

# RADISSON-LANGHAM LUTHERAN PARISH

First Saskatchewan Lutheran Church  
Langham, SK

St. Paul Lutheran Church  
Radisson, SK

## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST November 8, 2020

**St. Paul, Radisson/First Saskatchewan, Langham**  
Members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada  
Ministers: Members of the Congregation  
Pastor Melissa Brooks Home Office: 306-560-3040  
E-mail: melissa.e.hoehn@gmail.com  
Secretary: Doris Hamp Office: 827-2265 827-4953  
E-mail: radlangparish@sasktel.net

**Greeting:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

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.**

WORD

**First Reading: Amos 5:18-24**

Psalm 70

**Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13**

**Reflection - Pastor Melissa**

The foolish bridesmaids in Jesus' parable seem to be flustered when the bridegroom's arrival doesn't happen when they assumed it would. After officiating many weddings, I can say with confidence that *something* will always go differently than you expect it to that day - and isn't that just a metaphor for life? Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians to a community who were expecting Jesus to return and the day of the Lord's reckoning to come within their lifetime. When people around them started dying it threatened their faith. But Paul rallies them to set down

their assumptions about when God will act and to live their lives now trusting that God's promise will be fulfilled. The timeline is still a mystery, but we are given joy in living out the reality of eternal life now.

The reality is this: Christ came and did not abandon us to our own failings. He went to the cross for us, and opened up the way to everlasting life as a pure gift, not something that we need to earn. No matter how empty our lamps may seem, Christ has given us enough. A mended relationship with God, the call to be active in God's kingdom - these are all unearned gifts that we have been given.

We are invited to the great party of God's Kingdom. Our purpose is to live in faith that God's gifts have been given to us and the party has already started. And our joy in this reality stands in contrast to the warning that, when we choose to ignore the invitation or refuse to believe something so good could be true for us, there will come a point where it is too late to change our mind.

We are invited to take this parable to heart in all of its promise and warning. We are called to live the kingdom reality even when it seems Christ is taking his time getting here. May the joy of God's great wedding feast resonate through our lives, today and forever. Amen.

### Prayers of Intercession:

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. Sustain the work of all church musicians and artists who lead us in praise and prayer. 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 landscapers, architects, and artists whose work invites us into harmonious living with your creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Holy Judge, let justice roll down like waters over this world. Reign over the courtrooms of

every land, in the hearts of those who guard the law and those who stand accused of crimes. Be present in cases where we long for both justice and mercy to prevail. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Holy Companion, console those who feel lonely or abandoned. Share the hours of those who live and eat alone. Comfort those who live with pain, illness, grief, anger, or doubt (especially...). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Holy Protector, be with all observing Veterans 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.**

Holy and Immortal One, we pray in thanksgiving for the lives of 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.**

Lord's Prayer

**Blessing:** May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

\*\*\*\*

**Let us remember in our prayers:** Andrew Nosterud, Edwin Loessin, Lisa Hamp, Gloria Hamp, Sonia Zacharias, Darren Wilkie, Carla Wilkie, Susan Wonko, Guy Norton, Heather Penno, Inga Abrahamson, Genie Thompson, Linda Hartshorn, Logan Kane, Lynn Sherstobitoff, Don Wenner, Alma Krueger, Anthony Flath, Elsie Flath, Conrad Olson, Ethel Kuny, Mark Anderson, Roger Wilkie

**Pastor Melissa's** worship video can be found at:  
<https://youtu.be/AESTI5YPBA8>

For other worship services/devotions you could check out the following:

- Livestreams are available at:

<https://elcic.ca/publichealth/livestreaming.cfm>

- Pastor Randy Fiege is live on Facebook, Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

#### **THIS WEEK:**

Wednesday, November 11: Remembrance Day

(Watch a virtual service on TV or YouTube)

1:00p - Cotton Pickin' Quilters at St. Paul

#### **DODGING COVID** - by Peter K.

Eight months ago, when we first made a decision to shut down in-person worship at our churches, that decision was arrived at for safety concerns, driven largely by fear. The pandemic was new, it was scary, and nothing like it had happened in our lifetimes in Canada. Sure, we had heard about the "Spanish" flu over a hundred years ago, but that really does feel like another time, long past.

We reopened for worship in late September - just over a month ago - and awkward as it felt with all the protocols, it also felt wonderful to meet again with our church family. Sadly, however, we have made the decision once again - at St. Paul Lutheran in Radisson - to close our church for in-person worship, and we expect this situation will last at least until mid-January. (First Saskatchewan at Langham will have a Council meeting next week about whether to follow suit.)

Thinking back to our closure last spring, this feels different. By now we have lived with Covid for many months. Of course we are still deeply concerned for the health of our neighbours, but that sharp fear we felt in April has been somewhat dulled by feelings almost like boredom, tinged with anger and frustration. We're getting fed up, and now, more than ever perhaps, we feel the need for prayer and comfort, and more than ever we need to know that God still walks among us even though we can't meet Him in church for a while.

So, as they say, "back to the drawing board". Our Church Secretary (Doris) will continue to faithfully provide us with weekly bulletins that include prayers, scripture readings, church and parish news, reflections, and virtual options for

Sunday worship. Our Deacons (Grace and John) and Trustees (Garry, Earl and Regan) will take care of our church in our absence. We are installing a proper mailbox outside the church to keep bulletins safe and dry and available for pickup, and of course we will continue to post them on Facebook!

Be safe! May the Lord bless us and keep us all in His care.

#### **Samaritan's Purse, Operation Christmas Child**

shoeboxes: If you were planning on putting together a shoebox this year at St. Paul, please have it to the church by Sunday, November 15. Boxes are available at the back of the church. Call Doris if you don't have a key and need to access the church.

**St. Paul:** Anyone wishing to let their name stand for church council for 2021, please contact Cathy Flath.

#### **Donations to St. Paul** can still be given:

**St. Paul** - You could send your cheque to Darlene Kindt, Box 97, Radisson or drop it off at the church.

#### **Gathering God's Harvest Webinar Series:**

Thursdays, October 22 to November 19, 3:00p and 7:00p. This is a fall ecumenical series on stewardship. See bulletin board.

**St. Paul** - if you are not receiving the bulletins by email and would like to add your name to the list, please give Doris your email address by sending it to the parish address found at the beginning of this bulletin.

**Happy Birthday this week:** Ty Dishko, Hannah Hamp, Tyler Keet, Wayne Lerch Russell Schultz, Grace Brooks, Darby Chappell, Bonnie Kane, Jacob Flath, Rebecca Fouhy, Albert Hamp, Autumn Amson, Tana Kieper, Edwin Loessin, Sean Myshchyshyn

#### **Attendance last Sunday:**

First Sask - 14

St. Paul - 35

\*\*\*\*\*

#### **FIRST READING: AMOS 5:18-24**

**18 Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!**

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

**19 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.

**20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,**  
and gloom with no brightness in it?

**21 I hate, I despise your festivals,**  
and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

**22 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.

**23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;**  
I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

**24 But let justice roll down like waters,**  
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream

#### **SECOND READING: 1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18**

**13 But 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.** **14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died.** **15 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.** **16 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.**

**17 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.** **18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.**

## GOSPEL: MATTHEW 25:1-13

25 “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.