Old Testament Reading: Amos 5:18–24

18 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,

19 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.

20 Is not the day of the LORD darkness,
and not light,
and gloom with no brightness in

21 "I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

22 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.

23 Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen.

24 But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an everflowing stream."

Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

13But 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. ¹⁴For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵For 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. ¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷Then 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. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

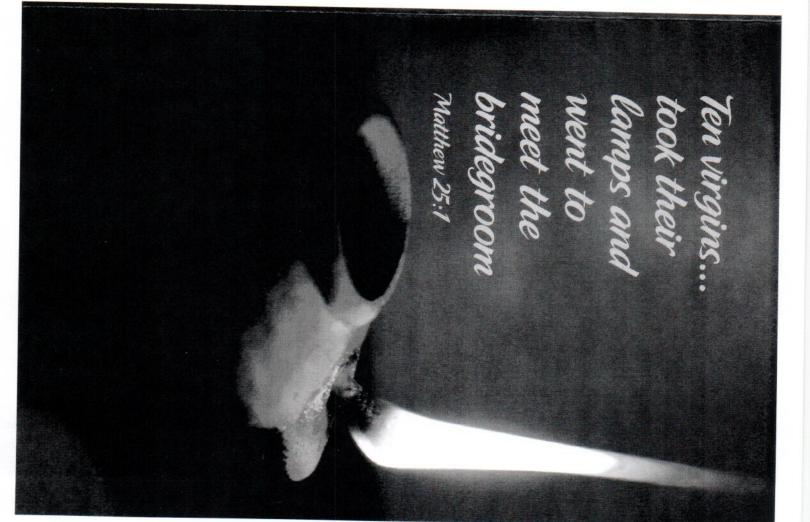
Holy Gospel: Matthew 25:1-13

know you.' 13Watch therefore, for you answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know neither the day nor the hour." saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' 12But he ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, to buy, the bridegroom came, and those marriage feast, and the door was shut. who were ready went in with him to the yourselves.' 10And while they were going ⁹But the wise answered, saying, 'Since of your oil, for our lamps are going out. and slept. 6But at midnight there was a you, go rather to the dealers and buy for there will not be enough for us and for foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some rose and trimmed their lamps. 8And the cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out was delayed, they all became drowsy to meet him.' 7Then all those virgins with their lamps. 5As the bridegroom them, 4but the wise took flasks of oil took their lamps, they took no oil with five were wise. 3For when the foolish groom. ²Five of them were foolish, and will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bride-1[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven



Pentecosu

About the Cover: The Bridegroom is coming. This is a time to be vigilant and ready. As we near the end of the Church Year, Jesus' parable is a call to be prepared for His second coming. We do not know the time. But we have the Word of the Lord to guide us in the truth as we wait. His Word has illumined His promises of life and salvation to us.



TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

NOVEMBER 8, 2020

unless indicated otherwise. Please stand at the appropriate times. The HYMNS are from the Lutheran Service Book (Maroon Book),

THE ORGAN PRELUDE

THE WELCOME

THE OPENING HYMN NO. 516 - "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" (Please stand to sing stanza 3)

THE INVOCATION AND CONFESSION

- P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit
- P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us
- 0 But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins (Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.) and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.
- P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.
- 0 Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. holy name. Amen. we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our We have sinned against You in thought, word and deed, by what we have
- P Almighty God in His mercy has given His only Son to die for you and for His and of the Holy Spirit. I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of the Word
- C: Amen.

THE INTROIT (Pastor and Congregation chant alternately)

- P: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, at Your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King / and my God where she may / lay her young,*
- C: How lovely is Your / dwelling place,* O / LORD of hosts!
- C: For a day in Your courts is better than a thousand / elsewhere.* P: Behold our shield, / O God;* look on the face of Your a- / nointed! I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of / wickedness
- P: For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and / honor.* No good thing does He withhold from those who walk up-/rightly
- C: O / LORD of hosts,* blessed is the one who / trusts in You!
- P: Glory be to the Father and / to the Son* and to the Holy / Spirit; as it was in the be-/ginning,* is now, and will be forever. / Amen.
- C: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, at Your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King / and my God. where she may / lay her young,

THE KYRIE

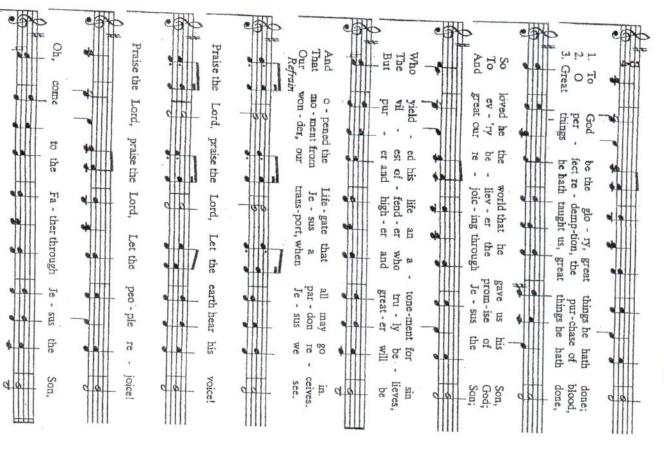
- P: In peace let us pray to the Lord
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- P: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God. and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord
- C: Lord, have mercy.
- P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord

THE HYMN OF PRAISE - "To God Be the Glory" (See page 3)

To God Be the Glory

Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

William H. Doane, 1832-1915



THE SALUTATION AND COLLECT

The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you

P: Let us pray. Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, now and forever. His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may

Amen. (Be seated)

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING: Amos 5:18-24

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE GRADUAL (Pastor and Congregation chant alternately)

These are the ones coming out of the great tribu- / lation.* They have washed their robes and made them white in the blood / of the Lamb.

0 Blessed are those whose strength is / in you,* in whose heart are the highways to / Zion.

THE EPISTLE LESSON: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

P: This is the Word of the Lord Thanks be to God.

0

THE ALLELUIA VERSE

You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia, alleluia. Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

THE GOSPEL ACCOUNT: Matthew 25:1-13

- C: Glory to You, O Lord.
- P. This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C: Praise to You, O Christ.

And

give him

the

glo - ry, great things he

hath

done.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth

to judge the quick and the dead. He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven And sitteth on Holy Ghost, Born of the Virgin Mary; Suffered under Pontius Pilate, the right hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence He shall come Was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; The third day And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the

of saints; the forgiveness of sins; The resurrection of the body; And the life everlasting. Amen. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy Christian Church, the communion

(Please be seated after making confession of our faith)

THE SERMON HYMN NO. 508 - "The Day Is Surely Drawing Near" (Please stand to sing stanza 7)

THE SERMON - "Playing With Fire." Text: Matthew 25:1-13

THE OFFERTORY

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; Cast me not away from Thy presence; Create in me a clean heart, O God, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen. and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. and renew a right spirit within me.

THE PRAYERS

Congregation to respond with "Hear our prayer." After each petition the pastor will say "Lord, in Your mercy."

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

0 Amen. (Please be scated)

THE CLOSING HYMN NO. 515 - "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

FOLLOWING THE CLOSE OF THE WORSHIP SERVICE. HOLY COMMUNION WILL BE CELEBRATED

THE REST OF THE CONGREGATION. IF YOU ARE LEAVING, ASKED TO COME FORWARD AFTER PASTOR DISMISSES THOSE WHO WISH TO RECEIVE COMMUNION WILL BE PLEASE DO SO AS QUIETLY AS POSSIBLE.

+ + + + + + + + + + +

The Presiding Minister - Rev. James A. Haugen, Jr.

The Assistant

The Organist

John Gallagher

Karen Kostelnik

The Head Usher

Steve Szucs

Caring for the Altar

Louise Allen and Martha Prok

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH Pastor Haugen Cell " 440/376-6275 Church Office 440/234-5806