

Season after Pentecost, Proper 28A

(Sunday between November 13 and November 19 inclusive)

Color: Green

Scriptures: [Scripture linked to NRSV at Oremus Bible Browser]

[Judges 4:1-7](#) (*The Israelites cry to the Lord for help. Deborah steps up*)

[Psalm 123](#) (*Our eyes look to the Lord, until God has mercy upon us*)

[1 Thessalonians 5:1-11](#) (*Stay alert! The day of the Lord comes unexpectedly*)

[Matthew 25:14-30](#) (*The parable of the talents and the servants' use of them*)

Alternate First Reading and Psalm

[Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18](#) (*The hastening approach of the day of the Lord*)

[Psalm 90:1-8, \(9-11\), 12](#) (*The Lord, our dwelling place in all generations*)

Themes: Judgement, God's Time, Be Alert, Kingdom of God, Stewardship

HYMN SUGGESTIONS

Hymn Suggestions link to Hymnary.org, a searchable resource with a wealth of information. The tunes listed here are the ones most commonly associated with the texts, and the biblical/thematic references suggest the hymn's association with the morning's scriptures or themes.

Abide With Me (<i>EVENTIDE</i>)	Psalm 90, 1 Thessalonians
All Things Are Yours (<i>GERMANY</i>)	Matthew
For All the Faithful Women (<i>NYLAND</i>)	Judges
God, Whose Giving Knows No Ending (<i>BEACH SPRING; HYFRYDOL; RUSTINGTON</i>)	Matthew
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light (<i>HOUSTON</i>)	1 Thessalonians, Matthew
I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me (<i>I'M GONNA LIVE</i>)	Judges, 1 Thessalonians, Matthew
The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns (<i>MORNING SONG</i>)	Zephaniah, 1 Thessalonians, Matthew
Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence (<i>PICARDY</i>)	Zephaniah
My Lord, What a Morning (<i>YOU'LL HEAR THE TRUMPET SOUND</i>)	1 Thessalonians, Matthew
O Day of Peace that Dimly Shines (<i>JERUSALEM</i>)	Zephaniah, 1 Thessalonians, Matthew
O God, Our Help In Ages Past (<i>ST. ANNE</i>)	Psalm 90
Soon and Very Soon (<i>SOON AND VERY SOON</i>)	1 Thessalonians
Take My Life, and Let It Be (<i>HENDON</i>)	Judges, 1 Thessalonians, Matthew
When We Are Living (<i>SOMOS DEL SEÑOR</i>)	Psalm 90, 1 Thessalonians

ANTHEMS

E = Easy, M = Moderate, MD = Moderately Difficult

Awake, O Sleeper – M..... 1 Thessalonians
Marty Haugen
© 1987, GIA Publications, G-3290
Unison/SATB, Keyboard, opt. C-instruments (2)

Come, Labor On – ME Matthew
ORA LABORA/Jeremy Bankston, arr.
© 2020, MorningStar Music, 50-6125
SATB, Organ, Trumpets (2), Timpani

Come, Let Us Anew – M.....Psalm 90, Matthew
James Lucas/Mack Wilberg, arr.
© 2007, Oxford University, 9780193869837
SATB, Organ

E'en So, Lord Jesus, Quickly Come – MD 1 Thess.
Paul Manz
© 1954, 1987, MorningStar Music, 50-0001
SATB, a cappella

Festival Piece on St. ANNE – M Psalm 90
ST. ANNE/Eugene Butler, arr.
© 1976, Belwin Mills, DMC 1119
SATB, Organ, Brass (4), opt. Timpani

Let All the People Praise Thee – M..... Psalm 90
Natalie Sleeth, quoting *ST. ANNE*
© 1990 Sacred Music Press, S-474
2-Part (any) or SATB, Keyboard, opt. Trumpet

Look at the World – E..... Matthew
John Rutter
© 1996, Oxford University, 9780193511514
SATB, Children's Choir, Keyboard

O How Amiable – M Psalm 90
Ralph Vaughan Williams, quoting *ST. ANNE*
© 1940, Oxford University Press, 9780193851245
SATB, Organ

Our Eyes Look to the Lord – ME..... Psalm 123
Michael Costello
© 2013, Concordia Publishing, 98-4152
SATB, Organ, Oboe

Take My Life and Let It Be – E
..... Judges, 1 Thess., Matt
Thomas Keesecker
© 2019, MorningStar Music, 50-6130
SAB, Piano

Thou Art God! – M Psalm 90
John Ness Beck, quoting *ST. ANNE*
© 1974, Beckenhorst Press, BP 1005
SATB, Organ, opt. Handbells, Brass (5)

– Youth and Children –

Great Day – E.....Zephaniah
Negro Spiritual/Doug Denison, arr.
© 2007, Kjos Music, 6332
2-Part Mixed, Piano

All Good Gifts – E Matthew
A Medley of Table Blessings/Nancy Raabe, arr.
© 2015, Choristers Guild, CGA 1420
Unison (opt. 2-Part), Piano

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL (Prayers, Poems, Quotes & Liturgies)

*Lord, you are our home
in all time
from before the mountains rose
or even the sun
from before the universe
to after the universe
you are Lord forever
and we are home
in your flowing*

— DAVID ROSENBERG, from Psalm 90, "A Poet's Bible"

PRAYER OF CENTERING / EXAMINATION

(Based upon Zephaniah 1:7)

Almighty God, we are quick to bring before you our many words. We would rather talk than listen. We would rather give excuses and rationalizations than listen to Your voice. We would rather justify our actions than open ourselves to the judgment of Your light and ways.

You say: *“Be silent before the Lord God! For the day of the Lord is at hand...”*

May we come before you in silence. May we cease from explaining and open ourselves to examining our lives in the light of Your ways. May we silence our willfulness and offer You a willing heart. Amen.

— Scott Wagoner*

CALL TO WORSHIP

(Based upon Matthew 25:14-30)

Leader: Come, let us wake up to the reality of God’s presence and Kingdom all around us. Let us awaken to God’s intentions for our world.

People: **We’re tired of playing it safe for the Kingdom. As God has invested in us, may we invest our lives in others.**

Leader: Our God gives to us in abundance and seeks to abundantly bless all of creation with gifts of peace, hope, faith, love, and justice.

People: **May we not squander what is given us but give our lives to the abundant dream God has for all of creation.**

All: **Amen! May it be so!**

RESPONSIVE READING

(Based upon Psalm 90:1-12)

Leader: Loving and gracious God, you have been God from the beginning of time and all of time is embraced by Your presence.

People: **Teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.**

Leader: As humans, we tend to think that everything lasts forever but we are reminded that nothing lasts forever. Even the flourishing grass is here one day and soon it withers.

People: **Teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.**

Leader: Some days go well. Some days don’t go well. Life is both a mix of challenges and celebrations. Before we know it - in seventy to eighty years - it’s all over.

People: **Teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.**

Leader: Grant us Your wisdom, oh God, that we may live our lives well. Grant us the wisdom we need to steward our lives well.

People: **Teach us to count our days that we may gain a wise heart.**

All: **Loving God, as we count our days, help us to make our days count. May our actions align with Your intentions. May we be led by Your wisdom. Amen.**

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

(Based upon Matthew 25:14-30)

Loving and Gracious God, You always want what is best for us. You want what is best for all of creation. You not only invest yourself in our world but you invest Yourself in our lives. You endow us with gifts and abilities that can be stewarded towards human flourishing. Open our eyes and ears to the truth in this parable. Show us where we end up playing it safe rather than investing our lives in the work You have started through Your Kingdom. May we be faithful towards the trust You have placed in us and give our lives to the good work of Your Kingdom. Amen.

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*For a thousand years
in your eyes
are a single day
yesterday
already passed
into today
a ship in the night
while we were present
in a human dream
submerged
in the flood of sleep
appearing in the morning*

— DAVID ROSENBERG, from Psalm 90, "A Poet's Bible"

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BENEDICTION

(1 Thessalonians 5:1-11)

May we not be spiritually drowsy but be awake to the reality of God's Spirit in our lives and our world.

May we be alert to the coming of God's presence in our lives and be looking for God in our everyday world.

May we live as God's children of light in a world often darkened by despair.

May we never forget to encourage another and build each other up so that we can live lives of courage and faithfulness. Amen.

*Thanks to Scott Wagoner for contributing this week's prayers and liturgies.

Warren Howell, editor