

Sunday, November 12, 2023 Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Service Theme

A TIME FOR WATCHFULNESS

As we wait for Christ to return, as day after day passes, it can be easy to get distracted, to lose vigilance, to become spiritually drowsy. God forbid that Christ should return and find us spiritually asleep. Today we are reminded that the time in between Christ's first and second coming is a time for watchfulness. The Church prayers, "Lord God, keep us every watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven."

<u>Hymn</u>

CW 206 - 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 all you 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, O Blessed One, Christ Jesus, God's own Son. Hail! Hosanna! The joyful call We answer all And follow to the wedding hall."

3 Now let all the heav'ns adore you; Let saints and angels sing before you With harp and cymbal's clearest tone.

Of one pearl each shining portal, Where, dwelling with the choir immortal, We gather round your radiant throne.

No vision ever brought, No ear has ever caught Such great glory;

Therefore will we In victory Sing hymns of praise eternally.

Order of Service:

Service of the Word (p.38)

- M: The grace of our Lord (+) Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.
- C: And also with you.

Confession of Sins

- M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.
- C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.
- M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give us strength to live according to his will.
- C: Amen.

Prayer and Praise

- **M:** In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.
- C: (Sing) Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
 Blessed are they who take refuge in him.
 Your Word, O Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.
 Your faithfulness continues forever.
 Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good.
 Blessed are they who take refuge in him.

Prayer of the Day

M: 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.

C: (sing) Amen.

First Lesson

Isaiah 52:1-6 EHV

God's people were in dust and ashes - suffering exile because of their sins. "Awake!" the prophet cries. The LORD was coming soon to redeem his people.

Wake, awake!

Clothe yourself with strength, O Zion.

Put on your beautiful garments,

Jerusalem, you holy city,

for never again will the uncircumcised and the unclean enter you.

²Shake off the dust.

Get up and take your seat, Jerusalem. Loosen the chains from your neck,

you captive daughter of Zion.

³Yes, this is what the LORD says.

You were sold for nothing,

and you will be redeemed without money.

⁴Yes, this is what the LORD God says.

In the beginning, my people went down to Egypt to stay there for a while.

Later Assyria oppressed them without cause.

- ⁵Now what do I have here? declares the LORD.
- Indeed, my people have been taken away for nothing.
- Their rulers howl with mockery, declares the LORD.
- My name is continually despised all day.
- ⁶Therefore my people will know my name.
- So on that day they will know that I am the one—

the one who is saying, "Here I am!"





Lord, you have been our <u>dwelling place</u>* throughout all gener<u>a</u>tions.

Before the mountains were born

or you brought forth the earth <u>and</u> the world,*

from everlasting to everlasting <u>you</u> are God.

For a thousand years in your sight are like a day

that has just gone by,*

or like a watch in the night.

Refrain

You have set our iniquities be<u>fore</u> you,* our secret sins in the light of your <u>pres</u>ence.

You turn mortals back to dust.*

You sweep them away in the <u>sleep</u> of death.

The length of our days is seventy years—

or eighty, if we <u>have</u> the strength;* yet their span is but trouble and <u>sor</u>row.

Teach us to number our <u>days</u> aright,* that we may gain a heart of <u>wis</u>dom.

Refrain

Satisfy us in the morning with your un<u>failing love</u>,*

that we may sing for joy and be glad <u>all</u> our days.

Glory be to the Father and <u>to</u> 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 5:1-11 EHV

St. Paul teaches how we should wait for Jesus to return. Be watchful. Don't fall asleep. Live as children of the light.

Concerning the times and dates, brothers, there is no need to write to you, ²for you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³When people are saying, "Peace and security," destruction will suddenly come on them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will certainly not escape. ⁴But you, brothers, are not in the dark so that this day takes you by surprise like a thief, ⁵for you are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep like everyone else, but rather let us remain alert and sober.

⁷To be sure, those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. ⁹You see, God did not appoint us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. ¹⁰He died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. ¹¹Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are also doing.

Verse of the Day

Alleluia. Alleluia. Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. Alleluia. (Matthew 24:42)

C: (sing) Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

<u>Gospel</u>

Matthew 25:1-13 EHV

Those who are watching and ready for the Bridegroom enter into the wedding banquet.

"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish ones took their lamps, they did not take any oil with them; ⁴but the wise took oil in their containers with their lamps. ⁵While the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' ⁷Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.' ⁹But 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.' ¹⁰But 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. ¹¹Later, the other virgins also came and said, 'Lord, Lord, let us in.' ¹²But he answered, 'Amen I tell you: I do not know you.' ¹³Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

C: (sing) Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn CW 7 - 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.

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.

3 You saints, who here in patience Your cross and suff'rings bore, Shall live and reign forever When sorrow is no more. Around the throne of glory The Lamb you shall behold; In triumph lay before him Your shining crowns of gold.

4 Arise, Desire of nations; O Jesus, now appear,
The Hope and Expectation Of ev'ry Christian here.
With hearts and hands uplifted We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption That sets your people free.

<u>Sermon</u>

Isaiah 52:1-6. . . Our great Cinderella story:

- 1) Enslaved by Satan, hopelessly oppressed,
- 2) The LORD came to our rescue, in His righteousness we're dressed.

Apostles Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary,

suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting. Amen.

Offertory Prayer

Prayer of the Church

M: Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord; O Lord, hear our voices.

C: Let your ears be attentive to our cries for mercy.

M: Heavenly Father, we confess with sorrow that we have sinned and deserve only your anger and punishment.

C: If you kept a record of our sins, we would surely be lost.

M: We confess with joy that your unfailing love has redeemed us.

C: Our hope is in you and in your full redemption.

M: Around us we see the birth pangs of the last days: war, famine, earthquakes, false prophets, spiritual apathy.

C: Use these signs to remind us that we do not know the day or hour when Christ will come again.

- M: Keep us faithful to your Word; send your Spirit to strengthen our faith so that we are always prepared for your Son's return as judge.
- C: Make us faithful in sharing your Word, and cause many more to put their hope in you before the end comes.
- M: Build our fellowship of love as brothers and sisters in faith.

C: Help us support one another when trials and troubles come our way.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

Remembrance Day Prayer

Gracious Heavenly Father, we come before You in thanksgiving for the freedoms You have provided for us for our nation. We especially thank You for the many men and women who have served in our nation's armed forces and for the sacrifices they have made to protect us and our freedoms. We ask You to watch over all who currently serve us in the military. Protect them from physical harm, give peace in Christ to all those who believe, and bring to faith those who do not yet have faith in Jesus. We ask these things in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

M: Heavenly Father, we eagerly wait for Jesus to come again and make all things new. May he find us, whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life, faithfully enduring to the end, through the power of your Holy Spirit.

C: Come, Lord Jesus. May your grace be with us. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

- C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.
- M: O Lord God, our heavenly Father, pour out the Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep us strong in your grace and truth, protect and comfort us in all temptation, and bestow on us your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

or

Almighty God, we thank you for teaching us the things you want us to believe and do. Help us by your Holy Spirit to keep your Word in pure hearts that we may be strengthened in faith, guided in holiness, and comforted in life and in death, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: (sing) Amen.

The Blessing

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

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.

C: (sing) Amen. Amen. Amen.

<u>Hymn</u>

CW 219 - Lord, When Your Glory I Shall See

Lord, when your glory I shall see And taste your kingdom's pleasure, Your blood my royal robe shall be, My joy beyond all measure! When I appear before your throne, Your righteousness shall be my crown; With these I need not hide me. And there, in garments richly wrought, As your own bride I shall be brought To stand in joy beside you.

DIVINE WORD'S TWO-WEEK CALENDAR

| Su (12) | 9:00 am 10:30 am 11:30 am 12:00 pm Afternoon | Sunday School and Bible Class Worship Coffee Hour Divine Sisters Meeting (Elections) Christmas Float assembly |
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| We (15) | 6:30 pm | "Test the Spirits" Bible Information Class. |
| Th (16) | 6:00 pm 6:30 pm | Illuminé (at St. Paul's) Youth Confirmation (W) |
| Fr (17) | 3:00 pm 4:30 pm 6:30 pm | Women's Bible Study Youth Confirmation (D) Friday Fellowship |
| Sa (18) | 3:00 pm | Christmas Float Decoration |
| Su (19) | 9:00 am 10:30 am 11:30 am 3:00 pm 4:00 pm 5:30 pm | Sunday School and Bible Class Worship & Communion Coffee Hour Worship and Communion in Poltimore Christmas Parade Volunteers meet. Christmas Parade |
| Pastor will be in the US from November 20 th -29 th . If you need to contact him during that time, please use his US phone number (512) 887-8982 | | |
| Th (23) | 6:00 pm | Illuminé (at St. Paul's) |
| Su (26) | 10:30 am 11:30 am | Lay lead Worship Coffee Hour |

Announcements

Christmas Parade Prep

We could use your help preparing our living nativity float for the Christmas parade. Here are some dates to keep in mind if you are willing to help.

November 12 - Float assembly

November 18 - Float decorating

November 19 – Volunteers to arrive around 4-4:30 pm, The Parade starts at 5:30pm

Church Cleaners:

November 19 - Matthew // November 26 - Andrew



Divine Word Evangelical Lutheran Church

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