St. John's Lutheran Church

A congregation of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 8, 2026
8 a.m. Worship



TO VIEW THE SERVICE WHILE IT IS GOING ON LIVE … go to our Facebook Page https://www.facebook.com/sjlmidland/ Since this is a PUBLIC PAGE, you do not need to have a personal Facebook account in order to view the livestream.

The video of the service will be available for viewing on Facebook following the service so others can view it later.

Ready for the Bridegroom

On this Sunday, Jesus' parable of the ten virgins reminds us that His return is certain, even though we do not know the day or hour. The wise virgins were prepared and waiting for the bridegroom, while the others were caught unprepared. As we gather in worship today, may the Holy Spirit keep us watchful and steadfast in faith, trusting in Christ's promises and living each day in joyful expectation of His return.

Hymn

"Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" *LSB 515*

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 The saints, who here in patience
Their cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever
When sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
The Lamb they shall behold;
In triumph cast before Him
Their diadems of gold.

4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, O Sun so longed for,
O'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption
That sets Your people free!

Text: Public domain

Invocation and Exhortation

P In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

Confession and Absolution

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ He gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. May the Lord, who has begun this good work in us, bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

Introit

Ps. 84:1, 9-12; antiphon: Ps. 84:3

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

How lovely is your dwelling place,
O LORD of hosts!

Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed!

For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

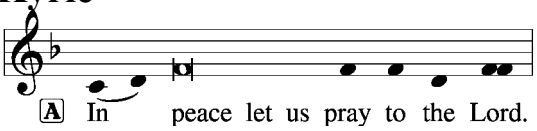
For the LORD God is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

O LORD of hosts,
blessèd is the one who trusts in you!

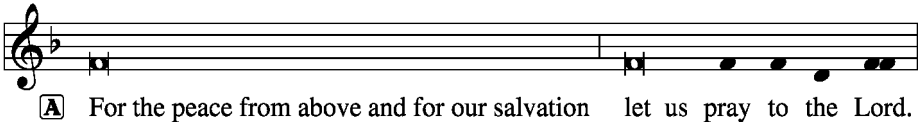
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

Kyrie









C **Lord, have mer - cy.**



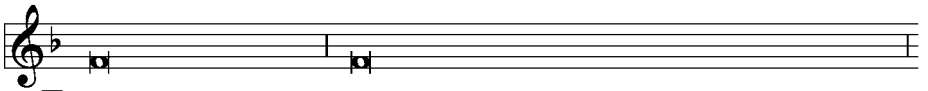
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



C **Lord, have mer - cy.**



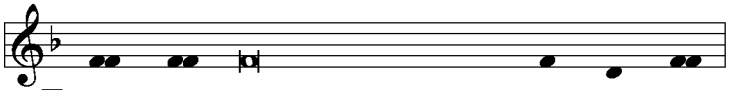
A For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise



let us pray to the Lord.



C **Lord, have mer - cy.**



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



Gloria in Excelsis











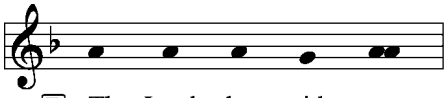






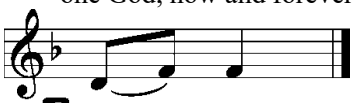


Salutation and Collect of the Day





P Let us pray.
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.



Old Testament Reading *Amos 5:18-24*

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, 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. Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? "I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. 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. Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

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

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

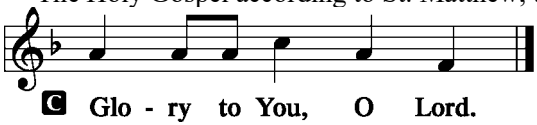
Common Alleluia and Verse



Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13

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



"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and

those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



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 sits 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 T **everlasting. Amen.**

Hymn

"Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" *LSB 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!

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Sermon

Offertory



Offering

Hymn

"O Blessed Spring" *LSB 595*

Prayer of the Church

The 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.

Benediction

P The Lord bless thee and keep thee.
The Lord make His face shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee.
The Lord lift up His countenance upon thee and T give thee peace.



Hymn

"The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us" *LSB 514*

1 The Bridegroom soon will call us,
"Come to the wedding feast."
May slumber not befall us
Nor watchfulness decrease.
May all our lamps be burning
With oil enough and more
That we, with Him returning,
May find an open door!

2 There shall we see in glory
Our dear Redeemer's face;
The long-awaited story
Of heav'nly joy takes place:
The patriarchs shall meet us,
The prophets' holy band;
Apostles, martyrs greet us
In that celestial land.

3 There God shall from all evil
Forever make us free,
From sin and from the devil,
From all adversity,
From sickness, pain, and sadness,
From troubles, cares, and fears,
And grant us heav'nly gladness
And wipe away our tears.

4 In that fair home shall never
Be silent music's voice;
With hearts and lips forever
We shall in God rejoice,
While angel hosts are raising
With saints from great to least
A mighty hymn for praising
The Giver of the feast.

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Announcements

Blessing and Dismissal

P May the Holy Spirit keep your faith burning brightly, strengthen you in hope, and preserve you in Christ until the day your Savior comes again in glory.

C Amen.

P Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

As we conclude, please feel free to stay for a few minutes if you would like to connect or chat with people Jesus has brought together today. Remember that we are all in this together!

Announcements

St. John's Lutheran School Board has begun the Call process to select a K-8 School Principal beginning July 1, 2027. We sincerely ask for your prayers that the Lord will guide us in this important process. The Board is also asking our congregation for help. If you know of a principal who is an excellent leader and think they would be interested, please send info to Darlene Jones, Board Chair, at darlene141516@gmail.com (1) Their name (2) Where they are serving

Poinsettia Sale The 7/8 grade students at St. John's will once again be selling Poinsettias from Boehler's Greenhouse. Sales will start at the Holiday Bazaar and run the month of November. Please contact a 7/8 grader for details or after church services starting in November.

Young Adult Meet Ups Monthly meet ups for mid-20s to mid-30s young adults continue this fall! Join us at Nord Social TODAY for a Detroit Lions watch party. Fliers are available in the Lounge with full details. Please consider those in your life who might be blessed by these events and share an invite with them!

Toddler Bible Time Parents/caregivers of toddlers (5 and under) are invited to join us for this new ministry! Once a month, we'll gather for a fun Bible time filled with a Bible lesson, games, and activities designed especially for toddlers and their caregivers.

4th-6th Grade Escape Room Join us on November 15 from 3:00-4:40 for a 4th - 6th Escape Room in the St. John's gym! Come and try to break the code before time runs out. These evenings are open to students in 4th through 6th grade for the 2026–2027 school year. Come enjoy a night of games, fun, and fellowship. **Please register by scanning the QR code.**

Advent Wreath Workshop Join us on Sunday, November 22 following the 10:45am worship service for an Advent wreath workshop. Families (of all ages and stages!) are invited to work together to create a wreath for their home to be used during devotional time throughout the season. Candles, wreath forms, greens, and devotional material provided. Please bring pruners or heavy scissors. Preregister in the Lounge or by scanning the QR code.

Midland Community Christmas Dinner Help us keep Christ in Christmas by sharing your time and talents! The Midland Community Christmas Dinner, hosted at St. John's on Christmas Day from **11 a.m.–3 p.m.**, provides a free meal to those in our community. Beginning **Saturday, November 14**, sign-up sheets will be available in **Alcove C (C is for Christmas!)**. Volunteers are needed on **December 23 and 25**, and food donations such as turkeys, potatoes, and salads are greatly appreciated. Last year, God provided 400 guests to share in this special meal. Will you help us answer the call to serve and share Christ's love with our community?

Altar flowers are given in loving memory of Herman and Viola Glawe by their family.