

*The Twenty-Seventh Sunday
after Trinity*

The Last Sunday of the Church Year

November 21, 2021



Saint Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

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514 The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us

- 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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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 Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P O almighty God, merciful Father, **C** I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal

punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

Introit

I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord:

thoughts of peace and not of evil.

Then shall ye call upon Me and pray unto Me, and I will hearken unto you:

**and I will turn your captivity and gather you from all nations
and from all places.**

Lord, Thou hast been favorable unto Thy land:

Thou hast brought back the captivity of Jacob.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.**

I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord:

thoughts of peace and not of evil.

Then shall ye call upon Me and pray unto Me, and I will hearken unto you:

**and I will turn your captivity and gather you from all nations
and from all places.**

Kyrie

LSB 186

**C Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Gloria in Excelsis

LSB 187

P Glory be to God on high: **C** and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.
We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee,

we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Let us pray: Absolve, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thy people from their offenses : that from the bonds of our sins which by reason of our frailty we have brought upon us we may be delivered by Thy bountiful goodness; through Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with Thee and the Holy Ghost : ever one God, world without end. **C** Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 65:17–25

¹⁷Behold, I create new heavens and a new earth, and the former things shall not be remembered or come into mind. ¹⁸But be glad and rejoice forever in that which I create; for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy, and her people to be a gladness. ¹⁹I will rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; no more shall be heard in it the sound of weeping and the cry of distress. ²⁰No more shall there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not fill out his days, for the young man shall die a hundred years old, and the sinner a hundred years old shall be accursed. ²¹They shall build houses and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

²²They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant and another eat; for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be, and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands. ²³They shall not labor in vain or bear children for calamity, for they shall be the offspring of the blessed of the LORD, and their descendants with them. ²⁴Before they call I will answer; while they are yet speaking I will hear. ²⁵The wolf and the lamb shall graze together; the lion shall eat straw like the ox, and dust shall be the serpent's food. They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain," says the LORD.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

¹Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Alleluia

LSB 190

C Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

Holy Gospel

Matthew 25:1–13

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

C Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

¹[Jesus said:] “The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³For when 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, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And 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. ¹¹Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, 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.

516 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

- 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

LSB 192

☐ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

[Offering]

Prayer of the Church

Preface

LSB 194

P The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spirit.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up unto the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting 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:

Sanctus

LSB 195

C Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer

LSB 196

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

LSB 197

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.”

Pax Domini

LSB 197

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

Agnus Dei

LSB 198

C O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution

663 Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray

- 1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep awaken!
Be not by the evil day Unawares o'ertaken; For the foe,
Well we know, Is a harvest reaping While the saints are sleeping.
- 2 Watch against the devil's snares Lest asleep he find you;
For indeed no pains he spares To deceive and blind you. Satan's prey
Oft are they Who secure are sleeping And no watch are keeping.
- 3 Watch! Let not the wicked world With its lies defeat you
Lest with bold deceptions hurled It betray and cheat you. Watch and see
Lest there be Faithless friends to charm you, Who but seek to harm you.
- 4 Watch against yourself, my soul, Lest with grace you trifle;
Let not self your thoughts control Nor God's mercy stifle. Pride and sin
Lurk within, All your hopes to shatter; Heed not when they flatter.
- 5 But while watching, also pray To the Lord unceasing.
God protects you day by day, Strength and faith increasing,
So that still Mind and will Shall unite to serve Him And forever love Him.

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639 Wide Open Stand the Gates

- 1 Wide open stand the gates adorned with pearl, While round God's golden throne
The choirs of saints in endless circles curl, And joyous praise the Son!
They watch Him now descending To visit waiting earth. The Lord of Life
unending Brings dying hope new birth!
- 2 He speaks the Word the bread and wine to bless: "This is My flesh and
blood!" He bids us eat and drink with thankfulness This gift of holy food.
All human thought must falter— Our God stoops low to heal, Now present
on the altar, For us both host and meal!
- 3 The cherubim, their faces veiled from light, While saints in wonder kneel,
Sing praise to Him whose face with glory bright No earthly masks conceal.
This sacrament God gives us Binds us in unity, Joins earth with heav'n
beyond us, Time with eternity!

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395 O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright

- 1 O Morning Star, how fair and bright! You shine with God's own truth and
light, Aglow with grace and mercy! Of Jacob's race, King David's son, Our
Lord and master, You have won Our hearts to serve You only! Lowly, holy!
Great and glorious, All victorious, Rich in blessing! Rule and might o'er all
possessing!
- 2 Come, heav'nly Bridegroom, Light divine, And deep within our hearts now
shine; There light a flame undying! In Your one body let us be As living
branches of a tree, Your life our lives supplying. Now, though daily
Earth's deep sadness May perplex us And distress us, Yet with heav'nly
joy You bless us.
- 3 Lord, when You look on us in love, At once there falls from God above A
ray of purest pleasure. Your Word and Spirit, flesh and blood Refresh our
souls with heav'nly food. You are our dearest treasure! Let Your mercy
Warm and cheer us! O draw near us! For You teach us God's own love
through You has reached us.

- 4 Almighty Father, in Your Son You loved us when not yet begun Was this old earth's foundation! Your Son has ransomed us in love To live in Him here and above: This is Your great salvation. Alleluia! Christ the living, To us giving Life forever, Keeps us Yours and fails us never!
- 5 O let the harps break forth in sound! Our joy be all with music crowned, Our voices gladly blending! For Christ goes with us all the way— Today, tomorrow, ev'ry day! His love is never ending! Sing out! Ring out Jubilation! Exultation! Tell the story! Great is He, the King of Glory!
- 6 What joy to know, when life is past, The Lord we love is first and last, The end and the beginning! He will one day, oh, glorious grace, Transport us to that happy place Beyond all tears and sinning! Amen! Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! Crown of gladness! We are yearning For the day of Your returning!

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644 The Church's One Foundation

- 1 The Church's one foundation Is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation By water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her To be His holy bride;
With His own blood He bought her, And for her life He died.
- 2 Elect from ev'ry nation, Yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation: One Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses With ev'ry grace endued.
- 3 Though with a scornful wonder The world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, By heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; Their cry goes up, "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping Shall be the morn of song.
- 4 Through toil and tribulation And tumult of her war
She waits the consummation Of peace forevermore
Till with the vision glorious Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious Shall be the Church at rest.

5 Yet she on earth has union With God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion With those whose rest is won.
O blessèd heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by Your grace
That we, like saints before us, May see You face to face.

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Nunc Dimittis

LSB 199

☩ Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Thanksgiving

LSB 200

☐ O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

☩ and His mercy endureth forever.

☐ Let us pray: We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **☩** Amen.

☐ The Lord be with you.

☩ And with thy spirit.

Benedicamus

LSB 202

☐ Bless we the Lord.

☩ Thanks be to God.

Benediction

LSB 202

☐ The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ✠ give you peace. **☩** Amen, amen, amen.

708 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

- 1 Lord, Thee I love with all my heart; I pray Thee, ne'er from me depart, With tender mercy cheer me. Earth has no pleasure I would share. Yea, heav'n itself were void and bare If Thou, Lord, wert not near me. And should my heart for sorrow break, My trust in Thee can nothing shake. Thou art the portion I have sought; Thy precious blood my soul has bought. Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord, Forsake me not! I trust Thy Word.

- 2 Yea, Lord, 'twas Thy rich bounty gave My body, soul, and all I have In this poor life of labor. Lord, grant that I in ev'ry place May glorify Thy lavish grace And help and serve my neighbor. Let no false doctrine me beguile; Let Satan not my soul defile. Give strength and patience unto me To bear my cross and follow Thee. Lord Jesus Christ, my God and Lord, my God and Lord, In death Thy comfort still afford.

- 3 Lord, let at last Thine angels come, To Abr'ham's bosom bear me home, That I may die unfearing; And in its narrow chamber keep My body safe in peaceful sleep Until Thy reappearing. And then from death awaken me, That these mine eyes with joy may see, O Son of God, Thy glorious face, My Savior and my fount of grace. Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend, my prayer attend, And I will praise Thee without end.

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Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Three from Lutheran Service Book

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LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

By Faith We Are Prepared for Christ's Return –“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).

A Christian has something better to hope when this temporal, passing life ceases; that he will walk in an eternal, imperishable life and in a heavenly existence in which there is only joy and blessedness. Christ came down from heaven and became man, was put to death on the cross, and rose from the dead and ascended into heaven, not so that we remain down here upon earth in misery and trouble. Rather, He frees us from all these and takes us to his eternal kingdom in heaven. So we are not baptized and made Christians nor do we hear the gospel so that we fill our powerless stinking bellies and that we should always stay here in this angry troubled world. Instead, we are baptized so that we enter another life and existence where we no longer must eat, drink, have worry and work, suffer, be tired, die and decay.

– Martin Luther