

St. Luke’s Gondola Point

Morning Prayer Service

**The Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost** –

November 19, 2023

[Un-bolded words are said by one, **Bolded words** can be said by all.]

**PENITENTIAL RITE**

I am the vine, you are the branches, says the Lord. Those who abide in me, and I in them, bear much fruit. *John 15.5*

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Silence is kept.

**Most merciful God, we confess 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 loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

All-Ages Song: *10 Commands*

**MORNING PRAYER**

Lord, open our lips,

**And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.

**O Lord, make haste to help us.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

God rules over all the earth: **O come, let us worship.**

Invitatory - Psalm 24

The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, \*

**the world and all who dwell therein.**

For it is he who founded it upon the seas \*

**and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.**

“Who can ascend the hill of the Lord? \*

**and who can stand in his holy place?”**

“Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, \*

**who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,**

**nor sworn by what is a fraud.**

They shall receive a blessing from the Lord \*

**and a just reward from the God of their salvation.”**

Such is the generation of those who seek him, \*

**of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.**

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; \*

**and the King of glory shall come in.**

“Who is this King of glory?” \*

**“The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.”**

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; \*

**and the King of glory shall come in.**

“Who is he, this King of glory?” \*

**“The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.”**

God rules over all the earth: **O come, let us worship.**

**PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD**

A reading from the book of Zephaniah 1:7, 12–18.

Be silent before the Lord God!

For the day of the Lord is at hand;

the Lord has prepared a sacrifice,

he has consecrated his guests.

At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,

and I will punish the people

who rest complacently on their dregs,

those who say in their hearts,

“The Lord will not do good,

nor will he do harm.”

Their wealth shall be plundered,

and their houses laid waste.

Though they build houses,

they shall not inhabit them;

though they plant vineyards,

they shall not drink wine from them.

The great day of the Lord is near,

near and hastening fast;

the sound of the day of the Lord is bitter,

the warrior cries aloud there.

That day will be a day of wrath,

a day of distress and anguish,

a day of ruin and devastation,

a day of darkness and gloom,

a day of clouds and thick darkness,

a day of trumpet blast and battle cry

against the fortified cities

and against the lofty battlements.

I will bring such distress upon people

that they shall walk like the blind;

because they have sinned against the Lord,

their blood shall be poured out like dust,

and their flesh like dung.

Neither their silver nor their gold

will be able to save them

on the day of the Lord’s wrath;

in the fire of his passion

the whole earth shall be consumed;

for a full, a terrible end

he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

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

Psalm 90

Lord, you have been our refuge \*

**from one generation to another.**

Before the mountains were brought forth,

or the land and the earth were born, \*

**from age to age you are God.**

You turn us back to the dust and say, \*

**“Go back, O child of earth.”**

For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past \*

**and like a watch in the night.**

You sweep us away like a dream; \*

**we fade away suddenly like the grass.**

In the morning it is green and flourishes; \*

**in the evening it is dried up and withered.**

For we consume away in your displeasure; \*

**we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.**

Our iniquities you have set before you, \*

**and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**

When you are angry, all our days are gone; \*

**we bring our years to an end like a sigh.**

The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength even eighty; \*

**yet the sum of them is but labour and sorrow,**

**for they pass away quickly and we are gone.**

Who regards the power of your wrath? \*

**who rightly fears your indignation?**

So teach us to number our days \*

**that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**

Return, O Lord; how long will you tarry? \*

**be gracious to your servants.**

Satisfy us by your loving-kindness in the morning; \*

**so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our life.**

Make us glad by the measure of the days that you afflicted us \*

**and the years in which we suffered adversity.**

Show your servants your works \*

**and your splendour to their children.**

May the graciousness of the Lord our God be upon us; \*

**prosper the work of our hands; prosper our handiwork.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

**As it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

A reading from the first letter of St. Paul to the Thessalonians 5:1–11.

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When 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!

But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night.

But 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. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

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

Hymns: *Come, You Sinners, Poor, & Needy* (CP# 608)

The Lord be with you: **And also with you.**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, according to Matthew (25:14–30). **Glory to You, Lord Jesus Christ.**

“For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master’s money.

After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. 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.’ 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.’ 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.’ 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.’

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; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.’ 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? 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. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. 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. As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

The Gospel of Christ: **Praise be to You, O Christ.**

Sermon

The Apostles’ Creed

**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 to the dead. 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.**

**INTERCESSIONS**

In God’s presence, let us pray to the Lord, saying, “Lord, have mercy.”

For the whole People of God, that each one may be a true and faithful servant of Christ, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those drawing near to the light of faith, that the Lord will bring them to true knowledge of himself, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our families and friends, that the Lord will give them joy and satisfaction in all that they do, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For those who are lonely, sick, hungry, persecuted, or ignored, [**Our weekly prayer list can be found in this week’s bulletin. Take a moment to offer your own petitions and requests to the Lord.**] that the Lord will comfort and sustain them, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For our country, that the Lord will help us to contribute to its true growth and well-being, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the whole human family, that we may live together in justice and peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, Father of all mercies,

we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and all whom you have made.

**We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life;**

**but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory.**

**And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory throughout all ages. Amen.**

Collect

*Almighty God,*

*you sent your Son Jesus Christ to be the light of the world.*

*Free us from all that darkens and ensnares us, and bring us to eternal light and joy;*

*through the power of him who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.* ***Amen****.*

The Lord’s Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**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, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Closing Hymn: *I Have Decided To Follow Jesus* (CP #272)

Dismissal

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**