



# *St. John's Lutheran Church*

1000 Bluff St., Beloit, WI 53511  
[www.stjohnsbeloit.com](http://www.stjohnsbeloit.com)

**“Sharing the good news of forgiveness and eternal life  
through Jesus Christ.”**

***November 22, 2020***

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or dispose of it in our recycling bin.  
Thank you.*

## LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

**Isaiah 65:17–25**

**1 Thessalonians 5:1–11**

**Matthew 25:1–13**

### ***By Faith We Are Prepared for Christ's Return***

“The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night” (1 Thess. 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. (Matt. 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 (Is. 65:17–25).

### **Silent Preservice Meditation and Prayer**

*Blessed Lord, you have caused all Holy Scripture to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and the comfort of your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

### **Music for Reflection**

#### **Announcements**

### **Gathering Hymn**

#### **You Satisfy the Hungry Heart**

**641**

- ref You satisfy the hungry heart  
With gift of finest wheat.  
Come give to us, O saving Lord,  
The bread of life to eat.
- 1 As when the shepherd calls his sheep,  
They know and heed his voice;  
So when You call Your fam’ly, Lord,  
We follow and rejoice. Refrain
- 2 With joyful lips we sing to You  
Our praise and gratitude  
That You should count us worthy, Lord,  
To share this heav’nly food. Refrain
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share  
The blood of Christ outpoured?  
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare  
Our oneness in the Lord? Refrain
- 4 The myst’ry of Your presence, Lord,  
No mortal tongue can tell:  
Whom all the world cannot contain  
Comes in our hearts to dwell. Refrain
- 5 You give Yourself to us, O Lord;  
Then selfless let us be,  
To serve each other in Your name  
In truth and charity. Refrain

## Confession and Forgiveness

*Stand*

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**C** **who made heaven and earth.**

**P** If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**C** **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

**P** Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**C** **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

**P** Almighty God, merciful Father, in Holy Baptism You declared us to be Your children and gathered us into Your one, holy Church, in which You daily and richly forgive us our sins and grant us new life through Your Spirit. Be in our midst, enliven our faith, and graciously receive our prayer and praise; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## Service of the Word

Lord, Have Mercy (Kyrie)

*LSB 204*

**C** Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy.

Glory to God in the Highest (Gloria in Excelsis)

*LSB 204*

**C** 1 To God on high be glory  
And peace to all the earth;  
Goodwill from God in heaven  
Proclaimed at Jesus' birth!  
We praise and bless You, Father;  
Your holy name, we sing—  
Our thanks for Your great glory,  
Lord God, our heav'nly King.

2 To You, O sole-begotten,  
The Father's Son, we pray;  
O Lamb of God, our Savior,  
You take our sins away.  
Have mercy on us, Jesus;  
Receive our heartfelt cry,  
Where You in pow'r are seated  
At God's right hand on high—

**3 For You alone are holy;  
You only are the Lord.  
Forever and forever,  
Be worshiped and adored;  
You with the Holy Spirit  
Alone are Lord Most High,  
In God the Father's glory.  
"Amen!" our glad reply.**

### **Salutation and Prayer of the Day**

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

**P** Let us pray.

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.

**C** **Amen.**

*Sit*

### **Old Testament Reading**

*Isaiah 65:17-25*

<sup>17</sup>Watch this, I am about to create new heavens and a new earth,  
and the former things will not be remembered,  
and they will not come to mind.

<sup>18</sup>Instead, rejoice and celebrate forever because of what I am creating.  
Watch this, I am about to create Jerusalem to be a source of gladness,  
and her people will be a source of joy.

<sup>19</sup>I also will be glad because of Jerusalem,  
and I will rejoice over my people.

The sound of weeping will not be heard again in her,  
nor will the sound of crying.

<sup>20</sup>There will never again be an infant there who lives for only a few days,  
or an elderly man who does not fill out all his days,  
for one who dies at a hundred will be considered a young man,  
and one who fails to attain a hundred years old will be regarded as cursed.

<sup>21</sup>Then they will build houses and inhabit them.

They will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

<sup>22</sup>They will not build a house and have another person live in it.

They will not plant and have another person eat the crop,  
for the days of my people will be like the days of a tree,  
and my chosen ones will enjoy all the work of their hands.

<sup>23</sup>They will not toil in vain,  
and they will not give birth to children doomed to disaster,  
for they will be offspring who are blessed by the LORD,  
and their descendants will be with them.

<sup>24</sup>Then it will happen that even before they call, I will answer;  
while they are still speaking, I will hear.

<sup>25</sup>The wolf and the lamb will graze together,  
and the lion will eat straw like cattle,  
but the serpent will eat dust as its food.

They will not harm or destroy on all my holy mountain,  
says the LORD.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## New Testament/Epistle

**1 Thessalonians 5:1–11**

Concerning the times and dates, brothers, there is no need to write to you, <sup>2</sup>for you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When 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. <sup>4</sup>But you, brothers, are not in the dark so that this day takes you by surprise like a thief, <sup>5</sup>for you are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not sleep like everyone else, but rather let us remain alert and sober.

<sup>7</sup>To be sure, those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But 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. <sup>9</sup>You see, God did not appoint us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>10</sup>He died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are also doing.

**P** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## Anthem

*Stand*

## Alleluia and Verse

**C** Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

**C** These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God.

**C** Alleluia, alleluia, 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.

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

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to You, O Christ.

## Nicene Creed

**C** I believe in one God,  
the Father Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth  
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,  
the only-begotten Son of God,  
begotten of His Father before all worlds,  
God of God, Light of Light,  
very God of very God,

**begotten, not made,  
being of one substance with the Father,  
by whom all things were made;  
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven  
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary  
and was made man;  
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered and was buried.  
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures  
and ascended into heaven  
and sits at the right hand of the Father.  
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,  
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord and giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,  
who spoke by the prophets.  
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,  
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,  
and I look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life + of the world to come. Amen.**

*Sit*

**Message Hymn**

**Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying**

**516**

- 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 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."
  
- 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, Thou Blessèd One,  
Lord Jesus, God's own Son,  
Hail! Hosanna!  
We enter all  
The wedding hall  
To eat the Supper at Thy call.

- 3 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 praise and joy to Thee!  
(Text: Public domain)

### Children's Message Message

### “The Lord Jesus Will Return”

*Stand*

### Prayers of the Church

**P.** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

*Brief silence*

**P.** Almighty and eternal God, worthy to be held in reverence by all people everywhere, we give You humble and sincere thanks for the innumerable blessings that You have bestowed on us without any merit or worthiness on our part. We praise You especially for preserving for us Your saving Word and Holy Sacraments. Grant and preserve to Your Holy Church throughout the world purity of doctrine, and provide faithful pastors to preach Your Word with power. Help all who hear the Word rightly to understand and truly to believe it. Send laborers into Your harvest, and open the door of faith to those who do not know You. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

**P.** Loving God, bestow Your grace on all nations of the earth. Bless especially our country, its inhabitants and all who are in authority. Let Your glory dwell in our land, that mercy and truth, righteousness and peace may abound in all places. Bless also all who serve in our armed forces, that they may serve with integrity and honor. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

**P.** Compassionate Lord, graciously defend us from all calamity by fire and water, from war and pestilence, from scarcity and famine, and from every other evil. Protect and prosper all who labor in their rightful callings, and let all useful arts flourish among us. Be the God and Father of the lonely and the forsaken, the helper of the sick and needy, the comforter of the distressed and those who sorrow. Look with mercy especially upon those who have requested our prayers, including the family and friends of Dorothy Smith, those whom we have named on our prayer list, and those we now name in the thoughts of our hearts . . . . . that they may ever cling to Jesus as their sure and certain hope. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C. hear our prayer.**

**P.** Father, as we are strangers and pilgrims on earth, help us by true faith and a godly life to prepare for the world to come, doing the work You have given us to do while it is day, before the night comes when no one can work. And when our last hour comes, support us by Your power and receive us into Your heavenly Kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C. Amen.**

## **Blessing (Benediction)**

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

*(Internet livestreaming ends here)*

*Sit*

## **Offering**

### **Service of the Sacrament**

*Stand*

#### **Preface**

**LSB 208**

- P** The Lord be with you.  
**C** **And also with you.**
- P** Lift up your hearts.  
**C** **We lift them to the Lord.**
- P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**C** **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**
- P** It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

#### **Holy, Holy, Holy (Sanctus)**

**LSB 208**

- C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

#### **Lord's Prayer**

- 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.**

## **The Words of Our Lord**

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”

## **Peace of the Lord (Pax Domini)**

- P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** Amen.

## **Lamb of God (Agnus Dei) LSB 210**

- C** 1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.
- 2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

*Sit*

## **Receiving the Lord's Supper**

*The pastor and those who assist him receive the body and blood of Christ first and then distribute them to those who come to receive, saying:*

Take, eat; this is the true body of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, given into death for your sins.  
**Amen.**

Take, drink; this is the true blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins.  
**Amen.**

*In dismissing the communicants, the following is said:*

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart + in peace.  
**C** Amen.

*Stand*

## **Song of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis)**

**LSB 211**

- C** 1 O Lord, now let Your servant  
Depart in heav'nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory  
Of Your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles  
Unto Your holy hill,  
The glory of Your people,  
Your chosen Israel.

**2 All glory to the Father,  
All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit,  
Forever Three in One;  
For as in the beginning,  
Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding  
Through all eternity.**

**Post-Communion Prayer**

**P** Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C Amen.**

**Blessing (Benedicamus)**

*LSB 212*

**P** Let us bless the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

**Blessing (Benediction)**

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

**C Amen.**

**Closing Hymn**

**The Tree of Life**

**561**

- 1 The tree of life with ev'ry good  
In Eden's holy orchard stood,  
And of its fruit so pure and sweet  
God let the man and woman eat.  
Yet in this garden also grew  
Another tree, of which they knew;  
Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned  
Against whose eating God had warned.
- 2 The stillness of that sacred grove  
Was broken, as the serpent strove  
With tempting voice Eve to beguile  
And Adam too by sin defile.  
O day of sadness when the breath  
Of fear and darkness, doubt and death,  
Its awful poison first displayed  
Within the world so newly made.
- 3 What mercy God showed to our race,  
A plan of rescue by His grace:  
In sending One from woman's seed,  
The One to fill our greatest need—  
For on a tree uplifted high  
His only Son for sin would die,  
Would drink the cup of scorn and dread  
To crush the ancient serpent's head!

- 4 Now from that tree of Jesus' shame  
Flows life eternal in His name;  
For all who trust and will believe,  
Salvation's living fruit receive.  
And of this fruit so pure and sweet  
The Lord invites the world to eat,  
To find within this cross of wood  
The tree of life with ev'ry good.

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### **Music for Reflection**

### **Acknowledgments**

Divine Service, Setting Four from Lutheran Service Book

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## **For announcements, please see this week's Communicator**

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### **Communion Practices of this Congregation**

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at St. John's every Sunday in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord Jesus gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes. Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor or an elder. In addition to the members of this congregation, visitors from our sister LCMS congregations and other Lutheran denominations with whom we enjoy altar fellowship are invited to join us at the Lord's Table. For further study, please see Matthew 5:23; 10:32; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.