



¹³*“Keep awake therefore, for you know
neither the day nor the hour.” - Matthew 25:13*

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost – November 9, 2014
PO Box 411
Mars, PA 16046-0411
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Phone: 724-625-1830 email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org
Rev. Karen Battle, Guest Pastor
Jacob Gordon, Director of Music

*We welcome you to St. John Lutheran Church. We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning. Should you have no permanent church-home in this community, why not consider making this one your own? Please sign the guest book as you leave worship today or the attendance pad in the pew. You are most welcome here at St. John! Most elements of our service can be found in the bulletin, everything else is in the hymnal. Page refers to the numbered pages towards the front of the hymnal, hymns are bold and towards the back. Please rise when there is an *, congregational responses are in **bold**, and underlined elements of the service are found in the hymnal.*

HOLY COMMUNION

Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost– November 9, 2014

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

PRELUDE: *'It is Well with My Soul'* – Alice Jordan
 'Let Streams of Living Justice' – David Cherwien

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
the Sovereign over all the earth,
the Wisdom from on high,
our merciful Judge and Savior.

Amen.

Let us boldly approach the throne of grace,
trusting in God's mercy and love.

Generous and faithful God,
**we confess to you all the ways,
known and unknown,
that we reject and undermine your steadfast love.**
**Though you made us your people,
we treat strangers with suspicion.**
**Though you forgave our debts,
we collect without mercy.**
Yet we are quick to pass judgment on others.
**Have mercy on us, O God,
and remember your promise to us,
for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.**
Amen.

The grass withers, the flower fades,
but the word of our God will stand forever.
Through the living Word, + Jesus Christ,
God forgives your every debt, your every sin,
and gives you a new heart and a new spirit.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG #710: *Let Streams of Living Justice

***GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.
And also with you.

***HYMN OF PRAISE**



Glo - ry to God in the high -
est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.
Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and
Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we
praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,
Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the
right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.
For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a -
lone are the Lord, you a - lone are the Most High,
Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it, in the glo - ry of
God the Fa - ther. A - men.
Glo - ry to God in the high -
est, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son.

Give us the light we need, and awaken us to the needs of others, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING: Amos 5:18–24 (page 854 in Old Testament)

In the days of Amos people thought that the day of the Lord would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The Lord demands justice and righteousness in the community.

¹⁸Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD! Why do you want the day of the LORD? It is darkness, not light; ¹⁹as if someone fled from a lion, and was met by a bear; or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall, and was bitten by a snake.

²⁰Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? ²¹I hate, I despise your festivals, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

²²Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings, I will not accept them; and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals I will not look upon. ²³Take away from me the noise of your songs; I will not listen to the melody of your harps. ²⁴But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 70

1. Be pleased, O God, to save my life,
Make haste to bring me aid;
Let those who seek my life now be
Ashamed and most dismayed.

3. Let those who seek you, Lord, be glad
And let them all rejoice;
Let those who seek your saving grace
Praise you with every voice.

2. Let those who find their pleasure now
In gloating at my fall
Be soon disgraced and brought to shame
And turned back, one and all.

4. But I am poor and in great need;
Lord, come to me today;
My helper and deliverer,
O Lord, do not delay.

From: A New Metrical Psalter

Tune: Land of Rest

SECOND READING: 1Thessalonians 4:13-18 (page 204 in New Testament)

Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.

¹³But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so 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 died. ¹⁵For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. ¹⁶For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Keep awake and be ready, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.

***GOSPEL READING: Matthew 25:1–13** (page 28 in New Testament)

Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.

The holy gospel, according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a shout, 'Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' ⁷Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸The foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.' ⁹But the wise replied, 'No! There will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. ¹¹Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' ¹²But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I do not know you.' ¹³Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

**CHILDREN'S SERMON
SERMON**

HYMN OF THE DAY #436: *Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

***REMEMBERING THOSE WHO HAVE DIED**

In joyful expectation of the resurrection to eternal life, we remember those who have gone before us in faith and who now rest from their labors, especially those family members and friends who are dear to us: Kathy Allshouse, Kelly Billstone, Carmella Bulger, Charles & Anne Olescycki, Art & Aggie Pallan, Julia Wolfrum, Dene Arnold, Anna Hackworth, Nancy Schnelle, Susan Huber, Lois McLaughlin, Margaret Gurtner, Rudy Anusick, Roy Grise, Jr., Betty Grise, Jacob Lydon, Sam Gorseth, Richard Lydon, Edith Duffey, Cliff & Dorothy Foster, William & Laura Hespenheide, Harold Stang, Ruth Stang, Clara Mae Knauff, Henry Knauff, Myra & John Igersheim, Dennis Igersheim, Whitey & JoAnn Richards, Roy Page.

**As we remember these your children,
strengthen us to follow Christ through this world
until we are carried into the harvest of eternal life,
where suffering and death will be no more.**

Hear our prayer in the name of the good and gracious shepherd,
Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. **Amen.**

***NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Remembering the saints who have gone before us and giving thanks for God's blessings, we pray for the church, all in need, and God's good creation.

Holy God, we desire your wisdom and instruction. Fill our gatherings with your spirit of joy, that the church's daily work be life-giving. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Word of life, as you spoke this good creation into being, guide our actions and help us renew and protect the earth's resources. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Judge of the nations, guide us to bring down barriers so peace will flow over all nations like an ever-flowing stream. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Healer of our every ill, teach us to be watchful for people who need healing, especially for people whose needs are easily overlooked. Especially we pray for Jim, John, Robert, Frieda, Joe, Bill & Kathy, Jim, Raymond, George, Wanda Jean, Helen, Francis & Grace, Kathryn, Ed, Fred & Jane, and David & Ellen. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Righteous Teacher, guide our congregation that we will, in all circumstances, encourage one another with words of peace, forgiveness, and mercy. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Guardian of souls, lead this church as we search for a new pastor. Help our call committee and bishop in their work, and be with those seeking to know your call in their lives. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Eternal One, we give you thanks for all the saints who lived and died in faith. Grant us one day to know also the full measure of your eternal life. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive our prayers and hopes, Good Shepherd, and bring us safely into all joy and peace, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN #785: *When Peace Like a River*

(All stand for the final stanza as the gifts are brought forward)

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Merciful God, as grains of wheat scattered upon the hills were gathered together to become one bread, so let your church be gathered together from the ends of the earth into your kingdom, for yours is the glory through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

Amen.

***DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

***EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal:
surrounded by evil and bordered by death
we appeal to you,
our Sovereign, our Wisdom, and our Judge.

We praise you for Christ, who proclaimed your reign of peace
and promised an end to injustice and harm.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, therefore,
the sacrifice of his life and death
and the victory of his resurrection,
we await with all the saints
his loving redemption of our suffering world.

Send your Spirit on these gifts of bread and wine
and on all who share in the body and blood of your Son:
teach us your mercy and justice,
and make all things new in Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever. **Amen.**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

**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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The reign of God is at hand.

Come, taste the joy prepared for you.

COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

In response to Jesus' invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of communion. Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life and salvation as the blessings of God's sacramental grace. All are invited forward for communion or a blessing. The area of cups bordered by green tape has grape juice.

*COMMUNION SONG



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

*COMMUNION HYMN #494: For the Bread Which You Have Broken

*POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

May you be strengthened by this meal of grace until all are one in the kingdom of heaven. **Amen.**

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

O God, the host at every meal at this table you spread out a feast for all peoples, the bread of life and the cup of salvation. Send us from this banquet to invite others into these good things, to let justice roll down like waters, and to care for the least of our sisters and brothers; through Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and our Savior.

Amen.

*BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

*SENDING SONG #439: Soon and Very Soon

*DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: 'Wake, Awake for Night is Flying' – Emma Lou Diemer

8:00 am

Assisting Minister: Dave Knauff
Communion Assistant:
Acolyte: Laura Greb
Lector: Cindy Knauff
Usher:
Attendance Last Week: 66
Weekly Budgeted Need: \$ 2,640.27
YTD Budgeted Expenses: \$110,891.31
YTD Actual Expense: \$105,091.85

10:30 am

Assisting Minister: Carolyn Jarrett
Communion Assistant:
Acolyte: Gio Sunseri
Lector: Keith Cardinal
Usher:
Attendance last year: 84
Last Week's Giving: \$ 4,276.00
Year to Date Receipts: \$120,169.50

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