

The Congregation at Prayer

For the week of *The Last Sunday of the Church Year*

Sunday, November 25, 2018 through Saturday, December 1, 2018

“By Faith We Are Prepared for Christ’s Return”

Isaiah 65:17-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11; Matthew 25:1-13

“The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night” (1 Thessalonians 5:1–11). The arrival of the Bridegroom will be sudden and unexpected. Therefore you are to be watchful and ready like the five wise virgins. **“For you know neither the day nor the hour”** when the Son of Man is to return. (Matthew 25:1–13). The lamps are the Word of Christ. The oil in the lamps is the Holy Spirit, who works through the Word to create and sustain the flame of faith in Christ. The foolish are those who do not give proper attention to the working of the Holy Spirit in baptism, preaching, and the supper, and so their faith does not endure. The wise, however, are those who diligently attend to these gifts of the Spirit, and who therefore have an abundance of oil. The flame of faith endures to the end. By God’s grace they are received into the eternal wedding feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, the new heavens and the new earth created by the Lord for the joy of His people (Isaiah 65:17–25).

INVOCATION (*make the sign of the holy cross and say*)

In the Name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

THE APOSTLES CREED

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 is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence 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.

PSALM Psalm 149

THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION

Article IX: Of Baptism

See *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions*, pp. 35, 152-153

DAILY READINGS

Sunday, November 25: Daniel 5:1-6:28
Revelation 21:9-27

Monday, November 26: Daniel 7:1-9:27
Revelation 22:1-21

Tuesday, November 27: Isaiah 1:1-28
1 Peter 1:1-12

Wednesday, November 28: Isaiah 2:1-4:6
1 Peter 1:13-25

Thursday, November 29: Isaiah 5:1-30 [*Amos 1:1-9:15*]
1 Peter 2:1-12

Friday, November 30: Isaiah 6:1-7:9

1 Peter 2:13-25

Saturday, December 1: Isaiah 7:10-8:8

1 Peter 3:1-22

HYMN

Wake, Awake, For Night Is Flying

LSB 516:1,3

**“Wake, awake, for night is flying,”
The watchmen on the hills are crying;
“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”
Midnight hears the welcome voices
And at the thrilling cry rejoices:
“Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes, awake!
Your lamps with gladness take!
Alleluia! With bridal care
Yourselves prepare
To meet the Bridegroom who is near.”**

**Now let all the heav’ns adore Thee,
Let saints and angels sing before Thee
With harp and cymbals’ clearest tone
Of one pearl each shining portal,
Where, joining with the choir immortal
We gather round Thy radiant throne.
No eye has seen the light,
No ear has heard the might
Of Thy glory; Therefore will we
Eternally
Sing hymns of joy and praise to Thee!**

PRAYERS

O Lord, absolve Your people from their offenses that, from the bonds of our sins which by reason of our frailty we have brought upon ourselves, we may be delivered by Your bountiful goodness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

O Lord, look down from Heaven. Behold, visit, and relieve Your servants who stand in need of our prayers: **[insert the names of family members, friends, church members, government officials, etc.]** Look upon them with the eyes of Your mercy. Grant them comfort and sure confidence in You. Defend them from all danger, and keep them in perpetual peace and safety, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

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.

MORNING PRAYER

I thank You, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your Dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

EVENING PRAYER

I thank You, my Heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your Dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins, where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit † be with us all. Amen.

LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT SUNDAY: *Ad Te Levavi (Advent 1)*

Jeremiah 23:5-8

Psalm 24

Romans 13:8-14

Matthew 21:1-9

Hymn of the Day

Savior of the Nations, Come

LSB 332