

**Sunday, November 12, 2023, 9:00am**  
**24th Sunday After Pentecost**  
*Amen, Come Lord Jesus*



## *Prelude*

### *#515, Verse 1, Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear; The evening is advancing,  
And darker night is near. The Bridegroom is arising And soon is drawing nigh.

Up, pray and watch and wrestle; At midnight comes the cry.

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 do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, 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.**

### *#515, Verse 2, Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

2 The watchers on the mountain Proclaim the Bridegroom near;

Go forth as He approaches With alleluias clear. The marriage feast is waiting;

The gates wide open stand. Arise, O heirs of glory; The Bridegroom is at hand.

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

**C: But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P: Let us confess our sins to God our Father....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, I 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.**

### *#515, Verse 3, Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

3 The saints, who here in patience Their cross and suff'rings bore, Shall live and reign forever

When sorrow is no more. Around the throne of glory The Lamb they shall behold; In triumph cast before Him Their diadems of gold.

P: Jesus reminds His people 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 of assurance, grace, and forgiveness. Almighty God in His mercy has given Jesus 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.**

### **#515, Verse 4, Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers**

4 Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear; Arise, O Sun so longed for,  
O'er this benighted sphere. With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see The  
day of earth's redemption That sets Your people free!

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt.

Text: Public domain

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Together, we pray,

**C: 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**

Woe to you who desire the day of the Lord! Why would you have the day of the Lord? It is darkness, and not light, as if a man fled from a lion, and a bear met him, or went into the house and leaned his hand against the wall, and a serpent bit him. Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? “I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

Even though you offer Me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the peace offerings of your fattened animals, I will not look upon them. Take away from Me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

***Light Shine*      Voice Choir**

#### **1 Thessalonians 4:13–18**

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep. For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 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. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

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.**

Jesus said, “The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

### **#516, *Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying***

1 “Wake, awake, for night is flying,” The watchmen on the heights are crying; “Awake, Jerusalem, arise!” Midnight hears the welcome voices And at the thrilling cry rejoices: “Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise? The Bridegroom comes, awake! Your lamps with gladness take!

Alleluia! With bridal care Yourselves prepare To meet the Bridegroom, who is near.”

2 Zion hears the watchmen singing, And all her heart with joy is springing; She wakes, she rises from her gloom. For her Lord comes down all-glorious, The strong in grace, in truth victorious; Her star is ris’n, her light is come. Now come, Thou Blessèd One, Lord Jesus, God’s own Son, Hail! Hosanna! We enter all The wedding hall To eat the Supper at Thy call.

3 Now let all the heav’ns adore Thee, Let saints and angels sing before Thee With harp and cymbals’ clearest tone. Of one pearl each shining portal, Where, joining with the choir immortal, We gather round Thy radiant throne. No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the

might Of Thy glory; Therefore will we Eternally  
Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

## **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: ...as He taught us.

**C: 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.**

## **God's Benediction**

### **#921, On What Has Now Been Sown**

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The Bridegroom comes, awake! Your lamps with gladness take!

Alleluia! With bridal care Yourselves prepare To meet the Bridegroom, who is near."

2 Zion hears the watchmen singing, And all her heart with joy is springing;

She wakes, she rises from her gloom. For her Lord comes down all-glorious,

The strong in grace, in truth victorious; Her star is ris'n, her light is come.

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With harp and cymbals' clearest tone. Of one pearl each shining portal,

Where, joining with the choir immortal, We gather round Thy radiant throne.

No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might Of Thy glory;

Therefore will we Eternally

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## **Ministry Announcements**

### ***Postlude***