

**Holy Trinity Lutheran
Church
Worship Guide**

Service of Holy Communion



November 8, 2020

+ INDICATES THE CONGREGATION STANDS AS YOU ARE ABLE

WELCOME FROM PASTOR JACK

+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C: **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One,

C: **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.

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.

P: 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.**

+HYMN **Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers**

1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.

2 The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
the bridegroom is at hand.

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

+ 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.

SHARING OF THE ASSIGNED SCRIPTURE READINGS

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

¹³We 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. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. ¹⁵For 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. ¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷Then 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. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Matthew 25:1-13

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But 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.’ ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

SERMON “Now. . . or Later?”

QUIET TIME FOR REFLECTION & PRAYER

HYMN OF THE DAY 🎵 **Oh, Happy Day When We Shall Stand**

- 1 Oh, happy day when we shall stand
 in heaven with the saved;
 all peoples at the Lord’s right hand
 shall find their names engraved,
 shall find their names engraved.

- 2 Oh, blessed day when Christ shall come
 and show himself as Lord,
 and thousands meet in their new home
 which Jesus has prepared,
 which Jesus has prepared.

+THE 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 church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.**

+ EXCHANGE OF PEACE:

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always

C: And also with you

(Please wave to your nearest worship neighbors)

OFFERING PRAYER

(Offering baskets will not be passed around. At the conclusion of the service, please place your offering in designated baskets in the rear of the sanctuary.)

P: God of all goodness, generations have turned to you, gathered around your table, and shared your abundant blessings. Number us among them that, as we gather these gifts from your abundance, and give thanks for your rich blessings, we may feast upon your very self and care for all that you have made, through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Servant.

C: **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION *“In the night in which he was betrayed...”*

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

(At the invitation of the pastor, please open your communion kit and consume the host and grape juice)

+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

+ BENEDICTION

+ SENDING I Know That My Redeemer Lives!

- 1 I know that my Redeemer lives!
What comfort this sweet sentence gives!
He lives, he lives, who once was dead;
he lives, my ever-living head!

- 7 He lives and grants me daily breath;
he lives, and I shall conquer death;
he lives my mansion to prepare;
he lives to bring me safely there.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

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

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Weekly Announcements

Lector: Jay Decker **Music Director:** Chad Flynn **Video:** Don Gulliksen

Help us to reach souls on the internet. Thanks to online streaming technology and YouTube archiving of our worship services, we are able to reach approximately 150 viewers each week (in addition to those who attend "in person" worship). Could you please help us to defray the cost of the production hardware? Each gift you designate toward this project will be matched, dollar-for-dollar by a generous individual contributor. (See today's bulletin flyer). Simply include "tech project" on your check memo, or make a designated gift on our website: www.rockawaylutheran.org.

The Ladies of WELCA will be meeting on Tuesday, November 10th at 2:00pm in the Sanctuary. All ladies of the church are invited. We are looking forward to seeing everyone. We will be having election of officers. Physical distancing and facial coverings will be required.

Congregation Meeting is coming soon and scheduled for Sunday, 11/15 immediately following our worship service. The meeting will be offered for in-person attendees as well as for those desiring to join us via ZOOM conference. All ZOOM attendees will have full voice and vote privileges. As with any other congregation meeting, one must be a confirmed, rostered member to cast a vote, and no proxy votes will be permitted. The chief substance of the meeting will be the adoption of the proposed 2021 budget and election of Council members. A ZOOM invite link was provided in a global email to the congregation on November 2.

The WELCA Annual Christmas Bazaar has been cancelled for this year due to the COVID pandemic. Please (a) do not drop off donated items to the church to be sold at a later date and (b) please consider making a generous financial donation to WELCA in lieu of the bazaar, so that WELCA's beautiful ministries to the community may continue to be financially supported. Thank you for your generosity and prayerful support.

Lunch & Learn Adult Bible Study will be held on November 18th. Join us at noon...bring a bag lunch. Physical distancing and facial coverings will be mandatory. For those unable or uncomfortable attending in person, the Bible study will be live streamed through the ZOOM format. Please contact Pastor Jack about the ZOOM link.

Potholders are still offered for sale by our women's group. These sturdy potholders are only \$10 for a set of two. Great Christmas gift idea. To purchase contact Joan Cosgrove or Ellen Crane.

Sock Drive: We are extending our collection of NEW socks until November 22nd. Please place them in the box in our open front entrance.

Clothing Donations: Please place in the RED BIN in the rear parking lot of the church. Also taking shoes, handbags, stuffed toys, and linens!

Readers are needed for Sunday mornings. Please consider signing up to read on Sunday mornings. The readings will be sent to you before Sunday so you will have plenty time to read over. It's an easy way to serve the church. Your help is much appreciated.

Thank you for all your generous financial support to the ministries of Holy Trinity, especially during our COVID-19 building shut down. The ministries continued, even when our building was closed, thanks to your gifts.

Want to give electronically? 40% of our offerings now come in via electronic giving sources. To learn more, simply go to our web page at www.rockawaylutheran.org and click on the "donate" button. . . then follow the simple instructions. Still not sure? Please contact Donna Gulliksen at: Donna.Gulliksen@gmail.com or call her at 973-697-1895. Regular offerings (with date and frequency of your choice) as well as one-time gifts can be established electronically. All transactions are confidential.

Did you know we are reaching almost 200 people per week via our internet-streamed worship services? Viewers are joining us from parts of New Jersey, Texas, Florida, Tennessee, the Carolinas, and more! Could you please make a contribution to help defray the cost of technical equipment? Each dollar you give will be matched by a generous donor, thus doubling your contribution. Simply write checks payable to Holy Trinity, with "tech support" on the memo line, or contribute online via our website. Thank you!

Eight-Part Sermon Series



“Heavenly Reflections”

Join Pastor Jack as he explores the assigned ELCA Scripture texts which outline the Biblical concepts of Heaven, The Second Coming of Christ, Judgment Day, and our call to serve the Lord in anticipation of the end-times. Each sermon will be presented in the form of a question.

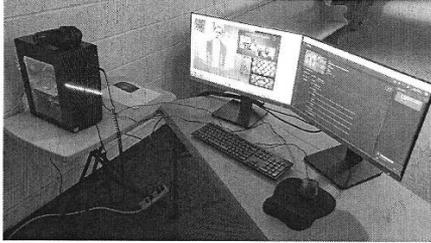
- 11/1 – “What is Heavenly Paradise?”
- 11/8 - “Now...or Later?”
- 11/15 - “What Should We DO?”
- 11/22- “What About Judgment Day?”
- 11/29- “How Can WE Remain Strong?”
- 12/6- “What’s He Waiting For?”
- 12/13- “HOW Can We Be Faithful?”
- 12/20- “What Does It All Mean for Us?”

Want to double your money?!

No, this isn't a casino, but it is the heart of our new streaming system.

If you are viewing from home, we hope the experience has been meaningful.

Be sure to share this form of community outreach by giving friends our website address of:
www.RockawayLutheran.org



Our system is composed of:

- high speed streaming computer
- over 500 feet of network cables
- 5 high definition cameras
- 2 computer monitors

If you donate to the cost of the equipment, a member of our congregation has pledged to match it, *doubling* the effect of your contribution!