talked about how we all are saints if we are believers. Amen.

May these be our words each day as we live out our lives – as we wait and prepare for His coming - as disciples of Jesus Christ who anticipates the day when He returns. Amen

Special Hymn of the Day I WILL LIFT MY EYES

God, my God, I cry out
Your beloved needs You now
God, be near calm my fear and take my doubt
Your kindness is what pulls me up
Your love is all that draws me in

I will lift my eyes to the Maker
Of the mountains I can't climb
I will lift my eyes to the Calmer

Of the oceans raging wild
I will lift my eyes to the Healer
Of the hurt I hold inside
I will lift my eyes, lift my eyes to You
God, my God, let mercy sing

Apostles Creed

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 Christian/catholic Church, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen

Prayers of the people: (Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great**)

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.

Holy God, rouse us to deep praise as we gather for worship. Enliven our worship with sincere and heartfelt presence. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great**

Sovereign God, gather our country around a shared table this week as we navigate the election results. Open fruitful dialogue between people of every political party, place, age, and social economic status so that we may discern the common good you desire for us. Help us all to acknowledge and work for both justice and mercy to prevail. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great**

Almighty protector, be with all observing Veteran's day. Guard the lives of active duty and retired military personnel. Comfort all who mourn those who have died in the line of duty. Heal the wounds, both physical and mental, experienced by service members. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great**

Gracious God, as you set a table in the presence of enemies, so bless the efforts of those attempting to diffuse conflict. May leaders proceed with dialogue and understanding, so that justice and peace prevail? Teach us to overcome fear with hope, meet hate with love, and welcome one another as we would welcome you. Hear us, O God, **your mercy is great**

Healing God, even when we walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve us, deliver us, and fulfill your purpose for us. According to your steadfast love, grant healing and wholeness to those who are mourning as they deal with tremendous loss, we ask that you continue to send healing to those dealing with illness and recovery. We lift up those within our congregation and those that have reached out to us for prayers, like Alana and Jeff, like Kirk and Brent, like Paxley – who finally made it home from the NICU and Vern, like Veronica and Lisa and all of those that we now name silently in our own hearts. 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**

Words of Institution

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.
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

Meal

After Communion 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.

Sending Hymn: Soon and Very Soon

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.
Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King.
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!

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

Mark Your Calendars:

Sunday, November 15th – Nora 9am service. Council at Nora after service

Sunday, November 22nd– Kirkebo 9am service.

Wednesday, November 25th – Thanksgiving Service at 7pm – Nora

Parable of the Bridesmaids #1
Coloring Page

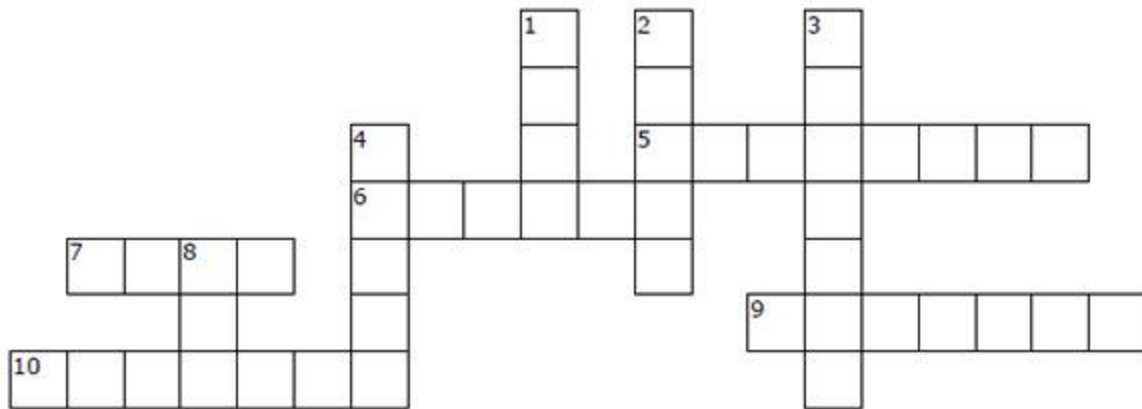


The Parable of the Ten Bridesmaids
Matthew 25:1-13

Give Me Oil In My Lamp

Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. Matthew 25:13 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 25:1-13 (NIV)



ACROSS

5. 12 o'clock at night
6. Not awake
7. A swinging or sliding cover over the place where someone usually enters a room
9. Ceremony in which a man and a woman are married.
10. Someone who does not use good judgment is _____.

DOWN

1. Someone who has good judgment and makes good decisions is _____.
2. Devices used to produce light
3. A feast or meal held in recognition of some person or occasion
4. To observe or look at something
8. A liquid that is often used to make fuel.

MIDNIGHT	LAMPS	WATCH	OIL	FOOLISH
ASLEEP	DOOR	BANQUET	WISE	WEDDING

Give Me Oil In My Lamp

Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. Matthew 25:13 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 25:1-13 (NIV)



T Z F E S G H O G Q N O G T A
O B M P K S M I D N I G H T A
G O M Q I N A N H E A V E N S
C A Q L Q T I I E D I J K B L
L P O B R I D E G R O O M A E
M O J K E F D K L X M O H N E
F E O G S W O I H A Z S R Q P
V W E X G B I N O D A T H U X
I T B T P C L G R W R T E E T
R S R C U B O D A A M O Z T E
G S D I K T Y O N T W D W K X
I T T S M W G M G C R F O S W
N V I H O M Z I Z H P W D O Y
S N N T P X E W E D D I N G E
U T C Z G X C D S W I S E E C

FOOLISH

MEET

DROWSY

VIRGINS

BANQUET

MIDNIGHT

WEDDING

TRIMMED

RANG

KINGDOM

BRIDEGROOM

LAMPS

WISE

WATCH

COME

DOOR

ASLEEP

HEAVEN

OIL

WOKE

Give Me Oil in My Lamp

Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour. Matthew 25:13 (NIV)



Choose the word that best matches the definition.
Answers can be found in Matthew 25:1-13 (NIV)

- ___ 1. Ceremony in which a man and a woman are married.
A. wise B. wedding C. oil D. lamps
- ___ 2. Where God lives
A. watch B. come C. heaven D. lamps
- ___ 3. Devices used to produce light
A. lamps B. asleep C. banquet D. foolish
- ___ 4. Not awake
A. asleep B. heaven C. oil D. lamps
- ___ 5. Made a sound like a bell
A. rang B. asleep C. lamps D. oil
- ___ 6. A feast or meal held in recognition of some person or occasion
A. come B. midnight C. wedding D. banquet
- ___ 7. To arrive at a particular place; the opposite of go
A. door B. come C. midnight D. heaven
- ___ 8. To observe or look at something
A. wise B. midnight C. watch D. wedding
- ___ 9. Someone who has good judgment and makes good decisions is _____.
A. watch B. wise C. rang D. door
- ___ 10. Someone who does not use good judgment is _____.
A. asleep B. oil C. midnight D. foolish