

# November 8, 2020; Pentecost 23

## Call to worship (Psalm 78:1-4)

Give ear, O my people, to my teaching; incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable;

I will utter dark sayings from of old, things that we have heard and known, that our ancestors have told us. We will not hide them from their children;

***We will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord, and God's might, and the wonders that the Lord has done.***

## Call to confession:

Despite God's clear commandments to us and gracious covenant with us, we often choose to serve the lesser gods of this world. In acknowledgment of our idolatry and failings, resting on the promise of God's mercy and forgiveness, we confess our sin to God and before one another.

## Prayer of confession:

***Loving God, as we examine our life together, our impulses and actions, we see all too clearly that our choices do not reflect your commandments. We fail to love you and we neglect to love our neighbors. You tell us to be ready to meet you at any moment, to stay awake to your presence and prepared to do your will. We remain distracted or complacent, disillusioned, or paralyzed. We ask for your wisdom. Focus our attention on our Savior that we might see your vision for this world. Forgive our past mistakes so that we will be free to be the salt and light you call and create us to be. Amen.***

## Assurance of pardon:

(Psalm 70:1) Be pleased, O God, to deliver me. O Lord, make haste to help me! Friends, believe the good news, through Jesus Christ we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## Scripture readings: Matthew 25:1-13

## Sermon:

## **Charge and benediction**

(Colossians 3:12-14) As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you now and remain with you always. Amen.