

**Trinity Lutheran Church**  
**The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod**  
**Rev. Andrew Preus – Pastor**  
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***The Last Sunday of the Church Year***  
***November 21<sup>st</sup> -- anno Domini 2021***

Both the wise and foolish virgins fall asleep. But Jesus tells us to stay awake. What did the wise virgin do that the foolish did not do? They simply took oil with them in their vessels. But they both dozed off and fell asleep. At the end of the day some had oil while others didn't. Everyone gets set in his ways. Everyone dozes off and gets tired. This parable is not so much of a great example from the wise virgins. It is rather a warning that we know neither the day nor the hour of Christ's return.

So stay awake, just as Jesus says! The oil is such an essential part of the lamp, and yet it is so easy to take for granted. And this is how faith and God's Word are. Of course we believe in Jesus! Of course we are Christians! We learned this stuff in Sunday School, VBS, Christmas programs, Bible Camp, and Catechism class. How easy it is to treat it as such a little thing! As Jesus warns his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Stay awake! For the spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak." Even the wise virgins have the weakness of their flesh. Even they doze off, not thinking so much about what the sermon was about or what God's Word says about this or that topic. Even Christians have the weak, sleepy flesh, which sinks into the comfort of preoccupation with a game or a pointless conversation. But when they are woken, will they have the oil? When the Son of Man returns, will he find faith on the earth? If this causes you discomfort and uncertainty in yourself, then good! It should! This is the urgency of the message of Christ! Now is the day of salvation! Now is when God's Word is still being proclaimed! The day will come when people will run to and fro and will not find the Word of the Lord (Amos 8:11-12). Until then, may we and our children find our only comfort and our only security in the gospel, which freely fills our lamps with oil! God's Word is certain. It teaches us the riches of God's mercy in Christ who gave his life into the depths of degradation for our sins. When we learn not to find certainty and security in anything else, then we learn to rest only in this sure Word. So whether we are awake or asleep, we live with him.

**DEAR VISITORS:** As a congregation in the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod, Trinity practices **closed communion**, which means that we only commune those who are members in good standing of sister congregations and have been instructed in the Christian faith as it is summarized in Luther's Small Catechism. If you are a visitor and desire to commune at Trinity, **please speak to Pastor Preus before the service.**

# The Order of Morning Service

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**Hymn of Invocation** ∞ *The World is Very Evil*

TLH #605

*Stand for final stanza*

**Invocation, Confession & Absolution**

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*Please remain standing through the conclusion of the Collect of the Day.*

## Service of the Word

### Introit

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, | says the LORD,\*  
thoughts of peace and not of | evil,

**Then you will call upon Me and go and | pray to Me,\*  
and I will listen | unto you.** (*Jeremiah 29:11-12*)

Lord, You have been favorable | to Your land,\*  
You have brought back the captivity of | Jacob.

**Show us Your | mercy, LORD,\*  
and grant us Your sal- | vation.**

Surely His salvation is near to those who | fear Him,\*  
that glory may dwell | in our land.

**Truth shall spring out | of the earth,\*  
and righteousness shall look down from | heaven.** (*Psalms 85:1, 7, 9, 11*)



**Gloria Patri** ∞ *Glory be to the Father*

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**Kyrie** ∞ *Lord, Have Mercy*

**Gloria in Excelsis** ∞ *Glory to God in the Highest*

**Salutation & Collect of the Day**

*Sit*

**Old Testament Reading** ∞ *Isaiah 65:17-25*

<sup>17</sup> "I am going to create new heavens and a new earth. Then you will not remember the first things or think of them again. <sup>18</sup> But rejoice and be glad forever about what I'm going to create, for I'm going to make Jerusalem a delight and her people a joy.

<sup>19</sup> I will rejoice in Jerusalem and delight in My people. No more will anyone hear in her a sound of weeping or a cry. <sup>20</sup> No more will You find there a baby living only a few days or an old man who doesn't live all his days, for anyone dying at a hundred years old will still be a young man. If a man is cursed as a sinner he may live to be only a hundred.

<sup>21</sup> They will build houses and live there. They will plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

<sup>22</sup> They will not build and have someone else live there or plant and have another eat it. But the life of My people will be like the life of a tree, and My chosen ones will enjoy what their hands produce. <sup>23</sup> They will not work for nothing or have children only to see

them taken by a terrible death, for they are descendants the LORD has blessed, and their children as well.

<sup>24</sup> Then it will happen that before they call I will answer, and while they're still speaking I will listen.

<sup>25</sup> The wolf and the lamb will feed together, and the lion will eat straw like a cow. And dust will be the food of a snake. They will not harm or destroy anyone anywhere on My holy mountain," says the LORD.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

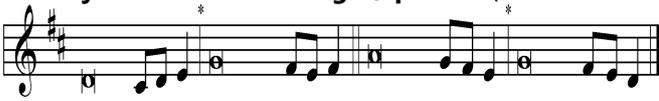
### Gradual

The King's daughter shall be brought / to the King;\*

the virgins, her companions who follow her, shall be / brought to You.

**With gladness and rejoicing they / shall be brought;\***

**they shall enter the King's / palace.** (Psalm 45:14-15)



### Epistle ↻ 1 Thess. 5:1-11

You don't need anyone to write and tell you exactly when things will happen, my fellow Christians, <sup>2</sup> because you know very well the Lord's day will come just like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> When people say, "All's well and safe!" then destruction will come on them suddenly like labor pains on a woman who is going to have a baby, and they will not escape. <sup>4</sup> But you, my fellow Christians, are not in the dark that you should let that day take you by surprise like a thief. <sup>5</sup> You are all the children of light and of the day. We have nothing to do with night and darkness. <sup>6</sup> Let us not sleep, then, like the others, but be awake and sober. <sup>7</sup> People sleep at night and get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup> But let us who live in the daylight be sober and *put on* faith and love *as a breastplate* and the sure hope of *salvation as a helmet*. <sup>9</sup> God didn't appoint us to be punished by His anger but to be saved by our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup> Who died for us so that, awake or asleep, we may live with Him. <sup>11</sup> Then encourage one another and strengthen one another just as you are doing.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### Stand

Alle- / luia.\*

Alle- / luia.

**I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heav- / en from God,\***  
**prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Alle- / luia.** (Revelation 21:2)



**Gospel** ∞ *Matt. 25:1-13*

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

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten girls who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup> Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup> The foolish girls brought their lamps, but they took no extra oil. <sup>4</sup> The wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup> But the bridegroom delayed, and so they all dozed off to sleep.

<sup>6</sup> “At midnight there was a shout: ‘The bridegroom is here! Come out and meet him!’ <sup>7</sup> Then all those girls woke up and got their lamps ready.

<sup>8</sup> “But the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil. Our lamps are going out.’

<sup>9</sup> “The wise girls answered, ‘There will never be enough for us and for you. Better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’

<sup>10</sup> “While they were away buying it, the bridegroom came, and the girls who were ready went with him to the wedding, and the door was shut.

<sup>11</sup> “Later the other girls also came and said, ‘Lord, lord, open the door for us!’

<sup>12</sup> “‘I tell you the truth,’ he answered them, ‘I don’t know you.’

<sup>13</sup> “Keep awake, then, because you don’t know the day or the hour.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

**Apostles’ Creed**

pg. 12

Sit

**Hymn of the Day** ∞ *Wake, Awake, for Night is flying*

TLH #609

**Sermon**

Stand

**Offertory**

pg. 12

Sit

**Gathering of the Offering**

*Stand to sing as the offerings are brought forward*

*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.*

Please complete the Record of Fellowship in the folder in your pew.

Prayers

**General Prayer**

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Hymn** ∞ *When Sinners See Their Lost Condition*

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TLH #65

**Concluding Collect**

**Benediction**

*Sit*

**Hymn to Depart** *↻ The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us*

*TLH #67*

**Silent Prayer**

**Ushers for today:** James Eads, Joseph Rethemeyer, David Blankenship

**Next week:** Peter Otten, Jonathan Finck, Trevor Blankenship,  
Andrew Rethemeyer

**Greeter for today:** Rick Tritch

**Next Week:**

**Acolyte today:** Alton Swann

**Next Week:** Kyle Blankenship

**Thanksgiving Eve:** Evan Scheer

**Flower and Altar Care:   November:** Carol Finck

**Birthdays and Anniversaries:** Ramona Ruediger, 21<sup>st</sup>

**Prayer and Petitions:** Carol Finck and family, whose mother (Doris Schnelle), passed away on November 16<sup>th</sup>. Homebound and Care Center Residents: Barb Sunfield, Diane Scheer, Wilma Niewald and Paul & Sue Laune; Missionaries: Rev. James May (missionary to Africa); Rev. David Preus (missionary to the Dominican Republic); Michael & Naomi Erslund, Lutheran Bible Translators, Ghana.

We are again providing **Christmas gifts** for the **Pregnancy Assistance Center**. If you wish to participate, please take an ornament from the wreath in the narthex. Return unwrapped gift along with the tag by December 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your help.

**Church carpet cleaning has been rescheduled for Monday morning, November 29.** Help to clear out the basement and assembly room after church on the 28th is appreciated.

The Ladies of **Bethlehem Lutheran Church** are once again hosting their Advent by Candle Light on **November 28th at 5:00 pm**. Ladies of the congregation are asked to sign up on the sign up sheet in narthex if you would like to attend. Dessert will be provided.

**Thank you** for all the confirmation snacks! We are set for a while.

**WASHINGTON CIRCUIT YOUTH at Camp Trinity, New Haven, MO, Tonight** (439 Camp Trinity Drive). It will be held from 6-8 p.m. The Bible study on "**JESUS!**" "**The Greatest Rescue Story of All Time!**", will continue. **ALL Junior and Senior High youth are invited to join us for Bible study, games and snacks.**

**YOUTH SAVE THE DATE: January 7th and 8th, 2022** for the Annual Washington Circuit Winter Youth Retreat at Camp Trinity, New Haven. More details to follow.

**Confirmation Classes** – Wednesday 3:00-5:00 - Pastor Preus will lead chapel and teach grades 6-8 while Ruth Rethemeyer and Pat Swann will teach the children in grade 5 and below. Children may arrive at church at 3:00 for fellowship, games and snacks until 3:45. Chapel will begin at 3:45 and class at 4:00, concluding at 5:00.

**Adult Bible Study - Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.** Study of Acts. All are invited to attend.

**A Week-long devotion series by Pastor Preus** is downloaded to website. Copies are also available on the Usher's stand. Music for the hymn has been added to website.

Please send any **announcements** to office@trinitynewhaven.com. **Prayer requests** can also be sent to the office email or directly to Pastor Preus.

**Bulletins, sermons, and devotions** posted each week at [www.trinitynewhaven.com](http://www.trinitynewhaven.com).

# **A WORD FROM THE LUTHERAN CONFESSIONS**

## **The Augsburg Confession**

### **The Confession of Faith which was submitted to His Imperial Majesty Charles V at the Diet of Augsburg in the year 1530 by certain princes and cities**

*I will speak of thy testimonies before kings, and will not be put to shame. -- Psalm 119:46*

#### **Chief Articles of Faith continued**

##### *Article XXIV. Of the Mass*

<sup>35</sup>And this custom is not new in the Church; for the Fathers before Gregory make no mention of any private Mass, but of the common Mass [the Communion] they speak very much. Chrysostom says

<sup>36</sup>that the priest stands daily at the altar, inviting some

<sup>37</sup>to the Communion and keeping back others. And it appears from the ancient Canons that some one celebrated the Mass from whom all the other presbyters and deacons received the body of the Lord; for thus

<sup>38</sup>the words of the Nicene Canon say: Let the deacons, according to their order, receive the Holy Communion after the presbyters, from the bishop or from a presbyter.

<sup>39</sup>And Paul, 1 Cor. 11:33, commands concerning the Communion: Tarry one for another, so that there may be a common participation.

<sup>40</sup>Forasmuch, therefore, as the Mass with us has the example of the Church, taken from the Scripture and the Fathers, we are confident that it cannot be disapproved, especially since public ceremonies, for the most part like those hitherto in use, are retained; only the number of Masses differs, which, because of very great and manifest abuses doubtless might be profitably reduced.

<sup>41</sup>For in olden times, even in churches most frequented, the Mass was not celebrated every day, as the Tripartite History (Book 9, chap. 33) testifies: Again in Alexandria, every Wednesday and Friday the Scriptures are read, and the doctors expound them, and all things are done, except the solemn rite of Communion.