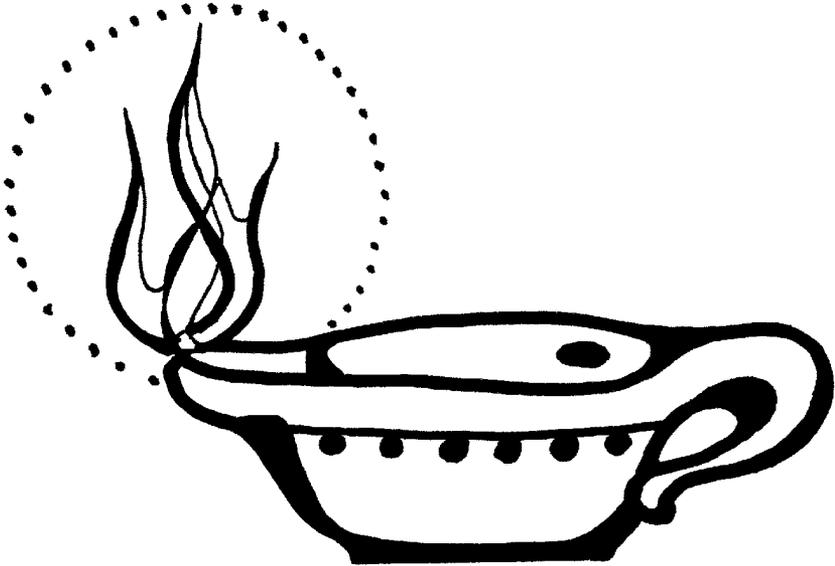


# PETERSBURG LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 8, 2020



Our mission is "to Know Christ,  
to Grow in Christ,  
and to Show the Love of Christ."

**Welcome to Petersburg Lutheran Church**  
**Our mission is “To Know Christ, to Grow in Christ,**  
**and to Show the Love of Christ”**

*We are glad you are here!*

**Prelude Music**

**Pianist:** Tamara Evens

**Welcome**

**Pastor Eric**

**Invocation**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

*Presider:* Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

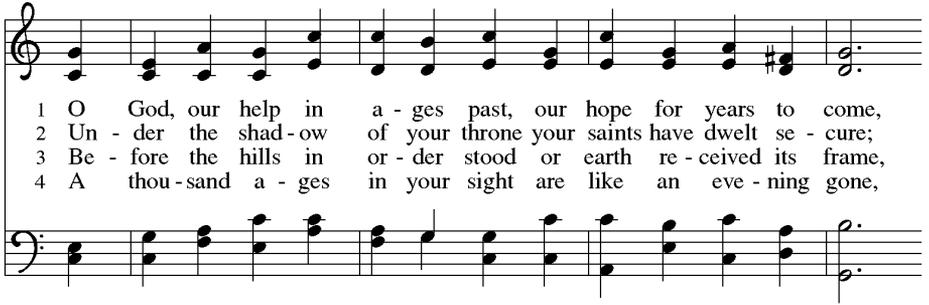
*Presider:* If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

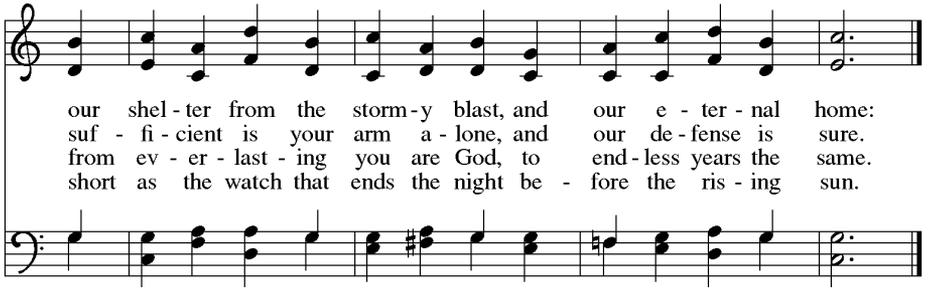
Reconciling God, **We confess that we do not trust your abundance, and we deny your presence in our lives. We place our hope in ourselves and rely in our own efforts. We fail to believe that you provide enough for all. We abuse your good creation for our own benefit. We fear difference and do not welcome others as you have welcomed us. We sin in thought, word, and deed. By your grace, forgive us; through your love, renew us; and in your Spirit, lead us; so that we may live and serve you in newness of life. Amen**

Beloved of God, by the radical abundance of divine mercy we have peace with God through Christ Jesus, through whom we have obtained grace upon grace. Your sins are forgiven for Jesus sake. Let us live now in hope. For hope does not disappoint, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Opening Hymn “O God Our Help In Ages Past “ ELW # 632



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.  
Music: ST. ANNE, William Croft, 1678–1727

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

## **Kyrie**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord

**Lord have mercy**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord have mercy**

Help, save, comfort and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen**

**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.**

### **First 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.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

Response: **Thanks be to God.**

## 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!

### **Second 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.

**Reader:** The word of the Lord.

**Response:** Thanks be to God.

Hymn

“Seek Ye First”

TOSB #187

1. Seek ye first the King - dom of God, And His right - eous - ness.  
 2. Ask and it shall be given un - to you, Seek and ye shall find,  
 3. Man does not live by bread a lone, But by ev - ery word

And all these things shall be ad - ded un - to you! Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!  
 Knock and the door shall be op - ened un - to you, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!  
 That pro - ceeds from the mouth of the Lord, Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

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**Holy 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.”

Reader: The Gospel of the Lord.

Response: **Praise to you, O Christ**



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

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

## **Prayers Of The People**

### **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.

### **Offering**

#### **Offertory Prayer**

**Merciful Father, we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us, ourselves, our time and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them and throughout this week we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

### **Announcements**

### **Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you  
The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen**

Closing Hymn "Blessed Assurance" ELW #638



1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!  
2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;  
3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

*Refrain*



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915  
Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

**Sending Response**

We are welcomed into God’s love,

**Just as we are**

We are sent into God’s world,

**To be a reflection of Christ.**

Go in peace and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

**Education Wing Foundation Information Meeting**

This Sunday, November 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am, an informational meeting will be held in the sanctuary (and simultaneously on ZOOM) to learn about the condition of the foundation and the plan to address the needed repairs. To join via ZOOM [Click Here](#) or join by phone 1 253 215 8782 and follow the prompts: Meeting ID: 867 2729 5248 Passcode: 480218

## ZOOM FELLOWSHIP TIME

Join us Today (Nov 8) for fellowship time on ZOOM. Please log in using the information below. You can join online by [Clicking Here](#) Password: 874950 or Call: 1 253-215-8782 ~if busy call 1 669-900-9128 At prompt enter Meeting ID: 846 0569 4721

### Prayers for Health & Healing

Tom Parker      Tim Fisk      Marcy Gelhaus      Roald Norheim

### Prayers for those Serving our Country

Jesse Anderson      serving in Bangor, WI  
Ryan Beale      US Marine, serving in San Diego, CA  
Dave Chapman      serving in Honolulu, HI  
Shania Dahlberg      serving at Camp Pendleton, CA  
Jon Floyd      serving in San Diego, CA  
Trinity Dunham Parker      serving in Bangor, WA  
Michael Gardner      serving in Fort Meade, MD  
Alan McCay      USCG, serving in Port Angeles, WA  
Erik Paulson      US Marines, serving in Pensacola, FL  
Michael Serafini      serving at Ft Irwin, CA  
Shane Small      US Army Ranger, Ft Richardson. AK  
Kevin Thynes      serving in South Korea  
Peter Vermeer      USCG, serving in Connecticut

### Prayers for Our Church Council

Church Council: Desi Burrell, Ginger Evens, Secretary;  
Susan Holmes, President; Leesa Murph, Youth; Tom Parker,  
Liv Perschon, Vice President; John Small; John Swanson;  
Chris Van Ettinger, Treasurer

### A Note from Don Bieber

Thanks to my PLC family for the prayer support. My mom and stepdad are recovering from Covid-19.

I am back in Petersburg now in isolation until November 9th pending negative test results.

## **Holy Communion**

We will be celebrating Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month. Our next communion will be next Sunday on November 15th .

### **Viewing Facebook Live Worship Services**

You can still view our worship services on Facebook even if you do not have a Facebook account. Click [HERE](#) or go to PetersburgLutheranChurch2018+. Just ignore the sign in/log in prompt.

### **Your Offering**

Thank you for continuing to bring your offering to church and mailing it in. Some have started to contribute electronically by giving from their checking account or a credit card. You can access the secure giving site through our web page click [HERE](#) and clicking the words GIVING along the top of the web page. You can also go directly to the secure site by clicking [HERE](#) .

#### **Your Offerings**

Offering Month to Date \$ 5100

Offering Year to Date \$169,212

Monthly General Budget \$20, 162

## **Administration Building Foundation Repair**

A fund has been set up to receive gifts for the repair of the foundation. If you are interested in giving a gift toward this important project, please write in the memo field of your check ‘**foundation repair**’. We are thankful for the gifts totaling \$1300 that were received last week.

### **Lectionary Bible Study on ZOOM**

Join us for the Lectionary Bible Study on ZOOM at 10:00 am Thursday Morning. Click [HERE](#) to join us on ZOOM. Your audio and video will be muted automatically when you join. To dial in by phone call 1 (253) 215-8782 Meeting ID: 414 101 024

# Holy Communion



*The church is anywhere people gather in Jesus' name whether that happens in the Church Sanctuary or in your homes.*

We will be celebrating Holy Communion on November 15th. If you are not comfortable worshipping in-person, you are invited to join in celebrating this meal in your home. In order to be prepared, please have bread, wine or grape juice available. It is part of our tradition that Christ is fully present in the wine and in the bread, so if you do not have access to wine or grape juice you can commune using the bread alone.

Holy Communion is a special meal we normally celebrate when we worship. We believe that in the eating of the bread and the drinking of the wine (grape juice), together with Christ's words and by Christ's command, Jesus is present for you, offering you the forgiveness of sin and uniting you with all the saints for the journey of faith.

## **Worship in the Home**

“[Worship in the Home](#)” continues to be available each week on the ELCA Worship blog. You are encouraged to worship as you are able in homes on Sunday and throughout the week. In addition to Sunday worship resources, [resources for Daily Prayer](#) are available, including simplified forms of Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Night Prayer, as well as table prayers

**November Prayer Partner:** Mat Su Latino Ministry

**November Mission Support:** “Crocheting Their Way” Ministry;  
Wildwood Women’s Prison, Kenai, Alaska

**Salvation Army Pantry:** Jello, pudding mix

## **November Prayer Partner**

Mesa Sagrada began as the MatSu Latino Outreach in 2014, a mission to explore worship and traditional Latin American festivals with those of Latin descent and others. As the ministry grew and evolved, the name was changed to Mesa Sagrada, which is Spanish for "sacred table." Mesa Sagrada has had two mission developer/leaders during the life of the ministry and is currently without a leader. Please pray for the ministry to continue to provide meaningful worship and fellowship for those seeking an alternative way into Christian community, and please pray for the right leader for this ministry in God's timing.

## **3% Monthly Missionary Support**

Each month Petersburg Lutheran gives 3% of the offerings received to a special ministry identified by the Church Council and approved by the congregation at the Annual Meeting. The November offering goes to “Crocheting Their Way” Ministry; Wildwood Women’s Prison, Kenai, Alaska. Using donated yarn and plastic crochet hooks purchased through the Inmate Council, a fund for prisoners for things like craft items and sporting goods, the Wildwood women make crocheted items like hats for homeless people or kids with cancer.

## **Coffee Order**

An order for Mt. Meru coffee will be placed this Sunday, November 8th. Please contact Grant Trask to place your order. 772-3775 or [trask@gci.net](mailto:trask@gci.net)



## Bulletin Cover Art

We are looking for people who are interested in submitting a picture or artwork for the bulletin cover relating to the scripture lessons for that Sunday. You can find the coming week's scripture lesson at the bottom of the last page of the bulletin. If you would like to look further ahead, please contact the church office and we will send you the scripture lessons for the coming weeks. 772-3144 or [plcakoffice@gmail.com](mailto:plcakoffice@gmail.com). Thank you!



## Good Beginnings Preschool Wreath Fundraiser

It's time for the annual preschool wreath fundraiser! You can place an order with any Good Beginnings Board Member or contact Bradee Axmaker at (907) 518-0575.

In town wreath price is: \$65. Drop ship wreath price is: \$85.

**All orders must be in by Friday, November 13th.**

Wreaths will be available for pick-up the week of Thanksgiving.

Thank you for supporting our preschool!

## Thank You Becky!

Unfortunately, Becky Regula will be leaving her position as the Office Administrator for Petersburg Lutheran Church after two and a half years. We will miss Becky's dedicated, efficient work as well as the friendly, welcoming presence she brought to the position. The church has been blessed through her service and we wish her all the best in her new full-time position with the Borough! If you know of someone interested in applying for this position, please contact the church office 772-3144 or [plcakoffice@gmail.com](mailto:plcakoffice@gmail.com)

## **This Week at Petersburg Lutheran Church**

**Sunday, November 8th**

8:30 am... Adult Bible Class, Fellowship Hall

*Questions of a Man in Agony ~Part 2*

10 am... Worship Service 88.5 FM

11:30 am... Education Wing /Foundation Meeting:  
in Sanctuary & on Zoom

Facebook: Petersburg Lutheran Church 2018+

9:30 am and 2 pm ... 'The Lutheran Hour' on 88.5 FM

**Wednesday**

10 am—2 pm....Ruth Circle Quilters

**Thursday**

10 am... Lectionary Bible Study on Zoom

3:45pm... Executive Meeting

**Sunday, November 15th**

10 am~ Worship Service 88.5 FM

Facebook: Petersburg Lutheran Church 2018+

9:30 am and 2 pm ... 'The Lutheran Hour' on 88.5 FM

### **Petersburg Lutheran Church**

Pastor Eric Olsen ~ [plcakpastor@gmail.com](mailto:plcakpastor@gmail.com)

406 Excel Street PO Box 709 ~Office: 772-3144

### **Sermon audio/video:**

<https://www.petersburglutheran.com/sermons-2/>

Service is broadcast on 88.5 FM Radio

Follow us on Facebook: Petersburg Lutheran Church 2018+



### **Birthdays This Week**

**Sun. Nov. 8:** Robin Roberts

**Tues. Nov. 10:** *Martin Luther*

**Fri. Nov. 13:** Diane Murph

**Sat. Nov. 14:** Jennifer Bryner

# **GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**November 8, 2020**

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

## **Invitation to Grace**

The parable of the ten bridesmaids easily draws our attention to the differences in their levels of preparation. Some have enough oil to welcome the bridegroom; others do not. The ability of each bridesmaid to control her fate finds ready ears in a culture that favors independence and individual effort. Every day we see the consequences—good or bad—of our actions.

The early part of the parable speaks to a commonality among the bridesmaids. As they wait for the bridegroom, all of them become drowsy and fall asleep. Then comes the cry, “Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.” We might hear this as a command. We certainly have commands from God throughout Scripture. However, what if we heard the cry as an invitation?

God’s commands are a gift that invites us to live into the reality of the ever-present and ever-coming kingdom. God does not force or compel us to follow, to be obedient, or to love. It is always framed as an invitation. The psalmists invite us to praise God. God invites the people of Israel into covenantal relationship. Jesus invites all who are weary to come to him and find rest.

If the kingdom of heaven is close to us now, of course our actions will have consequences. Whether we choose to love or hate, share or hoard, work for peace or not—all of these choices impact the people around us. And yet, God’s command that we live into a way of love is not coercive, but rather an invitation to life.

In worship we gather around the sacraments of baptism and the eucharist. Neither is forced; neither is required. Both are invitations to experience what Augustine called visible signs of God’s invisible grace, a gift given for each and every one of us.

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Next week’s readings: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18; Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12;

1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:14-30