



We are a Christian community called to **worship** and sent to **serve**,
welcoming all to **walk** with Christ and **grow** in faith.

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.

WELCOME & INVOCATION

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- P** We gather in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

OPENING SENTENCES

Amos 5:18, 20; 1 Thessalonians 4:13, 16; Matthew 25:6, 13

- P** Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD! Why would you have the day of the LORD?
C **Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it?**
- P** 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.
C **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.**
- P** At midnight there was a cry, "Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him."
C **The bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.**

HYMN: "IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, GOD ONLY WISE"

LSB 802

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Amos 5:24; 1 Thessalonians 4:17–18; Matthew 25:13

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

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

- 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.

KYRIE

Mark 10:47 LSB 204



C Lord, have mer - cy; Christ, have mer - cy; Lord, have mer - cy.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS LSB 204

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Luther's Morning Prayer

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray together:

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Amos 5:18–24

¹⁸Woe to you who desire the day of the LORD!
Why would you have the day of the LORD?
It is darkness, and not light,
¹⁹as 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.
²⁰Is 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.
²²Even 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.
²³Take away from me the noise of your songs;
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.
²⁴But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing
stream.”

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

¹³But 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. ¹⁴For
since we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him
those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵For 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.

¹⁶For 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. ¹⁷Then
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.
¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these
words.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 25:1–13

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 our Lord.
- C** Praise to You, O Christ.

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.

LITTLE LAMBS SING

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN: "I KNOW THAT MY REDEEMER LIVES"

LSB 461

SERMON

Main Points:	
One thing NEW I learned:	What can I apply to my life?

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

The members of St. John are happy that you are to become part of our Christian fellowship. We, the members of this Christian congregation, are committed to giving full opportunities and support to you as you join our fellowship.

To the Congregation

- P** It is the mission of this congregation to reach out with the Gospel and to support all who come here and call St. John their church home. So that we may renew our commitment, I now ask you, the members of this congregation:
- P** Do you promise these new members that they, and all others who come to us, will be given opportunity to worship and grow in the Lord--Father, Son, and Holy Spirit--receiving the enlightenment and encouragement of His Word, and receiving God's presence in His Sacraments, administered as instituted by our Lord? If so, then answer:
- C** **We do so promise.**
- P** Do you promise these new members that they will be given opportunity to use their God-given talents to fulfill the Great Commission the Lord of the church has given, namely, to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth, making disciples of all nations? If so, then answer:
- C** **We do so promise.**
- P** Do you promise to give these new members your support as brothers and sisters in Christ and to use your resources to meet their needs of body, mind, and spirit that we may be built up in the Lord together (Eph 4:12)? If so, then answer:
- C** **We do so promise, with the help of God.**

(continued)

To the New Members

- P** Our Lord Jesus Christ bids us to confess Him before men, with the promise that He will then confess us before His Father in heaven. Romans 10:9-10 state, *"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."* That we may rejoice in your confession, I now ask you in the presence of God and this congregation:
- P** Do you accept and confess that the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, as you have learned to know them, are faithful and true to the Word of God? If so, then answer:
- R** *I do.*
- P** As a member of this church, do you intend to continue in the confessing your faith, attend worship faithfully, study God's Word regularly, be in fellowship with other believers, not neglect the Lord's Supper, and lead a righteous and godly life? If so, then answer:
- R** *I do so intend with the help of God.*
- P** Will you support the work and mission of St John Lutheran church with your prayers, time, treasures, and talent? If so, then answer:
- R** *I will with the help of God.*
- P** Upon this your promise, I, in the name of all the members of this congregation, extend to you the right hand of fellowship and love, acknowledging you as a member of this congregation and a participant in our ministry. We welcome you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. May God richly bless all of us as we continue in His work and mission all the days of our life. Amen.

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

- P** Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

After each petition:

- P** Lord, in Your Mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**

Final petition:

- P** Into Your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.
C **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

- C** **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

- P** The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
C **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN: "HOW GREAT THOU ART"

LSB 801

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