

## XXIII after Pentecost Year A/Proper 27

Sunday, November 8, 2020

### Introduction

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

### 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.

### Readings and Psalms

#### [Amos 5:18-24](#)

*Let justice roll down like waters*

#### [Psalm 70](#)

You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry. (*Ps. 70:5*)

#### [Matthew 25:1-13](#)

*The story of the wise and foolish bridesmaids*

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.

A The Word of the Lord.  
C **THANKS BE TO GOD.**

## **Psalm: Psalm 70**

*You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry. (Ps. 70:5)*

<sup>1</sup>Be pleased, O God, to deliver me;  
O LORD, make haste to help me.  
<sup>2</sup>Let those who seek my life be put to shame and confounded;  
let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.  
<sup>3</sup>Let those who say to me “Aha!” and gloat over me  
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 forever, “Great is the LORD!”  
<sup>5</sup>But as for me, I am poor and needy; come to me quickly, O God.  
You are my helper and my deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry.

## **Gospel: 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:] <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.”

## **Prayers of Intercession**

*The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate.*

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.

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, rouse us to deep praise as we gather for worship. Enliven our worship with sincere and heartfelt song, even in the echo chambers of our hearts. Sustain the work of church musicians especially amidst the demands of Covid. We thank you for the work of Kevin among us.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Holy Creator, surprise and delight us with the beauty of the world you have made. Bless the work of all who tend the earth and preserve it. Inspire us to live in harmony with your creation.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Righteous Judge, let your justice roll down like waters over this world.

Reign over the courtrooms of every land, in the hearts of those who guard the law. Be present with those who stand accused of crimes.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Holy Companion, so many are lonely in these days of isolation. Be a fierce consolation and steady presence: Share the hours of those who live and eat alone. Comfort those who have been abandoned, who struggle with their identity and place in this world.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of glory, in whose hands are the living and the dead, we give you thanks for all those who have laid down their lives in service of our country.

*pause as we remember them*

Give us a sense of your will and purpose, that we may understand that the work you have begun in them will be perfected through Jesus, the Prince of Peace:

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Almighty and ever-living God, we give you thanks for the men and women who have served and defended our country and the values of freedom and justice we hold so dear. Help us be mindful of the sacrifices they made and the hardship endured by their families and friends, so that we never take for granted the privileges they have secured for us.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Holy Spirit, we lift our offerings up to you: Our ordinary gifts seem small when we stand in your presence. Multiply the gifts we are able to offer to make them abundant, not merely enough, that you may be seen through us.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Holy and Immortal One, with thanksgiving we remember all who have died. Remind us of the frailty and shortness of our own lives and inspire us to use them for the building up of your kingdom.

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.**

## **Blessing**

The LORD bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and [little cross here] give you peace.

**Amen.**

## **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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Prayers adapted by Interim Pastor Janet S. Peterman

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