

# 24th Sunday after Pentecost

Praise Service



October 22, 2023 ~ 10:00 am

ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
HAGERSTOWN, MD

# **ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Pastor Brian McClinton, Senior Pastor

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*+ Stand if you are able.*

## **PRELUDE**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **+ SHARING OF THE PEACE**

## **+ CALL TO WORSHIP**

Lord, we are always seeking guidance for the journey you have placed us on. We would like it if everything was spelled out so that we knew what to expect. But that's not the way life works. You remind us, in the story of the 10 bridesmaids, that we should always be ready to seek you and to serve you. Open the eyes our hearts today and remind us of your awesome love for us throughout all the generations.

## **+ PRAISE SONG - *Open the Eyes of My Heart***

*Chorus (2 times)*

Open the eyes of my heart Lord

Open the eyes of my heart

I want to see You

I want to see You

To see You high and lifted up

Shining in the light of Your glory

Pour out Your power and love

As we sing holy holy holy

To see You high and lifted up

Shining in the light of Your glory

Pour out Your power and love

As we sing holy holy holy

*Bridge (2 times)*

Holy holy holy

Holy holy holy

Holy holy holy

I want to see You

*Chorus (2 times)*

## **READING - Amos 5:18-24**

*In the days of Amos, people thought that the day of the LORD would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The LORD demands justice and righteousness in the community.*

<sup>18</sup>Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

<sup>19</sup>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.

<sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

<sup>21</sup>I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup>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.

<sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

<sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

## **PSALM 70**

<sup>1</sup>Be pleased, O God, to deliver me.

O LORD, make haste to help me!

<sup>2</sup>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.

<sup>3</sup>Let those who say, "Aha, Aha!"

turn back because of their shame.

<sup>4</sup>Let all who seek you

rejoice and be glad in you.

Let those who love your salvation

say evermore, "God is great!"

<sup>5</sup>But I am poor and needy;

hasten to me, O God!

You are my help and my deliverer;

O LORD, do not delay!

## **READING - 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.*

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

### **+ PRAISE SONG - Days of Elijah**

These are the days of Elijah  
Declaring the Word of the Lord  
And these are the days  
Of Your servant Moses  
Righteousness being restored  
And though these are days  
Of great trials  
Of famine and darkness and sword  
Still we are the voice  
In the desert crying  
Prepare ye the way of the Lord

#### *Chorus*

Behold He comes  
Riding on the clouds  
Shining like the sun  
At the trumpet call  
So lift your voice  
It's the year of Jubilee  
And out of Zion's hill  
Salvation comes

And these are the days of Ezekiel  
The dry bones becoming as flesh  
And these are the days  
Of Your servant David  
Rebuilding a temple of praise  
And these are the days of the harvest  
The fields are as white in the world  
And we are the labourers  
In Your vineyard  
Declaring the Word of the Lord

#### *Chorus*

#### *Bridge*

There is no god like Jehovah  
There is no god like Jehovah  
There is no god like Jehovah  
There is no god like Jehovah (hey)

#### *Chorus (2 times)*

**+ GOSPEL READING - Matthew 25:1-13**

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

**+ PRAISE HYMN - Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers**

**ELW 244**

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

The saints who here in patience  
Their cross and suff'rings bore  
Shall live and reign forever  
When sorrow is no more  
Around the throne of glory  
The Lamb they shall behold  
In triumph cast before Him  
Their diadems of gold

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

Our hope and expectation  
O Jesus now appear  
Arise O Sun so longed for  
O'er this benighted sphere  
With hearts and hands uplifted  
We plead O Lord to see  
The day of earth's redemption  
That sets Your people free

**MESSAGE**

**Pastor Brian**

### **+ CREED**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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 into hell. 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 catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### **OFFERING INVITATION**

Lord, as you have so abundantly blessed each of us, let us return a portion of these gifts in gratitude for all you have given to us.

### **OFFERING**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Lord, we return a portion of all the gifts you have given to us in remembrance and in gratitude for these blessings. Use these gifts to support ministries of healing and hope, for we ask this in Jesus' Name. **Amen.**

### **+ PRAYERS**

*Response:* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

### **+ THE 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; 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.**

**+ PRAISE SONG - Let the Light In (PRAISE TEAM ONLY)**

It's time for the sleeper to wake  
It's time for the old winds to change  
I hear the Spirit say it's time

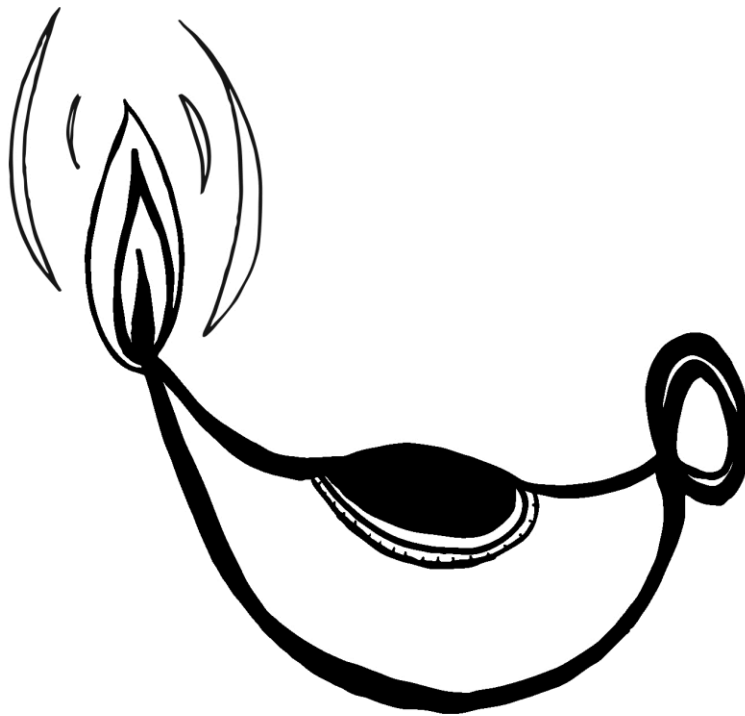
It's time for the dead man to rise  
It's time for the Great Light to shine  
I hear the Spirit say it's time

*Chorus*

Fling wide you heavenly gates  
Let the King of glory in  
Let the King of glory in  
Come ride in on Your people's praise  
Let the King of glory in  
Let the King of glory in

*Bridge*

Open up the windows  
Let the light in  
Open up the windows  
Let the light in  
Open up the windows  
Let the light in  
Let the light in



**+ PRAISE SONG - Give Me Oil in My Lamp**

**Verse 1 (PRAISE TEAM ONLY)**

Give me oil in my lamp  
Keep me burning  
Give me oil in my lamp I pray  
Give me oil in my lamp keep me  
burning  
Keep me burning till the break of day

**Verse 2 (CONGREGATION JOIN IN)**

Give me joy in my heart  
Keep me praising  
Give me joy in my heart I pray  
Give me joy in my heart keep me  
praising  
Keep me praising till the break of day

Give me peace in my heart  
Keep me resting  
Give me peace in my heart I pray  
Give me peace in my heart keep me  
resting  
Keep me resting till the break of day

**+ BLESSING**

May we be blessed with the wisdom to keep our lamps filled with the oil of Your presence. Help us to be alert and ready, not out of fear, but out of desire to enter into the joy of Your kingdom. Strengthen us with your Spirit to live lives of anticipation and readiness. And Lord, give us the courage to invite others into the light of Your love, that they too may be prepared for Your glorious return.

May you go in peace and serve the Lord!

**Chorus**

Sing hosanna sing hosanna  
Sing hosanna to the King of kings  
Sing hosanna sing hosanna  
Sing hosanna to the King

Give me love in my heart  
Keep me serving  
Give me love in my heart I pray  
Give me love in my heart keep me  
serving  
Keep me serving till the break of day

**Chorus**

Give me oil in my lamp  
Keep me burning  
Give me oil in my lamp I pray  
Give me oil in my lamp keep me  
burning  
Keep me burning till the break of day