



St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Where all are welcome at the Lord's table

99 Peirce Street, East Greenwich, RI 02818 | 401-884-4116 | stlukeseg.org | @stlukeseg

The Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost | November 15, 2020

Daily Morning Prayer: Rite Two

The people's responses are in bold.

Prelude

Trumpet Voluntary in D

William Boyce

The Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.

Habakkuk 2:20

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People

Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER

Officiant Lord, open our lips.

People **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Alleluia.

Officiant The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:

People **Come let us adore him.**

Venite Psalm 95:1-7

Officiant and People

Come, let us sing to the Lord; *

let us shout for joy to the Rock of our salvation.

Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving *

and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

For the Lord is a great God, *

and a great King above all gods.

In his hand are the caverns of the earth, *

and the heights of the hills are his also.

The sea is his, for he made it, *

and his hands have molded the dry land.

Come, let us bow down, and bend the knee, *

and kneel before the Lord our Maker.

For he is our God,

and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand. *

Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

Officiant The mercy of the Lord is everlasting:

People **Come let us adore him.**

Psalm 90:1-8, 12

Officiant and People

- 1 Lord, you have been our refuge *
from one generation to another.**
- 2 Before the mountains were brought forth,
or the land and the earth were born, *
from age to age you are God.**
- 3 You turn us back to the dust and say, *
"Go back, O child of earth."**
- 4 For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past *
and like a watch in the night.**
- 5 You sweep us away like a dream; *
we fade away suddenly like the grass.**
- 6 In the morning it is green and flourishes; *
in the evening it is dried up and withered.**
- 7 For we consume away in your displeasure; *
we are afraid because of your wrathful indignation.**
- 8 Our iniquities you have set before you, *
and our secret sins in the light of your countenance.**
- 12 So teach us to number our days *
that we may apply our hearts to wisdom.**
- Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: *
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

THE LESSONS

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Zephaniah 1:7,12-18.

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is at hand; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice, he has consecrated his guests. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the people who rest complacently on their dregs, those who say in their hearts, "The LORD will not do good, nor will he do harm." Their wealth shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them. The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter, the warrior cries aloud there. That day will be a day of wrath, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness

and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements. I will bring such distress upon people that they shall walk like the blind; because they have sinned against the LORD, their blood shall be poured out like dust, and their flesh like dung. Neither their silver nor their gold will be able to save them on the day of the LORD's wrath; in the fire of his passion the whole earth shall be consumed; for a full, a terrible end he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Anthem

A grateful heart

Mary Plumstead

A Reading from the Gospel of Matthew 25:14-30.

Jesus said, "It is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. The one who had received the five talents went off at once and traded with them, and made five more talents. In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. As for this

worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

The Rev. Timothy T. Rich

The Apostles' Creed

Officiant and People

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

THE PRAYERS

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us pray.

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance;

R. Govern and uphold them, now and always.

V. Day by day we bless you;

R. We praise your Name for ever.

V. Lord, keep us from all sin today;

R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.

V. Lord, show us your love and mercy;

R. For we put our trust in you.

V. In you, Lord, is our hope;

R. And we shall never hope in vain.

The Prayers of the People

In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

Silence

For all people in their daily life and work; **For our families, friends, and neighbors, and for those who are alone.**

For this community, the nation, and the world; for those in our Armed Forces. **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the just and proper use of your creation; **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble; **For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For the peace and unity of the Church of God; **For all who proclaim the Gospel, and all who seek the Truth.**

For Michael our presiding bishop, Nicholas our bishop, for all bishops and other ministers; and for the clergy and lay staff of our parish. We join with communities throughout this diocese and pray for the people and clergy of St. Elizabeth's, Hope Valley. **For all who serve God in his Church.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation: We pray especially for Amanda, Neil & Tracy, Paula A., Mike, Janet Kitchen, Kay Derderian, Christopher Gormley, Arlene & Bill Dubois, Joanie B., Doreen Gardner, Kerri Turgeon, Samantha Mossey, Sophia Martin, Don B., "C", George Graham, Florence & John MacQueen, Maddalyn, Gary & Cindy M., Kathy L., Lou R., Kenneth Hunter, Ann Brough, Caroline, Tom Gunther, Bob Richert, Paula Thompson, Michael Joliceur, Rita, Lisbeth, Seamus Ryan Drago, Cole R., Kate & Callie, Bill, Patti & Gregory Lebeau, Rowen W., Dorothy Brown, Ellen Hall, Shirley W., Dot McDermott, Paul M., Peter W. & Nancy W., Don & Mary S., Richard Fogarty, Jackie Hudson, Sherry Anderson, Nancy Sachuk, Roz, Steve Mazur, Joe Taylor, Thomasine Manickas, Richard, Peter Young, Faye Penhallow,

Suzie Woodward, Donna P., Timothy Morley, Spencer Collins, Robbin Mackie, Jennifer Addonizio, and Kusum Singh.

The People may add their own petitions

Silence

And during this time of global pandemic we pray: God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light.

Hear us, Lord; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life.

The People may add their own thanksgivings

Silence

We will exalt you, O God our King; **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

The People may add their own petitions

Silence

Lord, let your loving-kindness be upon them; **Who put their trust in you.**

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant us so to hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

A Prayer attributed to St. Francis

Officiant and People

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where

there is sadness, joy. Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood as to understand; to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen. *Ephesians 3:20, 21*

Hymn 680

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 un - der the sha - dow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone;
5 Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears all our years a - way;

1 our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
2 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
3 from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.
4 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
5 they fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the o - pen - ing day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,

be thou our guide while life shall last,
and our eternal home.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt.; para. of Psalm 90:1-5

Music: *St. Anne*, melody att. William Croft (1678-1727), alt.; harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

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Participants

Preacher	The Rev. Timothy T. Rich, Rector
Officiant	The Rev. Tanya Watt, Assistant Rector
Minister of Music	Rodney Ayers
Anthem	Members of the St. Cecilia Choir
Hymn Quintet	Sarah Curtis, Brad Logan, Arielle Rogers, Laura Sullivan, Rob Walsh
First Reading	Sally House
Gospel Reading	Steve McLoughlin
Prayers	Betsy Fornal

THIS WEEK AT ST. LUKE'S

Sunday, 11/15

Worship with us online at stlukeseg.org
5 pm Sunday Social Hour via Zoom

Monday, 11/16

10:30-12 EG Food Cupboard

Wednesday, 11/18

10:30-12 EG Food Cupboard
7 pm Adult Faith Formation via Zoom

Friday, 11/20

10:30-12 EG Food Cupboard

Sunday, 11/22

Worship with us online at stlukeseg.org

Sunday Social Hour At 5 pm

Zoom Meeting Information:

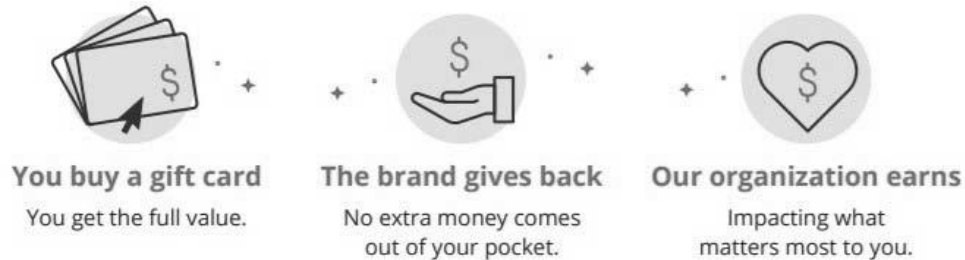
Meeting ID: 880 0556 4279

Passcode: 715610

Find the link in our Weekly email!

Giftng that Gives Back ... to St. Luke's!

Last week, we introduced the **RaiseRight** mobile app from ShopWithScrip. **RaiseRight** introduces an opportunity for each of us to support St. Luke's through everyday purchases, like grabbing a morning coffee or buying groceries and merchandise. With over 750 brands such as Starbucks, Amazon and Walmart, there are ample possibilities to generate additional funds for the church. Essentially, it's a three-step process...



So, please, add the **RaiseRight** app to your phone today and help raise additional funds for St. Luke's! Scan the QR code below to get more details on the app. Most importantly, when downloading the app, please enter the following enrollment code to specify St. Luke's as your charitable organization of choice: **FEB88LAC73L81**



Use the Holiday Gift Guide and take advantage of increased bonus rewards during the upcoming holiday season. Stay tuned for more information on this exciting opportunity to support St. Luke's.

Thank you,
Mark & Susan Cordle, Deborah Collins & Jeremy Stowe
Your Faithful RaiseRight Project Team

St. Luke's Choirs Sing for You!

As a special gift from the Canterbury, St. Cecilia, and Angel Choirs to our St. Luke's family and friends, choir members compiled a special 'arrangement' of "How Can I Keep From Singing". The music is from an American folk song originally composed by Baptist minister Robert Wadworth Lowry in 1868 with the four-part arrangement published by Jeffrey Honoré in 1991. The choirs performed this piece at their 2019 Spring Concert and happily recreated that performance in this video. Here is the link: <https://stlukeseg.org/virtual-hymn-2020/> (It is also available on St. Luke's website and Facebook page).

Advent Blog

Each year, St. Luke's provides prayer and reflection resources for Advent. This year, one of those resources will be one we write! Our Advent Blog will be an opportunity for community members to read and pray with reflections written by their fellow parishioners. We are in need of writers! You don't need to be an expert or even have any experience writing about Scripture; just an open heart and willingness to share. If you would be willing to write a short (1-3 paragraph) reflection, email Mother Tanya at tanya@stlukeseg.org and we will send you a set of daily readings and some more detailed instructions.

Youth Faith Formation

Fr. Tim has put together an excellent group of people to thoughtfully consider how to offer formation in the safest way possible. As we move through this season of uncertainty, we continue to walk in faith and hope. So that we can continue to be in touch with you as our plans progress, please fill out a registration form for each of your children. The form is online only this year and can be found in our weekly and on our website. Questions? Feel free to reach out to Mother Tanya: tanya@stlukeseg.org or 684-2844.

Adult Faith Formation

Our next AFF offering is the study of Jim Wallis' *Christ in Crisis? Reclaiming Jesus in a Time of Fear, Hate, and Violence*. About this book it was written:

In *Christ in Crisis* Jim Wallis provides a path of spiritual healing and solidarity to help us heal the divide separating Americans today. Building on “Reclaiming Jesus”—the declaration he and other church leaders wrote in May 2018 to address America’s current crisis—Wallis argues that Christians have become disconnected from Jesus and need to revisit their spiritual foundations. By pointing to eight questions Jesus asked or is asked, Wallis provides a means to measure whether we are truly aligned with the moral and spiritual foundations of our Christian faith.

“Christians have often remembered, re-discovered, and returned to their obedient discipleship of Jesus Christ—both personal and public—in times of trouble. It’s called coming home,” Wallis reminds us. While he addresses the dividing lines and dangers facing our nation, the religious and cultural commentator’s focus isn’t politics; it’s faith. As he has done throughout his career, Wallis offers comfort, empathy, and a practical roadmap.

Please join us for what promises to be a timely and important study.

You can order the book on Amazon. If you need help obtaining a copy, please email Father Tim.

Zoom Meeting Information is below with a link provided in our weekly announcement:

Meeting ID: 882 3875 2419

Password: 054059

Treasurer Announcement

The passage of the CARES Act included some useful items for taxpayers.

New charitable deduction for taxpayers who do not itemize. Beginning in 2020, individuals can deduct up to \$300 in charitable contributions from their gross income **even if they do not itemize their deductions.** Donations must be made in cash to a charity. Gifts of appreciated securities, and gifts to a donor-advised fund or supporting organization, do not qualify. Although the permissible amount is modest, it is a new benefit available to many of our parishioners. The goal of the change is to encourage charitable donations in times of great need. If you're at the point where the new standard deduction is greater than what you can itemize, you still get to take \$300 off your gross income, possibly allowing you to give more!

No cap on charitable deductions for taxpayers who do itemize. Parishioners who itemize their deductions can usually deduct cash contributions up to 60% of their adjusted gross income. For 2020, that cap is lifted, and donors contributing cash to charity may deduct up to 100% of their income, a significant tax savings for anyone able to contribute larger amounts. Again, this is only for gifts of cash, and only for gifts made directly to charity (not to donor-advised funds or supporting organizations). If this applies to you, and for many it won't, remember the work that continues here at the St. Luke's, even though the building is closed. If you do win the big lottery, this would definitely apply 😊

No required minimum distributions, but qualified charitable distributions are still possible. The CARES Act eliminates required minimum distributions (RMDs) from many retirement plans in 2020. Some parishioners have been using their RMDs for tax-advantaged charitable gifts by making a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) directly to charity. Under the CARES Act it is still possible for donors who are 70½ or over to contribute up to \$100,000 directly to a charity without paying tax on the distribution. This remains a beneficial way for you to make gifts to your church.

And, as always, thank you for all you do!

Pastoral Care Ministry

We have a new convenient way to request to add someone to our Prayer List. Our new Prayer List Request Form is available on our website under our Parish Life tab, in our Weekly Newsletter, and it is also available in the back of the church where the prayer list is kept. Our online form is easy to fill out or you can fill out and return the hard copy form at the back of church and drop it in our basket on Sunday. The prayer list is updated weekly and available for all of us to view in a link in the Weekly Newsletter. The Pastoral Care Ministry continues to pray for all on the prayer list and send cards to the homebound and those in the hospital. By filling out the information on this new form, you will help us to keep in touch.

Thank you and stay well.

The Pastoral Care Ministry

Use your phone to scan this QR code to make an online donation to St. Luke's!



Clothing Ministry Update

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we have had to suspend the collection and sorting of used clothing. We have also suspended our monthly run to Woonsocket to distribute clothing due to crowds and close contact, but we have been brainstorming other ways to help:

Connecting with other Agencies:

In October we stuffed over 30 bags of clothing donations from our basement and drove them up to OPEN CLOSET at 1520 Broad Street in Providence. The group there was thankful and welcoming for our donation as they continue to sort and sell clothing in their thrift store to support feeding ministries in their community. They do accept donations Monday 8-1, Friday 8-11, and Saturday 9:30-1:30.

HELP for the HOMELESS (<http://www.helpthehomelessri.org/>) - this group continues to distribute items in Woonsocket on Sundays. We are hoping to connect with them to create “winter bags” for Men, Women, Teens, and Children to distribute in early December. Our goal is to fill 30 bags for the adults and 50 bags for the children consisting of gloves, hats, socks, underwear, blankets, bottoms, toiletries, and sweatshirts. We have secured a grant that has allowed us to purchase most of these items.

WHAT WE NEED IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP:

20 NEW SWEATSHIRTS FOR TEENS

SIZES: ADULT SMALL, MEDIUM OR LARGE FOR THE TEENS

These can be dropped at the church by Nov. 30th to be put into the bags.

THANK YOU!

Linda Wegrzyn- Children's Clothing Coordinator Ldwez@cox.net

Joyce Harvey & Caroline Sparhawk (cdsparhawk@gmail.com) - Adult Clothing Coordinators

Theology on Tap

Theology on Tap (TOT) is in full swing this fall. We are meeting regularly via Zoom on the last Monday of each month. **November TOT Meeting: Mon. Nov 30 7:00pm.** Contact Brent Bostick if you aren't on the distribution list. We'd love to have you join us.

We plan to prepare and deliver a **Holiday Meal** to our neighbors who reside in **the East Greenwich Hotel on the afternoon on Sunday 11/22.**

Due to COVID limitations around use of our facilities and size of gatherings, the meal will not be prepared in Saint Luke's Kitchen this year. As an alternative TOT members will be asked, via Sign-Up Genius, to contribute items of the menu for delivery, fully cooked, to Saint Luke's on 11/22 between 3:00- 3:30. A small group of volunteers will assemble the meals for takeout and delivery.

If you would be willing to bring some of the menu items to the Church on the afternoon of Nov 22, please sign up on Sign-Up Genius:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040d48a2aa1fb6-totthanksgiving>

Please sign up by Tuesday Nov 17 - Thanks!

If you have any questions or are interesting in participating, reach out to Brent Bostick (908-230-7569) brentbostick1gmail.com

Thanks

Brent

Thank You From Deacon Christine

To the Saints of St. Luke's Church from your Deacon,

“One secret of life is that the reason life works at all is that not everyone in your tribe is nuts on the same day. Another secret is that laughter is carbonated holiness”. Anne Lamott

WOW!!! Imagine my surprise, when I saw a thick flowered envelope with 4 stamps from St. Luke's! I said, my friends are getting in touch! I miss you ALL so much. I attend liturgy, at different churches, it is not the same. I still have a huge hole where my St. Luke's community was. Please know that I send up “arrow prayers” when I THINK OF YOU!! Remember an arrow prayer is a quick pointed remembrance to God asking for a blessing to that person. In other churches, I see the Altar Guild, Usher ministry, Lay readers and I think of all the people at St. Luke's working to make God present!

For all these Giving ministries I send God a thanksgiving prayer. Another of my thanksgiving prayers is for the gift of my time with you!! I learned, and grew in ministry, and I enjoyed our work – so much!! Thank you, Thank you, Thank YOU. And Thank You very much for the gift to the Emmanuel Day School, to my clergy fund and to some delicious Deacon hospitality on Aquidneck Island.

Here is a note from my journal the night of our Social Hour and my last Sunday with you on Zoom. “What an amazing call with the people of St. Luke's!! My heart is bursting with love and laughter. Carbonated faith + JOY + the challenge for all of us to keep living the Gospel!! “I close with that and pray that the Holy Spirit continues to send carbonated love to the community of St. Luke's!

God Speed,
Deacon Christine