

Sunday, November 12, 2023, 11:15am

Amen, Come Lord Jesus

24th Sunday after Pentecost

What do you do when you wait?

Whether sitting in the lobby of a doctor's office, stuck behind a mile of cars in traffic, or counting down the days until an exciting event, what's done while waiting?

Some people seek distraction through technology to pass the time. Others watch the time slowly pass. Others wait impatiently, made known through verbal and nonverbal ways.

How about when it comes to Jesus? What do we do while we wait for Him?

We don't know the day, nor the hour, but we wait in faith with more than oil in our lamps; faith in our hearts and on our lips until we meet the Bridegroom at the marriage feast.

Opening Praise Song

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why would you have the day of the Lord?

C: Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

P: But we don't want you to be uninformed about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.

C: For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God.

P: At midnight there was a cry, "Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him."

C: The bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if I confess my sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive my sins and cleanse me from all unrighteousness.

P: Merciful Lord, as we await the day to come when Jesus returns, we grow impatient as we wait.

C: I become distracted by the things of this world that do not last, and have given my attention and even devotion to things not beneficial to my faith. Forgive me.

P: As we await the day to come when Jesus returns, we grow impatient with others.

C: I have sinned against others and You in thought, word, and deed. I have not loved You with my whole heart, nor loved my neighbors as myself. Forgive me.

P: As we await the day to come when Jesus returns, we grow impatient with You.

C: I come to think the day will never come when You make all things new, and have let my earthly circumstances cause faith to waiver, despair to increase, and doubts to arise. Forgive me.

P: Jesus reminds us to "watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." In our watch and in our waiting, God remains faithful to His promises and assurance of grace and forgiveness. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake

forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Jesus and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Together, we pray,

C: Lord God, we don't know the day nor the hour of the coming in glory of the Bridegroom, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we wait, continue to nourish our faith until we enter the eternal wedding feast, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever, Amen.

Children's Time

Amos 5:18–24

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: The Holy Gospel, and Sermon Text, according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

(Matthew 25:1-13)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon Praise Song

The Sermon *Amen, Come, Lord Jesus.*

The Gathering of our Gifts and Tithes

The Prayers of His Children

P: Lord, in Your mercy **C: Hear our prayer**

P: ...who taught us all to pray,

C: LORDS PRAYER

God's Benediction

***Sending Praise Song* and Ministry Announcements**