

Stay Alert the Bridegroom Is Coming

November 19, 2023



**3rd End Times Sunday
Saints Triumphant**

WELCOME, GUESTS!!! We are so glad you came! If you have any questions or would like more information about our church, any member of Grace would be happy to speak with you. Please take the time to fill out a guest register at the church's entrance. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Congregational responses are indicated by indent and boldened letters.

THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS – Lord, keep us watchful for our triumph! Today the Church hears strains of the distant triumph song and affirms, "Blessed are they who are called to the marriage feast of the Lamb." Jesus wants us to be the waiting Church—the Church that watches for her Savior and cries, "Come, Lord Jesus!" As we journey through these latter days, however, our vigilance slips, and our hearts grow drowsy because the bridegroom seems to be taking so long. So while we wait, the Church prays, "Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven."

MORNING PRAYER: Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE: COMMON WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION— CW, p.15



OPENING HYMN:

#214

JERUSALEM THE GOLDEN

****Please Stand for the Last Verse****

1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, With milk and
2 They stand, those halls of Zi - on, All ju - bi -
3 There is the throne of Da - vid, And there, from
4 Oh, sweet and bless - ed coun - try, The home of
hon - ey blest— The sight of it re - fresh - es The
lan - t with song And bright with man - y an an - gel And
care re - leased, The shout of them that tri - umph, The
God's e - lect! Oh, sweet and bless - ed coun - try That
wea - ry and op - pressed. I know not, oh, I
all the mar - tyr throng. The Prince is, ev - er
song of them that feast; And they who with their
ea - ger hearts ex - pect! Je - sus, in mer - cy
know not What joys a - wait us there, What ra - dian -
in them; The day - light is se - rene; The pas - tures
lead - er Have con - quered in the fight; For - ev - er
bring us To that dear land of rest; You are with
cy of glo - ry, What bliss be - yond com - pare.
of the bless - ed Are ev - er rich and green.
and for - ev - er Are clad in robes of white.
God the Fa - ther And Spir - it ev - er blest.

Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th century, abr.; tr. John M. Neale, 1818–66, alt.
Tune: EWING (76 76 D) Alexander C. Ewing, 1830–95, alt.

C: A - men.

In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

CONFESSION OF SINS

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

LORD, HAVE MERCY

KYRIE



God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ 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.



PRAYER AND PRAISE

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

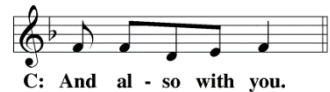
GLORY BE TO GOD

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS





PRAYER OF THE DAY



The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



****Please Be Seated****

FIRST LESSON:

ISAIAH 52: 1 – 16

Isaiah prophesies to captive Israel who is sleepwalking through life, because they are lost in the stupor of grief over their afflictions. "Awake!" the prophet cries, and hear God's promise of coming triumph that will give you strength to face your present problems. God would reveal his glory by redeeming his people and leading them safely home. Captive Israel here is a picture of the waiting Church, and one day God will fulfill this promise also in us.

Listen to me, you people who pursue righteousness, you people who seek the Lord! Look confidently to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were cut. Look confidently to Abraham your father, and to Sarah, who gave birth to you. Yes, when I called him, Abraham was only one person, but I blessed him and multiplied him. The Lord is certain to comfort Zion. He will comfort all her ruins. Certainly he will make her wilderness like Eden and her wasteland like the garden of the Lord. Joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the sound of music.

Pay attention to me, O my people. My nation, listen to me! For the law will go out from me, and I will establish my justice as a light to the peoples. My righteousness is near. My

salvation goes forth, and my arms will bring justice to the peoples. The seacoasts will wait for me. They will have confidence in my arm. Lift up your eyes to the heavens. Look closely at the earth beneath, because the heavens will vanish like smoke, and the earth will wear but like a garment, and its inhabitants will die like gnats.

But my salvation will remain forever, and my righteousness will never be abolished. Listen to me, you people who know righteousness, you people who have my law in your hearts. Do not fear the insults of men, and do not be discouraged by their abuse. Because a moth will consume them like a garment, and its worm will consume them like wool. But my righteousness will remain forever, and my salvation will last for all generations.

Wake up! Wake up! Clothe yourself with strength, you arm of the Lord! Awake as in days of old, as in generations of long ago. Was it not you who cut Rahab to pieces, and who pierced the sea monster? Was it not you who dried up the sea, the waters of the great deep, and who made a road through the depths of the sea for the redeemed to cross over? Then those ransomed by the Lord will return. They will enter Zion with a joyful shout, and everlasting joy will crown their heads. Happiness and joy will overtake them. Sorrow and sighing will flee away.

I, even I, am the one who comforts you. Who are you, Zion, that you fear humans, who die, or a child of Adam, who passes away like grass? You have forgotten the Lord, your Creator, who stretches out the heavens, who makes the earth stand firm. You tremble continually all day, because of the rage of the oppressor, who is preparing to destroy. But where is the rage of the oppressor now? The prisoner will soon be released. He will not die and go to the pit, and he will not lack bread.

I am the Lord your God, who stirs up the sea so that its waves roar. The Lord of Armies is his name! I have placed my words in your mouth, and with the shadow of my hand I have covered you—I, who planted the heavens and laid the foundations of the earth, I, who say to Zion, “You are my people.”

PSALM OF THE DAY:

PSALM 84

Refrain



Psalm tone



Refrain

How lovely is your dwelling place,*
O LORD Almighty!

My soul yearns, even faints,*
for the courts of the LORD.

Blessed are those who dwell in your house;*
they are ever praising you.

Refrain

Better is one day in your courts*
than a thousand elsewhere;

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God*
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.

O LORD Almighty,*
blessed are they who trust in you.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son*
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,*
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Refrain

SECOND LESSON

1 THESSALONIANS 4: 13 – 18

To the new Christians in Thessalonica, Paul explains the certain hope we have to be saints triumphant. His words are so simple, yet so profound! We believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that all who die in Christ will go with him to heavenly triumph. And we will be with the Lord forever. This is the crown jewel of the Christian faith: blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.

We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you do not grieve in the same way as the others, who have no hope. Indeed, if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, then in the same way we also believe that God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus.

In fact, we tell you this by the word of the Lord: We who are alive and left until the coming of the Lord will certainly not go on ahead of those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a loud command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them, to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore, encourage one another with these words.

VERSE OF THE DAY

Alleluia. They are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple. Alleluia. (Revelation 7:15a)

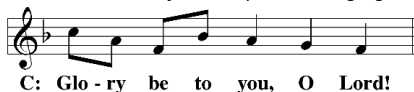


GOSPEL

MATTHEW 25: 1 – 13

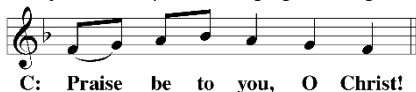
Jesus pictures the time before his return as virgins waiting for a bridegroom and the start of a wedding feast. The parable divides all people (ten virgins) into two groups: foolish and wise. They weren't described that way because of what they did in the parable, but their actions showed what they were.

After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:



“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish ones took their lamps, they did not take any oil with them; but the wise took oil in their containers with their lamps. While the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, ‘No, there may not be enough for us and for you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ But while they were away buying oil, the bridegroom came. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later, the other virgins also came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, let us in.’ But he answered, ‘Amen I tell you: I do not know you.’ Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

After the Gospel, the congregation sings:



Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

*****Please Be Seated*****

HYMN OF THE DAY

#206

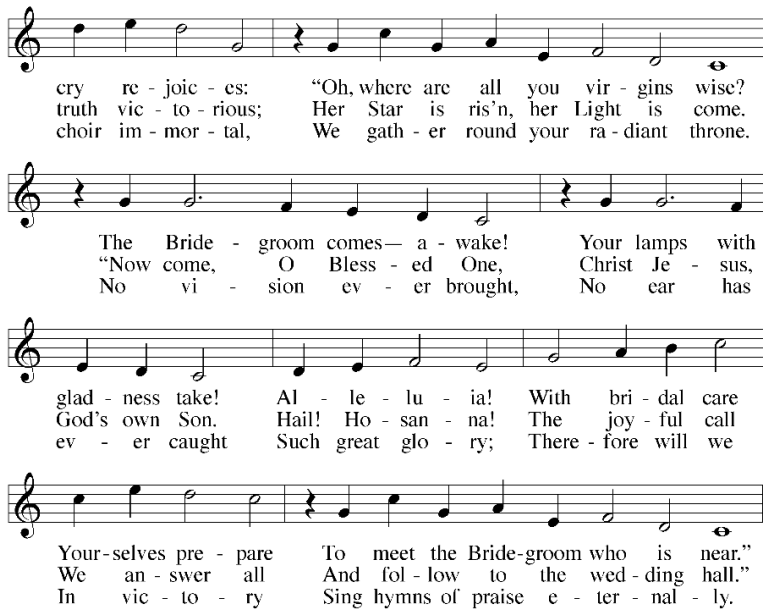
WAKE, AWAKE FOR NIGHT IS FLYING

1 "Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing,"
2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing,
3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore you;

The watch-men on the heights are cry - ing, "A - wake, Je -
And all her heart with joy is spring-ing; She wakes, she
Let saints and an - gels sing be - fore you With harp and

ru - sa - lem, a - rise!" Mid - night hears the
ris - es from her gloom, For her Lord comes
cym - bal's clear - est tone, Of one pearl each

wel - come voice - es And at the thrill - ing
down all - glo - rious, The strong in grace, in
shin - ing por - tal, Where, dwell - ing with the



cry re - joice: "Oh, where are all you vir - gins wise?
 truth vic - to - rious; Her Star is ris'n, her Light is come.
 choir im - mor - tal, We gath - er round your ra - dant throne.

The Bride - groom comes— a - wake! Your lamps with
 "Now come, O Bless - ed One, Christ Je - sus,
 No vi - sion ev - er brought, No ear has

glad - ness take! Al - le - lu - ia! With bri - dal care
 God's own Son. Hail! Ho - san - na! The joy - ful call
 ev - er caught Such great glo - ry; There - fore will we

Your-selves pre - pare To meet the Bride-groom who is near."
 We an - swer all And fol - low to the wed - ding hall."
 In vic - to - ry Sing hymns of praise e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.
 Tune: WACHET AUF (898 898 664 448) Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, alt.


SERMON TEXT

SERMON:

MATTHEW 25: 1 - 13

READY YOUR LAMP

CREATE IN ME



C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
 new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
 way from your pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it
 from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -
 tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it. A - men.

****Please Be Seated****

OFFERING – Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9: 7: “Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.

PRAYER FOR THANKSGIVING

Lord of heaven and earth, you make all things beautiful. You have provided green forests and refreshing streams. You have arranged the orderly procession of day and night for our work and rest.

Thank you for the mountains and the prairies, the roaring seas, and the gentle breeze.

Thank you for the roofs that shelter us, for the clothing that protects us, and for the food and drink. Thank you for our work, for projects that are done well, and for the approval of supervisors and teachers. Thank you for all who serve at night to make our days more pleasant.

Thank you for associates at work, for their encouragement and praise, and for the joys of human friendships.

Thank you for our cities and countryside, for farms and factories, for streets and highways, and for all the life that flows so swiftly before us.

Thank you for children at play, their boundless energy, and their shouts of joy and laughter.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

Thank you for the morning greetings we receive, and for all the smiles that come from faces loved by you.

Thank you for Christian parents, for their affection and care.

Hear us, Lord, as we give thanks for personal blessings.

Silent prayer

Thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, for his coming to us in Word and sacraments, for his giving and forgiving, and for listening to our prayers. Receive our gifts and offerings as our sacrifice of praise.

Lead us in thankful living today and always. Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

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.

Please Be Seated

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

JESUS, YOUR BLOOD AND RIGHTEOUSNESS

#376

Vs. 1–3, 6



1 Je - sus, your blood and right - eous - ness My beau - ty
2 Bold shall I stand in that great day— Who can a
3 Lord, I be - lieve your pre - cious blood, Which at the
4 Lord, I be - lieve were sin - ners more Than sands up -
5 When from the dust of death I rise To claim my



are, my glo - rious dress; Mid flam - ing worlds, in
word a - gainst me say? Ful - ly through you ab -
ver - y throne of God For - ev - er will for
on the o - cean shore, You have for all a
man - sion in the skies, E'en then this shall be



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.
solved I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.
sin - ners plead, For me— e'en for my soul— was shed.
ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.
all my plea: Je - sus has lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be worshiped endlessly!
Your boundless mercy has for me,
For me and all your hands have made,
An everlasting ransom paid.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–60, abr.; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–91, alt.
Tune: ST. CRISPIN (LM) George J. Elvey, 1816–93.

****Please Stand****

THE SACRAMENT



C: And al - so with you.

The Lord be with you.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

Lift up your hearts.



C: It is good and right so to do.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who preserves his

Church to the end of time when he will come again as king to judge all people and take his own to glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and host in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -
 na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -
 na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

C: A - men.

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD

AGNUS DEI

C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



****Please Be Seated****

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION – Please come forward at the direction of our usher. We practice close communion according to Paul’s guidance in 1 Corinthians 11:27: “For if anyone eats and drinks in an unworthy manner because he does not recognize the Lord’s body, he eats and drinks judgment upon himself.” Therefore, if you are not a member of the ELS or WELS, please talk to Pastor Emmons before communing. Thank you for respecting our practices.

****Please Stand****

SONG OF SIMEON

NUNC DIMITTIS



O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

CLOSING PRAYER

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by

your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord, make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.



****Please Be Seated****

CLOSING HYMN:

#596

LET ME BE YOURS FOREVER



2 Lord Je - sus, my sal - va - tion, My light, my
3 O gra - cious Ho - ly Spir - it, My com - fort -



life di - vine, My on - ly con - so - la - tion,
er and guide, Grant that in Je - sus' mer - it



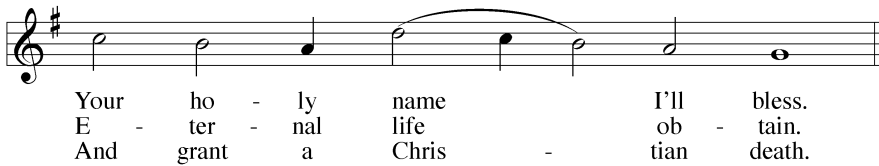
To you I all re - sign, For you have
I al - ways may con - fide, Him to the



dear - ly bought me With blood and bit -
end con - fess - ing Whom I have known



ter pain. Let me, since you have sought me,
by faith. Give me your con - stant bless - ing



Text: Nikolaus Selnecker, 1532–92, st. 1; *Gesangbuch*, Rudolstadt, 1688, st. 2-3; tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.
Tune: ICH DANKE DIR, LIEBER HERRE (76 76 D) *Musika Teutsch*, Nürnberg, 1532, alt.

What We Believe:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the only source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God, the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, adding a human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life and innocent death, are all sins for all people forgiven and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return to take all believers to heaven, condemn all unbelievers to eternal torment, and destroy this present world.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanksgiving Potluck – Following our service today we will be celebrating our November Potluck following the service. Perhaps you forgot, or are a guest and think, “I didn’t bring anything!” That is okay come be our guest let us serve you.

Thanksgiving Dinner – You are invited to our 3rd annual Thanksgiving dinner with Tammi and Pastor Emmons at their home on Thanksgiving. If you have no plans for dinner, we will be your plan “B,” please join us. We will eat at 6 pm (due to Tammi having to work.) Bring a dish to pass; the pastor will provide the turkey, tables, and chairs; you bring your favorite dish. Please RSVP by November 19.

Christmas Cookie Exchange – Tammi will host our annual cookie exchange on Saturday, December 2, at 6 pm. You make or buy your favorite cookie to exchange (a half dozen for each guest + a half dozen to taste, and the leftovers come to church). This party is open to all, so invite a friend. Please RSVP by November 24 at Tammi.emmons67@gmail.com or text her at 541-699-7634.

Thanksgiving Eve/Advent Services – This Wednesday begins our Midweek services with our Thanksgiving Eve service at 7 pm on Wednesday, November 22. We will have a soup supper at 6 pm before the service. Please contact Penny Port to sign up for a soup or dessert.

Sunday Morning Bible Study – We are turning our focus to the minor prophet Habakkuk. We will study a chapter per week to be more of an overview rather than a deep dive. Email any questions or topics to Pastor Emmons. Please feel free to come and go as you like; all reading is voluntary.

Midweek Bible Study – will resume after Advent and Christmas January 2. We will conclude our study of Romans in January and are looking forward to topical Bible studies after Easter.

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