

HE ORDER OF WORSHIP
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
November 12, 2023

AS WE GATHER

It's not a big surprise that no one has accurately predicted the end of the world - not that it hasn't been attempted. From religious sects to cult leaders to apocalyptic predictions made when we entered a new millennium, a fascination grows around those who claim they have it all figured out. We are wise though to take the Lord at His word concerning the Last Day. From Amos in the Old Testament proclaiming the day of the Lord, to Paul writing the Thessalonians about Christ's return, to Jesus' parable of the ten virgins, the Lord does not give us a date or a time of the end of this world as we know it. What He continues to give us, though, are promises of His faithfulness, His continued care and providence, and His assurance that when that day comes, it will usher in a glorious blessedness in His perfect presence that will last forever.

CALL TO WORSHIP Psalm 118:24

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

People: **Let us rejoice and be glad in it!**

✘ PREPARATION ✘

HYMN "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns" (LSB 348 - 5 verses)

The King shall come when morning dawns
When beauty gilds the eastern hills

And light triumphant breaks,
And life to joy awakes.

Not as of old a little child,
But crowned with glory like the sun

To bear and fight and die,
That lights the morning sky.

Oh, brighter than the rising morn
And left the lonesome place of death

When Christ, victorious, rose
Despite the rage of foes.

Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
The day when Christ in splendor comes

Shall dawn upon our race
And we shall see His face.

The King shall come when morning dawns
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:

And light and beauty brings.
Come quickly, King of kings!

INVOCATION

(please stand)

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Pastor: Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD?

People: Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?

Pastor: 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.

People: 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.

Pastor: At midnight there was a cry, "Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him."

People: The bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

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

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

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father. Merciful Lord, as we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient as we wait.

People: We become distracted by the things of this world that do not last, and have given our attention and even devotion to things not beneficial to our faith. Forgive us.

Pastor: As we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient with others.

People: We have sinned against others and You in thought, word, and deed. We have not loved You with our whole heart, nor loved our neighbors as ourselves. Forgive us.

Pastor: As we await the day to come when Christ returns, we grow impatient with You.

People: We come to think the day will never come when You make all things new, and have let our earthly circumstances cause faith to waiver, despair to increase, and doubts to arise. Forgive us.

Pastor: But let justice roll down like waters,

People: and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Pastor: And so we will always be with the Lord.

People: Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Pastor: In His parable, Jesus reminds His people to "watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." In our watch and in our waiting, the Lord remains faithful to His promises of provision, and assurance of grace and forgiveness. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die 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.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

INTROIT: Psalm 84:1, 9-12; antiphon: v 3

Pastor: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her herself, where she may lay her young,

People: at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

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

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

Pastor: For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.

People: I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than dwell in the tents of wickedness.

Pastor: For the LORD is a sun and shield; the LORD bestows favor and honor.

People: No good thing does he withhold from those who walk uprightly.

Pastor: O LORD of hosts, blessed 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.**

Pastor: Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her herself, where she may lay her young,

People: at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

KYRIE

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: Lord, have mercy.

Pastor: Christ, have mercy,

People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy,

People: Lord, have mercy.

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.** *(please sit)*

OLD TESTAMENT READING: **Amos 5:18-24** *(The day of the Lord and justice.)*

18 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, 19 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. 20 Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? 21 “I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. 22 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. 23 Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. 24 But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE READING: **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** *(The coming of the Lord)*

13 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. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15 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. 16 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. 17 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. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13 *(The parable of the ten virgins.)*

(please stand)

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

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. 3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4 but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5 As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. 6 But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ 7 Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. 8 And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 9 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.’ 10 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. 11 Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ 12 But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ 13 Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

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 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 everlasting. Amen.

(please be seated)

HYMN: “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying” - (LSB 516 - 3 verses)

“Wake, awake, for night is flying,”

“Awake, Jerusalem, arise!”

And at the thrilling cry rejoices:

The Bridegroom comes, awake!

Alleluia!

Yourselves prepare

The watchmen on the heights are crying;

Midnight hears the welcome voices

“Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?

Your lamps with gladness take!

With bridal care

To meet the Bridegroom, who is near.”

Zion hears the watchmen singing,
She wakes, she rises from her gloom.
The strong in grace, in truth victorious;
Now come, Thou Blessèd One,
Hail! Hosanna!
The wedding hall

And all her heart with joy is springing;
For her Lord comes down all-glorious,
Her star is ris'n, her light is come.
Lord Jesus, God's own Son,
We enter all
To eat the Supper at Thy call.

Now let all the heav'ns adore Thee,
With harp and cymbals' clearest tone.
Where, joining with the choir immortal,
No eye has seen the light,
Of Thy glory;
Eternally

Let saints and angels sing before Thee
Of one pearl each shining portal,
We gather round Thy radiant throne.
No ear has heard the might
Therefore will we
Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

MESSAGE: "The Time Has Come"

Matthew 25:1-13

OFFERING

If you are a **visitor** this morning, you are our guest. Please do not feel obligated to give as the offering plate is passed. The offering is an opportunity for **members** to practice faithful stewardship and to support the ministries of Christ's church. Also, a red booklet, the Friendship Register, will be passed down each row. Please record your presence with us today.

OFFERING SONG: "We Give Thee But Thine Own" (LSB 781 - vv. 1-2)

(Please sing as the offering is presented at the Altar)

We give Thee but Thine own, Whate'er the gift may be;
All that we have is Thine alone, A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

May we Thy bounties thus As stewards true receive
And gladly, as Thou blessest us, To Thee our firstfruits give!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

(please stand)

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs . . . Lord, in your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer**

Pastor: Into your hands, O Father, we commend all for who we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has taught us to pray . . .

People: Amen

THE 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.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

Let us pray. O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CLOSING RESPONSE

Pastor: But let justice roll down like waters,

People: and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

Pastor: And so we will always be with the Lord.

People: Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Pastor: Watch therefore,

People: for you know neither the day nor the hour.

Pastor: He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon."

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

SALUTATION

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: Amen.

(please be seated)

HYMN: “Jerusalem, My Happy Home” (LSB 673 – 6 verses)

Jerusalem, my happy home,
When shall my sorrows have an end?

When shall I come to thee?
Thy joys when shall I see?

O happy harbor of the saints,
In thee no sorrow may be found,

O sweet and pleasant soil!
No grief, no care, no toil.

Thy gardens and thy gallant walks
There grow such sweet and pleasant flow'rs

Continually are green;
As nowhere else are seen.

There trees forevermore bear fruit
There evermore the angels dwell

And evermore do spring;
And evermore do sing.

Apostles, martyrs, prophets, there
And soon my friends in Christ below

Around my Savior stand;
Will join the glorious band.

O Christ, do Thou my soul prepare
That I may see Thee and adore

For that bright home of love
With all Thy saints above.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People: **Thanks be to God.**

MESSIAH PRAYER REQUESTS . . .

For continued healing – **Judy Beauford - Steven Haberoth - Linda Fults**

For Family and Friends

Prayers for healing as **Ernie Mazurek** recovers from back surgery

Prayers for **volunteers** to stand up for the open positions on the **Board of Lay Ministry**

Prayers for **wisdom and discernment of God's will** as we vote on the **2024 Budget and candidates for the Board of Lay Ministry**

Prayers for Family friends of the **Rutledge Family** as they mourn the loss of **Linda Young** and ask for special prayers for Linda's husband **Rich Young, their children and grandchildren.**

Prayers for **Linda Dicke and family** as they mourn the loss of **Bill Dicke**

Prayers for **Lucky Engelman's** healing after a hip replacement and surgery to clean out infection

Debra Beard requests prayers for **Jenny Heth's** healing following a double mastectomy.

Prayers for **Mark Giardinelli** as he starts training with the **Mission Aviation Fellowship** ministry.

Prayers for the **MAF Family - Will and Jennelle Wolf and their 3 children.**

Prayers for **Rolf Schulz** and wife, **Linda Schulz**

Rutledge Family requests prayers for Sister-in-Law **Heather Mulledy** battling breast cancer

Mario & Eve Betancourt requests prayers for **Reese Richeson**, 16-year-old daughter of friends, undergoing treatment for brain cancer

Donna Cifers requests prayers for her 89-year-old mother's health issues – **Margaret Chamness**

Sally Gutierrez Beltran asks for prayer for her husband **Felix** for salvation, deliverance from alcohol and restoration of their marriage

For Messiah's Call Committee and the Pastor God is preparing for us

Prayers for Justice & Peace in the Middle East

For family discord, reconciliation, and healing

Prayers for rescue for those in abusive relationships

Prayers for all those with physical, emotional, or other needs – your will be done

Prayers for all who are lost to hear and receive Jesus' Gospel message

We pray in Jesus's Holy Name, Amen.

NOVEMBER ALTAR FLOWERS

Nov. 5th – Steve & Janet Haberoth – in thanksgiving of God's Blessings

Nov. 12th – Dennis & Sue Parker – celebrating 56 years of marriage

Nov. 19th – Kathleen Jauregui – Jason's Birthday

Nov. 19th – John & Debra Beard – celebrating 25 years of marriage

Nov. 26th – Bill & Linda Dicke – thanksgiving for God's blessings

Nov. 26th – Pam Fields – in memory of Ed Fields

ANNOUNCEMENTS!

WELCOME . . . *Whoever you are . . . Wherever you have come from . . . we are so glad you are here! Your presence increases our joy as we praise our loving Savior together. If you are visiting with us today, we'd love to get to know you! Please don't forget to sign your name and fill in your contact information in the red booklets on the inside aisle!*

Pastor's Bible Study in the BEGIN Book - *Pastor will continue with The Gospel According to John.*

Voters Meeting Sunday Nov. 19th - *following worship service to vote on the 2024 Budget and Lay Ministry Board nominations.*

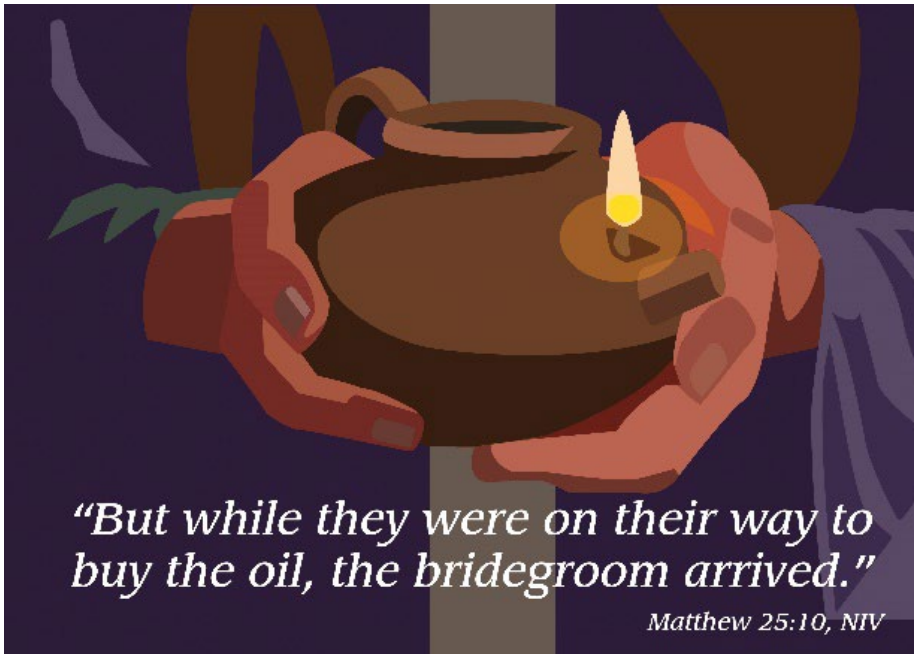
Time & Talent Inventories – *It's not too late to turn in your Time & Talent Inventory. Please complete the Time & Talent Sheet and return by Email or paper copy to the Church office. **We have received 18 responses from a congregation of roughly 100 families.***

Operation Christmas Child – *Each shoebox is a Gospel Opportunity for a child to experience Christ's love. The Shoeboxes need to be returned to the church on Nov. 19th as Mark Giardinelli will lead the church in a responsive prayer of dedication and then deliver the boxes to St. John Lutheran Church.*

Messiah's Kids Preschool – *will be closed November 20th thru 24th for Thanksgiving Holidays.*

Upcoming Events – *Detailed information can be found on MLC's website.*

- *Nov. 17th - **Ladies Day Out Lunch at Alstadt Brewery in Fredericksburg** at 12:30 pm. RSVP to Lindy Eschenko 979-229-7760 or email or sign up at church!*
- *Dec. 2nd - **Messiah's Adult Game Day** at 2:00 pm at the home of Hal & Lindy Eschenko!*
- *Dec. 7th – **Ladies Day Out Lunch** at 11:00 am gift exchange and lunch at Albe Vita. RSVP to Lindy Eschenko or sign up at church!! Gift exchange is always optional \$10-15.*
- *Dec. 9th – **Messiah's Annual Christmas Party** sponsored by the Fellowship Committee*



“But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived.”

Matthew 25:10, NIV

MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH

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*Rev. Dr. Richard S. Lofgren, Pastor
Gina Husky, Director of Messiah's Kids Preschool
David Rhoads, Facilities Manager
Maurine Maloy, Administrative Assistant*



Serving us Today – November 12, 2023

Elders:	Allen Leitko & Larry Risley
Coffee:	Sue Parker
Treats:	Sue Parker & Shirley Moore
Tellers:	Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care:	Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid’s Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician:	Bob Shoaf
AV:	OPEN
Reader:	Pam Fields
Ushers:	Eric Sagebiel – Larry Rottman – Russ Leachman – Harold Moore
Greeters:	David & Sharon Sattler & Sue Theis

Serving us Next Sunday – November 19, 2023

Elders:	Allen Leitko & Larry Risley
Coffee:	Verna Sorensen
Treats:	Verna Sorensen
Tellers:	Anthony Sansone
Chancel Care:	Kim & Maurine Maloy
Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Kid’s Message:	Pastor Richard Lofgren
Musician:	Bob Shoaf
AV:	Tony Giardinelli
Reader:	Alana Kemmy
Ushers:	Ernie Mazurek – Hal Eschenko – Mike Lang – Tony Giardinelli
Greeters:	Alana Kemmy & Kathy Giardinelli

Our Response to God Last Week

Worship Attendance: 62 Sunday School: 26

October 2023 Contributions			
General Fund	\$49,622.54	Building Fund	\$1,875.00
Renovation Fund	\$150.00	Family Life Center	\$4,100.00