

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

November 9 & 12, 2023

A Time for Watchfulness

Opening Hymn 707, “Cling Tightly to the Word of God”

Order of Service (**From Supplement**) Gathering Rite on the Word of God, Page 11

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

FIRST READING

Psalm of the Day (**On Insert**)..... Psalm 90D

SECOND READING

Gospel Acclamation Verse: Alleluia. *Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come.* Alleluia.

GOSPEL

Hymn of the Day 486, “Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying”

SERMON..... “Be Ready for the Lords’ D-day” 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

Offering Hymn 717 v. 2, “What Is the World to Me”

Apostles’ Creed Page 20

Prayers/Lord’s Prayer

Hymn 702, “Come, Follow Me, the Savior Spake”

Closing Prayer/Benediction

Closing Hymn 925, “On What Has Now Been Sown”

FIRST READING: Isaiah 52:1-6

The nation of Israel was sleepwalking through life, exhausted by their present problems. “Awake!” the prophet cries. Israel is to watch for the coming redemption.

Wake, awake! Clothe yourself with strength, O Zion. Put on your beautiful garments, Jerusalem, you holy city, for never again will the uncircumcised and the unclean enter you. Shake off the dust. Get up and take your seat, Jerusalem.

Loosen the chains from your neck, you captive daughter of Zion. Yes, this is what the LORD says. You were sold for nothing, and you will be redeemed without money. Yes, this is what the LORD God says.

In the beginning, my people went down to Egypt to stay there for a while. Later Assyria oppressed them without cause. Now what do I have here? declares the LORD. Indeed, my people have been taken away for

nothing. Their rulers howl with mockery, declares the LORD. My name is continually despised all day. Therefore my people will know my name. So on that day they will know that I am the one—the one who is saying, “Here I am!”

SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

St. Paul teaches how we should wait for Jesus to return. Be watchful. Don’t fall asleep. Live as children of the light.

Concerning the times and dates, brothers, there is no need to write to you, for you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When people are saying, “Peace and security,” destruction will suddenly come on them, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will certainly not escape. But you, brothers, are not in the dark so that this day takes you by surprise like a thief, for you are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or the darkness. So then let us not sleep like everyone else, but rather let us remain alert and sober.

To be sure, those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. You see, God did not appoint us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore, encourage one another and build each other up, just as you are also doing.

GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13

The wise, those who are watching and ready for the Bridegroom, enter into the great wedding banquet.

“At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish ones took their lamps, they did not take any oil with them; but the wise took oil in their containers with their lamps. While the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and fell asleep. But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look, the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!’ Then all those virgins got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish ones said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil because our lamps are going out.’ But the wise answered, ‘No, there may not be enough for us and for you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.’ But while they were away buying oil, the bridegroom came. Those who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet, and the door was shut. Later, the other virgins also came and said, ‘Lord, Lord, let us in.’ But he answered, ‘Amen I tell you: I do not know you.’ Therefore, keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HEAD USHERS: Lyle Moldenhauer/Chris Zwygart; next Sunday: Don Koch/Doug Schulz

HEAD USHERS please be reminded that as the inclement weather season is approaching that you are responsible for making sure the steps and walkways are shoveled and/or salted for worship services falling on your respective Sundays. We thank you, in advance, for your help with this.

CALL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS: At the Call Meeting that was held last Sunday a divine call was issued to Mrs. Paula Ratzel of West Bend, Wisconsin, to teach 4K/5K beginning with the 2024-2025 school year. Mrs. Ratzel is currently serving as an Aide at Morning Star Lutheran School, in Jackson, Wisconsin. Please keep Mrs. Ratzel in your prayers as she deliberates this call as well as the call she holds at Morning Star.

POINSETTIAS will be purchased and placed in church for the Advent and Christmas season services. If you wish to order a poinsettia (or two) to be placed in church for these services, be sure to sign up on the sheet posted on the church bulletin board. You can take your poinsettia(s) home after the Christmas Day service on **Monday, December 25**, or leave it in church for the next Sunday service or until Christmas decorations are taken down. Please contact **Wayne** or **Bonnie Schultz** if you have any questions. The last day to order is: **Thanksgiving Day, November 23.**

THANKSGIVING DAY SERVICE: A special Thanksgiving Day worship service will be held on **Thursday, November 23**, at **9:00 AM**. Because of this service, **NO** Thursday evening worship service will be held that night. Our Thanksgiving Day offerings have been designated as follows: **100%** to the **Church Refurbishment Fund**.

CHURCH DECORATING: Please join us on **Saturday, December 2**, beginning at **11:00 AM** to help decorate the church for the Christmas season. Those in attendance and helping with the decorating will be welcome to take part in a pizza party that day as well. If you plan on attending, we ask that you sign up on the sheet located on the church bulletin board. Please include your name and the number of people in your family who will be participating. This will help us in deciding how many pizzas need to be ordered. Thank you!

INVITATIONS FROM BETHANY, HUSTISFORD: The women of our congregation are invited to an **Advent By Candlelight** event at **Bethany Lutheran Church, Hustisford**. It is scheduled for **Sunday, November 19**. Doors will open at **1:00 PM** for fellowship with the program starting at **2:00 PM**. The program is entitled, "A Branch Is Growing," and will be presented by the **Branches Band** (Andy & Rachel Braun). Reservations are appreciated by: **November 15**. Please call **Lois Braemer (920-349-3838)** to reserve your spot.

Bethany will also be hosting an Advent service of lessons and carols on **December 6** to which all our members are invited. There will be a chili supper at **5:30 PM**, and the service will begin at **7:00 PM**. If any of our members are interested in singing in the choir, there will be a practice at **6:00 PM** that same evening in the church.

WE THANK the students in Gr. 1-2 for their wonderful song on Sunday!

OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD

Attendance: Thursday: 15; Sunday: 108

Offerings: \$4,314.75

(Budget Amount Needed Each Week: \$7,239.00)

Special Funds: Debt Retirement: \$220.00; Church Refurbishment: \$20.00

Memorials: In Memory of Marvin Twardokus: \$20.00 *(Church Refurbishment)*



We invite you to support this ministry through financial offerings out of thanksgiving for the Gospel you have received here. Offerings may be placed in the plates located on the tables at the back of church, or you may scan the QR code to give electronically.

OUR WEEK AT ST. MATTHEW'S

Sunday: Worship Service9:00 AM
 Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School 10:15 AM

Thursday: Communion Worship Service7:00 PM
 Adult Choir.....8:00 PM
Scrip Orders Due

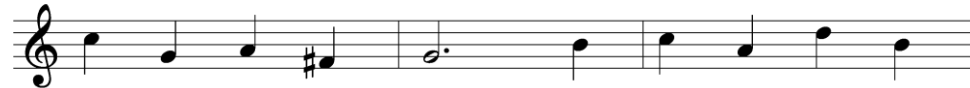
Sunday: Communion Worship Service9:00 AM
 Adult & Teen Bible Class/Sunday School 10:15 AM

90D O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Psalm 90D sts. 4-6



4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are
5 Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, soon
6 O God, our help in a - ges past, our



like an eve - ning gone, short as the watch that
bears us all a - way; we fly for - got - ten,
hope for years to come, still be our guard while



ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
as a dream dies at the o - p'ning day.
trou - bles last and our e - ter - nal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, abr., alt.
Tune: William Croft
Text and tune: Public domain