

## TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST—PROPER 27

What Encouraging Words!

November 8, 2020

### AS WE GATHER

We hear today the extremely encouraging words from the apostle Paul concerning our everlasting life. Paul tells us, "We will always be with the Lord." What comforting words! What encouraging words! You have the assurance that when Jesus returns, you will spend everlasting life in His gracious presence.

### PRESERVICE MUSIC

*Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying* - Paul Manz

### BELLS

### WELCOME

*Stand*

### OPENING HYMN

*Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying* - LSB 516:1-2



1 "Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing," The watch - men on the  
2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing, And all her heart with



heights are cry - ing; "A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"  
joy is spring - ing; She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es And at the thrill - ing  
For her Lord comes down all - glo - rious, The strong in grace, in



cry re - joic - es: "Oh, where are ye, ye vir - gins wise?  
truth vic - to - rious; Her star is ris'n, her light is come.



The Bride - groom comes, a - wake! Your lamps with glad - ness take!  
Now come, Thou Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son,



Al - le - lu - ia! With brid - al care Your - selves pre - pare  
Hail! Ho - san - na! We en - ter all The wed - ding hall



To meet the Bride - groom, who is near."  
To eat the Sup - per at Thy call.

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## SENTENCES OF PREPARATION

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

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Wake up, people! The bridegroom is coming!

People: **Get ready! Christ is returning! Hurry up! Jesus will be here at any moment.**

Pastor: Are you ready? The wedding banquet is beginning!

People: **We are ready! Let the banquet begin! Wait! We are not ready! Our lamps are going out!**

Pastor: Brothers and sisters, we must always be awake and ready for Jesus' return.

People: **We don't know the day or the hour when he will come. So we must be awake!**

Pastor: Indeed, Christ is coming soon to raise the dead and bring us into everlasting life with Him. Yet there are times when we have lived as if Christ's return was not important and not imminent. Yet, our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him and ask for His forgiveness.

*Silence for reflection*

Pastor: Heavenly Father,

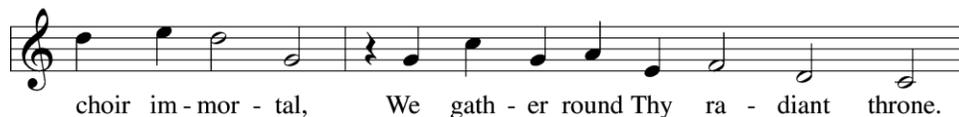
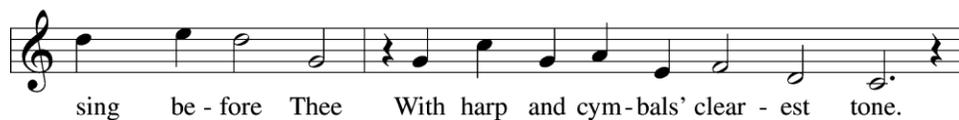
People: **we confess that we have ignored You and our neighbors in need. We have sinned in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have failed by our inactivity. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, O Lord, that we might be encouraged by Your presence and forgiven of our sin.**

Pastor: God hears your confession and has promised to always be with you. Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son, Jesus Christ, to die and rise 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. We are forgiven. We look for the return of Jesus.**

## HYMN OF PRAISE

*Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying - LSB 516:3*





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## ✠ WORD ✠

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Let us pray. O Lord, encourage us with Your presence in Your Word and Sacraments, that we be strengthened for service to You and our neighbors as we await the return of Jesus, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** **Amen.**

### OLD TESTAMENT READING

Amos 5:18–24

<sup>18</sup> 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,

<sup>19</sup> 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.

<sup>20</sup> Is not the day of the Lord darkness, and not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

<sup>21</sup> "I hate, I despise your feasts,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup> 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.

<sup>23</sup> Take away from me the noise of your songs;

to the melody of your harps I will not listen.

<sup>24</sup> But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

**Lector:** This is the Word of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

### EPISTLE 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.  
People: **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

**HOLY GOSPEL**

Matthew 25:1-13

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.  
People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, <sup>4</sup> but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup> But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup> Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup> And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup> 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.’ <sup>10</sup> 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. <sup>11</sup> Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup> But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup> 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.**

*Sit*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

***Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers - LSB 515:1-2***

1 Re - joi - ce, re - joi - ce, be - liev - ers, And let your lights ap - pear;  
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain Pro - claim the Bride - groom near;

The eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, And dark - er night is near.  
Go forth as He ap - proach - es With al - le - lu - ias clear.

The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing And soon is draw - ing nigh.  
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; The gates wide o - pen stand.

Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; At mid - night comes the cry.  
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; The Bride - groom is at hand.

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**SERMON**

**“If Only We Knew”**

*Rev. Dr. Larry Stoterau*

*Stand*

## CREED

## *Apostles' Creed*

C 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.

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, through You all things were made. You have entrusted us with the care of all creation. Embolden us to be good and faithful stewards of all that You have made until You return to dwell with us again. For until Your return, we pray,

**People: come quickly, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, we pray for our nation, state and community and for all who have been elected this past week. We pray for unity and wisdom as we move forward. Bless all who have been elected to office that they may faithfully serve and trust in you. For until Your return, we pray,

**People: come quickly, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, give aid and comfort to the sick and the suffering; grant healing according to Your will and strength to bear up under the weight of loneliness or affliction, *[we pray especially for ...]*

Pastor: Lord Jesus, by Your death and resurrection, You destroyed death forever. While we look forward to the resurrection, each human being still faces earthly death. We bring before You all those who are mourning the death of loved ones, *[especially. .]*. Comfort them with Your presence and the hope of the resurrection to eternal life. For until Your return, we pray,

**People: come quickly, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: Lord Jesus, be present in Your Church. We thank you that Pastor Eaton has accepted our call to be our next Pastor. Bless Pastor Eaton and his family as they prepare for the transition to Anaheim. Be with the members of Edgewater Lutheran Church and reassure them of your presence as they prepare to say goodbye to Pastor Eaton and his family. For until Your return, we pray,

**People: come quickly, Lord Jesus.**

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord.

**People: Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

**People:** 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

**Pastor:** Keep awake. Make yourself ready; it may be today, it may be tomorrow. It may be many more days, but Christ is returning. And we need to be ready for the great heavenly banquet. Until then, may our living God, Father, Son +, and Holy Spirit, watch over and bless you.

**People:** Amen.

## CLOSING HYMN

*Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers - LSB 515:3-4*



3 The saints, who here in pa - tience Their cross and suf - f'ings bore,  
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



Shall live and reign for - ev - er When sor-row is no more.  
A - rise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this be-night-ed sphere.



A - round the throne of glo - ry The Lamb they shall be - hold;  
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, We plead, O Lord, to see



In tri-umph cast be - fore Him Their di - a - dems of gold.  
The day of earth's re - demp - tion That sets Your peo - ple free!

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## POSTLUDE