

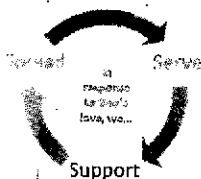
# CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## MISSION STATEMENT:

In response to God's love for us, we SERVE God,  
SUPPORT Christian fellowship,  
And SPREAD the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people

Volume 76

November 8, 2020

No. 45

## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

9:00 AM

**AS WE GATHER** – We hear today these words from the apostle Paul concerning everlasting life: "We will always be with the Lord." Our Lord makes His presence known today in His Word and in the Lord's Supper. You have the assurance that when Jesus returns, you will spend everlasting life in His gracious presence.

**PRESERVICE MUSIC** "Wake, Awake"

by Paul Manz

## WELCOME

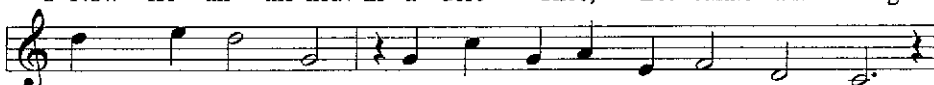
♩ [Means please stand; ♪ Means please be seated]

♩ **OPENING HYMN** Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

LSB 516



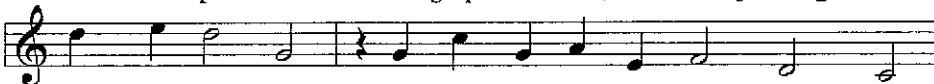
1 "Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing," The watch - men on the  
2 Zi - on hears the watch-men sing - ing, And all her heart with  
3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore Thee, Let saints and an - gels



heights are cry - ing; "A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"  
joy is spring - ing; She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
sing be - fore Thee With harp and cym - bals' clear - est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es And at the thrill - ing  
For her Lord comes down all - glo - rious, The strong in grace, in  
Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, Where, join - ing with the



cry re - joic - es: "Oh, where are ye, ye vir - gins wise?  
truth vic - to - rious; Her star is ris'n, her light is come.  
choir im - mor - tal, We gath - er round Thy ra - diant throne.

The Bride - groom comes, a - wake!      Your lamps with glad - ness take!  
 Now come, Thou Bless - ed One,      Lord Je - sus, God's own Son,  
 No eye has seen the light,      No ear has heard the might

Al - le - lu - ia! With brid - al care Your - selves pre - pare  
 Hail! Ho - san - na! We en - ter all The wed - ding hall  
 Of Thy glo - ry; There - fore will we E - ter - nal - ly

To meet the Bride - groom, who is near."  
 To eat the Sup - per at Thy call.  
 Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

Text and tune: Public domain

## INVOCATION & OPENING SENTENCES

- P** *In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*      **G** **Amen.**
- P** *Make haste, O God, to deliver us!*
- C** **O Lord, make haste to help us!**
- P** *May all who seek the Lord rejoice and be glad in Him!*
- C** **May we say evermore, "God is great!"**
- P** *For Christ is coming soon.*
- C** **Soon, He will descend from the heavens.**
- P** *Soon, He will raise the dead.*
- C** **And we will always be with the Lord.**
- P** *He is our help and our deliverer.*
- C** **O Lord, do not delay!**

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

- P** *Indeed, Christ is coming soon to raise the dead and bring us into everlasting life with Him. Yet there are times when we have lived as if Christ's return was not important and not imminent. Yet, our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness.*

[Silence for reflection.]

- P** *Heavenly Father,*
- C** **we confess that we have ignored You and our neighbors in need. We have sinned in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have failed by our inactivity. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, O Lord, that we might be encouraged by Your presence and forgiven of our sin.**
- P** *God hears your confession and has promised to always be with you. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.*
- C** **Amen. We are forgiven. We look for the return of Jesus.**

## INTROIT

*Psalm 84:1, 9–12; antiphon: v. 3*

- P** *Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,*
- C** **at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.**
- P** *How lovely is your dwelling place,*
- C** **O LORD of hosts!**
- P** *Behold our shield, O God;*
- C** **look on the face of your anointed!**
- P** *For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.*
- C** **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.*
- C** **No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.**
- P** *O LORD of hosts,*
- C** **blessèd is the one who trusts in you!**
- All:** **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.**
- P** *Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,*
- C** **at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.**

## SALUTATION & COLLECT OF THE DAY

- P** *The Lord be with you.*
- C** **And also with you.**
- P** *Let us pray.*

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

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

*Amos 5:18–24*

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

- P** *This is the Word of the Lord.*      **C** **Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE LESSON

*1 Thessalonians 4:13–18*

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

- P** *This is the Word of the Lord.*      **C** **Thanks be to God.**

## ALLELUIA VERSE

*Matthew 25:13*

**All:** Alleluia. Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour. Alleluia.

## HOLY GOSPEL

*Matthew 25:1–13*

- P** *The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.*

**C** **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(lesson is on the last page of the bulletin)

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



1 Lo! He comes with clouds de - scend - ing,  
 2 Ev - 'ry eye shall now be - hold Him  
 3 Those dear to - kens of His pas - sion  
 4 Yea, a - men, let all a - dore Thee,



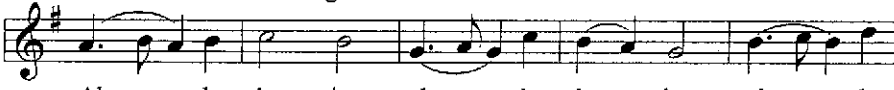
Once for ev - 'ry sin - ner slain;  
 Robed in glo - rious maj - es - ty;  
 Still His daz - zling bod - y bears,  
 High on Thine e - ter - nal throne;



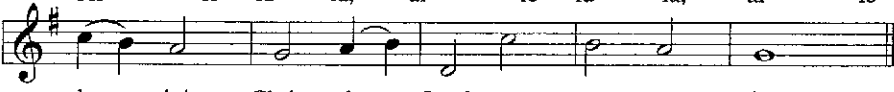
Thou - sand thou - sand saints at - tend - ing  
 Those who set at naught and sold Him,  
 Cause of end - less ex - ul - ta - tion  
 Sav - ior, take the pow'r and glo - ry,



Swell the tri - umph of His train:  
 Pierced and nailed Him to the tree,  
 To His ran - somed wor - ship - ers.  
 Claim the king - dom as Thine own.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -  
 Deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly wail - ing, deep - ly  
 With what rap - ture, with what rap - ture, with what  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le -



lu - ia! Christ the Lord re - turns to reign.  
 wail - ing, Shall their true Mes - si - ah see.  
 rap - ture Gaze we on those glo - rious scars!  
 lu - ia! Thou shalt reign, and Thou a - lone!

Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

“MEETING THE BRIDEGROOM”

Matthew 25:1-13

- I. Jesus tells a parable where five young bridesmaids are unprepared for the arrival of the bridegroom.
- II. Through Word and Sacrament, God Himself prepares us for the coming of the Church's bridegroom, Jesus Christ.

## **♫ APOSTLE'S CREED**

- C** I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And 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 sits 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.

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

- P** *Lord, You are our help and deliverer and to You we bring the prayers and petitions of Your people, that You may grant to us all things good and needful and guard us against all things evil and harmful. That the Lord would rule over the darkness and shine His light over all the earth, that those from many nations may be united as one people through Baptism and live together in faith, by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us pray to the Lord:*
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *That the Lord would grant us wisdom and courage, that we may be prepared at all times to receive Him when He comes in His glory and that we may not be distracted by earthly glories that fade away or disillusioned by earthly disappointments, which will come to an end, let us pray to the Lord:*
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *That the governments of the world and our leaders would act justly and with mercy, that we may be spared war and violence, and that we may use wisely and for the Lord's glory His gift of liberty and the abundant blessings He has poured out on our land, let us pray to the Lord:*
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *That the Lord would give aid and comfort to the sick, the suffering and those in their last days, that He may grant healing according to His will and strength to bear up under the weight of loneliness or affliction, [we pray especially for \_\_\_\_\_,] let us pray to the Lord:*
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *That we may find a home within the house of the Lord here on earth, that we may rejoice in the Lord's Word and Sacraments by which we are brought to faith and nurtured in this faith, and that we may be sustained in the days of waiting, serving the Lord in anticipation of His return, let us pray to the Lord:*
- C** **Lord, have mercy.**
- P** *That the Lord may hear and answer the prayers of His people and that we may be content with His answer, trusting in His Fatherly will and wisdom to grant us all that we need and all that will profit our salvation, let us pray in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord.*
- C** **Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

- P** *O Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:*
- C** **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.**

## BENEDICTION

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

**C** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

### *Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers*

LSB 515



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride - groom near;  
3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'ings bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.  
Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.  
Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor - row is no more.  
A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.  
A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride - groom is at hand.  
In tri - umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.  
The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

Text and tune: Public domain

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## POSTLUDE

### *"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"*

by Jeffrey Blersch

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