



"But let
Justice
roll on like a river,
Righteousness
like a never-
failing stream!" ISAIAH 58:1-24

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. 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.

WELCOME MEMBERS, FRIENDS AND VISITORS.

"Individuals need to follow healthy hygiene practices, stay at home when sick, practice physical distancing to lower the risk of disease spread, and use a cloth face covering ... in community settings when physical distancing cannot be maintained. These universal precautions are appropriate regardless of the extent of mitigation needed." [The Center for Disease Control]

Therefore out of love for one another as part of the Body of Christ, we will all wear masks, stay six feet away from other households, sanitize our hands, refrain from singing, and speak together very quietly only for the Lord's Prayer and Apostles' Creed. The louder we speak, the more potential viral spread there would be, even from behind masks.

LARGE PRINT BULLETINS AND HEARING DEVICES ARE AVAILABLE FROM AN USHER.

HOLY COMMUNION

23rd Sunday after Pentecost – November 8th, 2020

Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church

252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA 17972

570-385-2657 * www.jerusalem.lutheran.com

FIND US ON FACEBOOK!

GATHERING

PRELUDES

Sleepers Wake arr. Christine Anderson
Audrey Christ, handbell solo

The bell rings calling us to worship.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands and faces the baptismal font. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
in whose image we are made,
who claims us and calls us beloved. **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,

**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.**

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.**

GREETING

The presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God.
Power and riches, wisdom and strength,
and honor and blessing and glory are his.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Sing with all the people of God,

and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing and honor, glory and might
be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia.
This is the feast of victory for our God.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

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

READING FROM THE SCRIPTURES

Amos 5:18-24

The assembly is seated.

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

¹⁹as 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.

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

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

²²Even 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.

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

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

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1-13

The assembly stands for the gospel.

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹“Then 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."

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor David Rowe

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Let Streams of Living Justice

710

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

- 1 Let streams of living justice
flow down upon the earth;
give freedom's light to captives,
let all the poor have worth.
The hungry's hands are pleading,
the workers claim their rights,
the mourners long for laughter,
the blinded seek for sight.
Make liberty a beacon,
strike down the iron pow'r;
abolish ancient vengeance:
proclaim your people's hour.
- 2 For healing of the nations,
for peace that will not end,
for love that makes us lovers,
God grant us grace to mend.
Weave our varied gifts together;
knit our lives as they are spun;
on your loom of time enroll us
till our thread of life is run.
O great weaver of our fabric,
bind church and world in one;
dye our texture with your radiance,
light our colors with your sun.
- 3 Your city's built to music;
we are the stones you seek;
your harmony is language;
we are the words you speak.
Our faith we find in service,

our hope in others' dreams,
our love in hand of neighbor;
our homeland brightly gleams.
Inscribe our hearts with justice;
your way—the path untried;
your truth—the heart of stranger;
your life—the Crucified.

Text: William Whitla, b. 1934. Text © 1989 William Whitla.

APOSTLES CREED

Spoken together quietly enough not to wake a baby, in order to share as little airborne virus as possible from community speaking. We confess our faith with the whole church using the ancient baptismal creed that summarizes the teaching of the scripture and the apostles.

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 INTERCESSION

As a local assembly of believers, we pray for the whole world and church, as well as our local congregation and neighborhood.

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. Inspire 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 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 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 Ruler, in the aftermath of an election that is still contested, we ask for patience... fairness... and wisdom, as well as an attitude of respect in the face of disagreement. Bring just resolution to disputes, and reconciliation to division. 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 have few friends or who struggle with their identity and place in this world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Creator, surprise and delight us with the beauty of the world you have made as this autumn season draws to a close. 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 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.

PASSING THE PEACE

We greet each other with a nod or gesture of Christian fellowship from a distance, and we also invite you to text or email a word of peace to someone who cannot be here! Yes, now is the time to use our phones in church, on silent of course!

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE: AUTUMN

Holy God, our Bread of life, our Table, and our Food,

you created a world in which all might be satisfied by your abundance.

You dined with Abraham and Sarah, promising them life,

and fed your people Israel with manna from heaven.

You sent your Son to eat with sinners

and to become food for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,

and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,

shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.
Remembering, therefore,
his life given for us
and his rising from the grave,
we await his coming again to share with us the everlasting feast.
By your Spirit nurture and sustain us with this meal:
strengthen us to serve all in hunger and want,
and by this bread and cup make of us the body of your Son.
Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever. **Amen**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Spoken together quietly enough not to wake a baby, in order to share as little airborne virus as possible from community speaking.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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.

COMMUNION

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

During this time of the pandemic we are following ecumenical safety guidelines. The ushers will dismiss you by pew, and you will approach the altar by the center aisle (please allow a six-foot separation between households, as the blue tape on the floor indicates). The pastor, who has thoroughly disinfected his/her hands, will drop the consecrated wafer into your outstretched palms. Then we ask that you maintain a six-foot distance as you make your way toward the table that is holding prefilled glasses arranged far enough apart to take one without touching another. First lower your mask, then eat the host, and finally take either a glass of wine or grape juice. As you leave, drop the used glass in the nearby basket, replace your mask, and then sanitize your hands – and rejoice that although this is different, that we can resume receiving the Lord's Supper if we continue to strive to keep one another safe with precautions.

ANTHEM(s)

Keep Your Lamps Trimmed & Burning

Beverly and Philip Kriner, duet Andre Thomas

COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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. **Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly may be seated.

TEMPLE TALK – REPORT OF SYNOD ASSEMBLY

Donald Boyer

SENDING OF COMMUNION

If requested, Communion servants will be sent to take the sacrament to those who are absent.

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care:

As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread,
assist those who set forth to share your word and sacrament
with those who are sick, homebound, and imprisoned.

In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this
sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the
body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

BLESSING

The assembly stands. The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.

May the God of all creation, in whose image we are made, who claims us and
calls us beloved, who strengthens us for service, give you reason to rejoice and
be glad! The blessing of God, Sovereign, † Savior, and Spirit, be with you
today and always. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG *Lo! He Comes with Clouds Descending* # 435

- 1 Lo! he comes with clouds descending,
 once for our salvation slain;
 thousand thousand saints attending
 join to sing the glad refrain:
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
 Christ the Lord returns to reign.
- 2 Now redemption, long-expected,
 comes in solemn splendor near;
 all the saints this world rejected
 thrill the trumpet sound to hear:
 Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!
 See the day of God appear!
- 3 Yea, amen, let all adore thee,
 high on thine eternal throne;
 Savior, take the pow'r and glory,
 claim the kingdom as thine own.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou shalt reign, and thou alone!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788, alt.

DISMISSAL

The assisting minister sends the assembly into mission.

Beloved of God, go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

To God Be the Glory

Beverly Kriner and Audrey Christ, piano/organ duet

“In Celebration of the Repainted Organ Pipes”

OFFERING

You may drop your offering in the plates as you leave.

If you are worshipping at home, please mail your offering to Jerusalem Lutheran Church, 252 Dock Street, Schuylkill Haven, PA. Or you can drop it through the slot in the door at the back, office entrance of the church building.

To avoid crowding and therefore lessening the six-foot physical distance, we ask you to leave starting from the front pews to the back. If you and others feel comfortable, you can continue fellowship conversation in the lobby and outside with masks from a safe distance.

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MINISTRY NEWS

PRAYER LIST

Joyce Freed, Shirley Foose, Lee Miller, Joanna Sirianni Edwards, Ed Freed, Pauline Crawshaw, Karen Tropp, Diane Buffington, Jack Harnock, Marie Harnock, Keith Shoener, Tom Gerber, Kelly Carl, Cheryl Feeser, Leslie R., Mary Beth (Krater) Dinneen, Sam Huff, Stewart Haver, Sue Sigler, Donna Evans, Joan Heckrote, Robert Schwartz, Craig Bracken, Kenny Noecker, Nancy Reese, David Huff, Paul Calderone, Nicholas LaScala, Gail Kunkel, Lee Llewellyn, Dennis Heydt, Caroline Eister, Jeanette Stine, Christopher Payonk, Seth Ney, Renee Shade, Cathy Hale, Ben Moyer, Gaylene Ebling, Wally Foose, Craig Heffner, Jane Deibert, Judy Reihman, Tom Cook, Sylvia Edling, Joe Dewald, Ronald Bromwell, Carla Zelinsky, Lisa Weiser, Janest Yost, Anna Mae Berger, Madge Miller, Kathleen Kelleher, Melissa Focht, Jason Brown, Teagan Brown, Brenda Phillips, Family of Keith Ramsey, Cecelia Kacmar, Lois Pavelko, Edith Kriner, Melanie Hart, Janice Moore, Christie O'Dell, John Cooper, Florence Shay, Clarence Zweizig, Jayden Leiby, Melvin Rodriguez & family, Dorothy Moyer, Bruce Stees, JoAnn Baker Copley, Deanna Carl, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer, Carlene Wenner, Christy Deaton Stocks, Maria Motto, Katharine Macnutt, Peter Spontak, Nancy Cooper, David and Angela Weiser, Faye Sausser, Kim O'Donnell, Leslie Wagner, Mateo Thomas, Barry Heffner

Those with Long-term health issues:

Bonnie Jean Foose, Michelle Ochenrider, Rich & Sandy Moyer, Ethan Yost, Elizabeth Taylor, Carol Landes, Maureen Moyer, Karen Cockill, Janice Barr, Donna Drenzo, Jim Musico, John Krater, Fawn Goodman, Bob Yanek, Rebecca Marshall, Sapphire Schaeffer, Mark Wyllie, Krysta Kolbe, Shirley Emrich, Kathrine Smiley, Mark Noecker, Anna Heffner, David Wise, Joan Steficheck, Bill Everly, Donna Leashefski, Florence Clemens, Sara Berger, Chuck Copley, Jeff Kamar, Mary Sewalt, Pat Thomas, Nathan Resch, Casey Watson, Jerry Stoutland, Linda Bonfiglio-Boyer, Gemma Geary

Those serving in the Armed Forces:

Major Michael Shay, Staff Sgt. Joseph Moyer, Senior Airman Matthew Nettles, Airman Jackie Nettles, 2nd LT Heather Strouse, Sgt. Travis D. Miller, Sgt. Anthony Cooper, Private 3rd Class Caleb Levan

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR TODAY

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Minister	Lou Messina	Phil Kriner
Cantor(s)	Bev & Phil Kriner	Bev & Phil Kriner
Guides	Deb Reed	Lloyd Wertz
	Faith Batz	Don Boyer
Sound Board	Paul Boyer	Gary Reager
Acolyte		
Altar Guild	Cheryl Miller & Karen Dudley	
Counters	Linda Collins & Janet Sattizahn	

WORSHIP LEADERS FOR NEXT SUNDAY

	8:00am	10:30am
Assisting Minister	Mary Rowe	Rob Baessler
Cantor(s)	Lloyd Wertz	Lloyd Wertz
Guides	Bill Shay	Jane Mahoney
	Anita Vickers	Frank Mahoney
Sound Board	Melissa Boyer	Gary Reager
Acolyte	Ellayna Boyer	Jillian Gipe
Altar Guild	Cheryl Miller & Karen Dudley	
Counters	Linda Collins, Deb Reed, & Marie Shay	

WEEKLY NEWS

THE FLOWERS IN THE ALTAR VASES are to the Glory of God, in loving in memory of our parents and grandparents, Merlin and Dorothy Schreffler and Edgar Kriner by Beverly and Philip Kriner, Catherine, Madeleine and Benjamin Eiche.

THE FLOWERS IN THE FLOOR VASES are to the Glory of God, in loving memory of my father, Robert Shuman and for all veterans by Deborah Shuman Reed.

CELEBRATION OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FIRST ORDINATION OF WOMEN IN THE LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA, November 15. Finally realizing that despite several negative verses in scripture about women in leadership, many more verses in the New

Testament include and speak of women leading the church – most notably Paul in Galatians 3:28 "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." – We began ordaining women in 1970 (the first woman of color was not ordained until 1980).

WINTER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE will be Monday, November 16th. Please submit articles by emailing them to mail@jerusalem.lutheran.com or place written articles in the Administrator Inbox in the church office. Thanks!

PROPERTY COMMITTEE WORKDAY will be Saturday, November 21st, starting at 9:00am. Anytime you can donate to get our church ready for the advent/Christmas season would be greatly appreciated!

PLEASE SIGN-UP! November 29th is the first Sunday in Advent; the season preparing us for the birth of Jesus. We need volunteers to light the Advent Wreath during the 8 and 10:30 services. A sign-up sheet is on the sign-up table for individuals or small groups to volunteer to do the lighting!

OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN total as of October 31st is \$210,493.53. Thank you so much for your generosity!

RECENTLY OUR PPP LOAN of \$33,400 was approved by the SBA (Small Business Administration) to be totally forgiven! Many thanks to our local Vist bank for their help in securing the loan and forwarding our forgiveness application to the SBA in a timely manner! The forgiveness process normally can take 90 days with the SBA but we were approved in about a week!

ATTENTION: If you participate in the Redner's receipt program, please make sure that you use your **Redner's card** when you check out. Using your card ensures that a special code appears on the receipt that allows us to receive funds from Redner's. If there is no code, the receipt cannot be used! THANKS TO ALL PARTICIPANTS! KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

DURING THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC WORSHIP AND SUNDAY SCHOOL WILL BE CANCELED IF...

- If someone attends Sunday worship, and soon afterward tests positive – thereby having exposed us even while wearing masks while staying six feet apart. Out of love for one another we will then cancel Sunday worship for 1-2 weeks for a period of quarantine.
- If one of the school districts in the area suspends in-person learning, then we will also suspend worship and Sunday School out of mutual love and concern.
- If the Coronavirus Task Force (Jane Mahoney, Donald Boyer, Deborah Reed, and Pastor Rowe) and the Church Council feel that the level of community infection puts our gathering at risk, or that another temporary step to worship may help prevent the increase of the virus.

Like snow cancellations, Sunday cancellation will be announced on Facebook, the church website (www.jerusalemchurch.com), and on the office answering machine (570-385-2657). The Sunday record of attendance will be used to call people. In addition, if we need to once again suspend Sunday gatherings, please help us pass the word to the others!

WEATHER CANCELLATION OF SERVICES! If there is no electricity during the winter, services will automatically be cancelled. *With snow and ice, please use your best judgment about your travel, because conditions do vary by neighborhood.* If services are cancelled they will be announced by 6:30 am on:

- **The church answering machine message.** Call the church office at 570-385-2657.
- **Facebook and the church web page** will announce Sunday closings if the administrator can get internet access from home.

WE COULD USE MORE VOLUNTEERS to take Holy Communion to people who are staying home. Please see Pastor Rowe.

AN EASY AND SAFE WAY you can do your holiday shopping this year while supporting the ministry of Jerusalem Lutheran Church is to ***DO HOLIDAY SHOPPING ON AMAZON SMILE!*** Visit [Smile.amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile), designate Jerusalem Evangelical Lutheran Church of Schuylkill Haven as your charity of choice! Thank you for thinking of us!

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK:

TODAY 8:00am Worship
10:30am Worship

TUESDAY 6:30pm Executive Committee Meeting (Via Zoom)
7:00pm Church Council Meeting (Via Zoom)

STAFF AND LEADERS

Rev. David Rowe, *Pastor*: 610-987-9798 (H), 570-933-5511 (C),
pastorowe@jerusalemchurch.com
Audrey Christ, *Music Director*: musicdirector@jerusalemchurch.com
Tanya Cartwright, *Director of Faith & Families*:
faithandfamilies@jerusalemchurch.com
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