ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN
CHURCH & SCHOOL

ORDER OF DIVINE SERVICE



Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

November 8, 2026

AS WE GATHER

What happens when the midnight cry rings out, and your spiritual battery is at 1%? This Sunday, we explore the Parable of the Ten Virgins to confront a sobering reality: church attendance and flawless etiquette cannot fuel an empty lamp. You cannot slide into the wedding feast on the coattails of someone else's devotion, and left to our own stamina, our lamps will fail us.

But the good news of the Gospel is that you don't have to scramble for a late-night fix. While we were still trapped in darkness, our true Bridegroom arrived early for us at Golgotha, taking our outer darkness so that we could be filled with a free fortune of grace. Join us as we trade our religious anxiety for joyful readiness, discovering that we are ready for the feast not because our performance is perfect, but because the Master of the House has claimed us as His own!

PRELUDE

TOLLING OF THE BELL & WELCOME

Please stand

INVOCATION HYMN 802 Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✢ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C **Amen.**

Please sit

BAPTISM | 10:45am

MAEBRI HAYES HERBERT
Cori and Kaitlyn Herbert

Please stand

OPENING SENTENCES

P I will go to the altar of God,
C **to God my exceeding joy.**
P Our help is in the name of the LORD,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P Behold, this is our God; we have waited for Him, that He might save us.
C **This is the LORD; we have waited for Him; let us be glad and rejoice in His salvation.**

EXHORTATION

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.
C **But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

CONFESSION OF SINS & ABSOLUTION

Please kneel or sit. Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me!
C **O LORD, make haste to help me!**
P Let us then confess our sins to God, who is our help and our deliverer.
C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We confess the ways that our worship has fallen into empty words, disconnected from the life to which You have called us.**
We confess that we have been inattentive in our waiting for Christ's return. Forgive us, renew us, and call us back to You, that we may wait with hope and joy, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. He does not delay! His righteousness flows like an ever-flowing stream. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

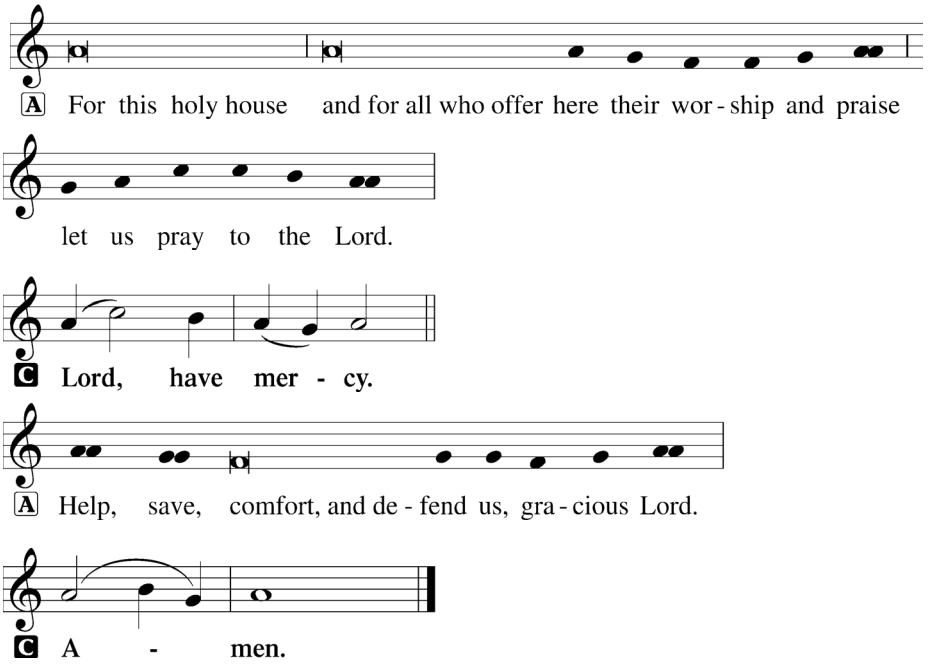
Please stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

KYRIE

Mark 10:47





THE HYMN OF PRAISE: This Is the Feast





SALUTATION AND COLLECT OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son to lead home His bride, the Church, that with all the company of the redeemed we may finally enter into His eternal wedding feast; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Please sit

FIRST READING *Amos 5:18–24*

A The Old Testament Reading is from Amos, chapter 5.

18 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,
19 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.
20 Is 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.
22 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.
23 Take away from me the noise of your songs;
to the melody of your harps I will not listen.
24 But let justice roll down like waters,
and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM *Psalm 70*

A Make haste, O God, to deliver me!
O LORD, make haste to help me!

C **Let them be put to shame and confusion who seek my life!**
Let them be turned back and brought to dishonor
who desire my hurt!

A Let them turn back because of their shame who say, "Aha, Aha!"

C **May all who seek you rejoice and be glad in you!**
May those who love your salvation
say evermore, "God is great!"

A But I am poor and needy;
hasten to me, O God!
You are my help and my deliverer;
O LORD, do not delay!

EPISTLE *1 Thessalonians 4:13–18*

A The Epistle is from 1 Thessalonians, chapter 4.

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

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

ALLELUIA *John 6:68*



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Text: Public domain
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HOLY GOSPEL *Matthew 25:1–13*

℗ The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.
℃ **Glory to You, O Lord.**

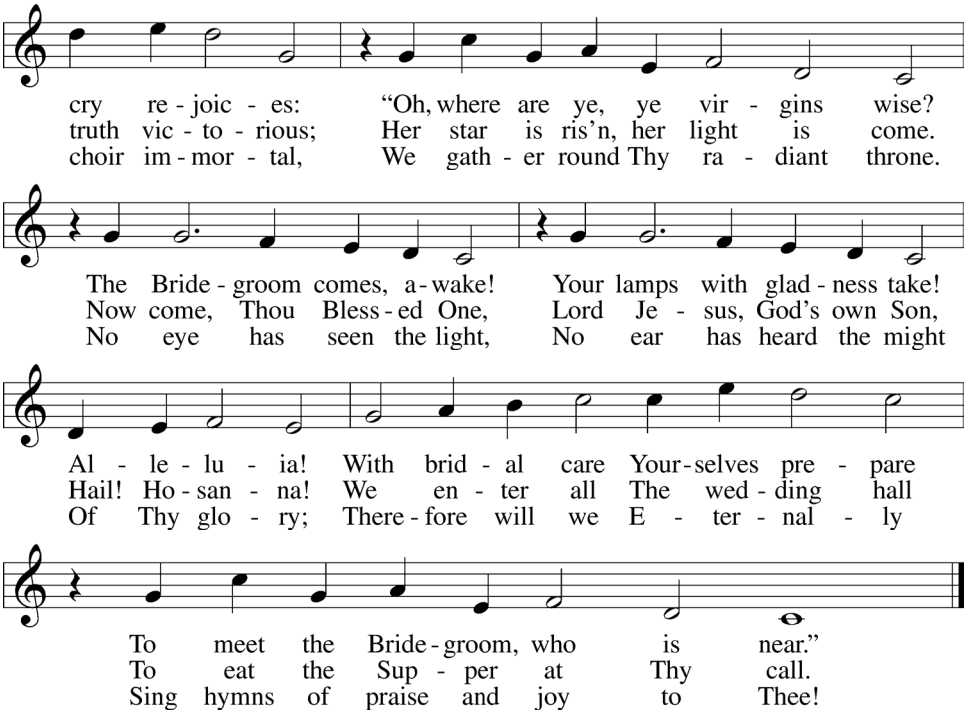
1[Jesus said:] "The kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their
lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. 2Five of them were foolish, and five were
wise. 3For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, 4but the
wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. 5As the bridegroom 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."

℗ This is the Gospel of the Lord.
℃ **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Please sit

SERMON HYMN 516 Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying





SERMON **"The Grandfather Clock: Living in Ready Anticipation"**

Pastor Mark Stapleton

Please stand

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.

Please kneel

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P Dear heavenly Father, You have placed us in various vocations for the sake of Your people. Strengthen us when we face challenges and trials that would tempt us to abandon Your Church. Forgive us when we go astray. Bring back all those who have wandered from the faith. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

C **Give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

P Lord, raise up good and faithful servants in Your Church, that we work together for the common good and spread the good news of Your kingdom to all nations. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

C **Give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

P Lord, raise up good and faithful servants in the governments of the world, that citizens of all nations might be treated with fairness and justice. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

C **Give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

P Lord, the day of Jesus' return is drawing near. Give us patience and faith as we await His return. Embolden us to serve our neighbors and never grow weary of doing good. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

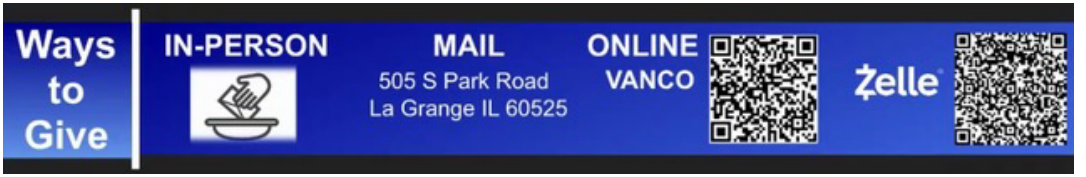
C **Give ear to our pleas for mercy.**

P Lord, disease and devastation have infected so much of Your creation, but we know Your healing is always close at hand. Be with all those who suffer now through abuse, illness, and injustice, [*especially . . .*] Heal them according to Your will, and send justice for the oppressed. Hear our prayer, O Lord.

C **Give ear to our pleas for mercy. Amen.**

Please sit

OFFERING



ANTHEM | 10:45am

KEEP YOUR LAMPS

André J. Thomas (b.1952)

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning, the time is drawing nigh.
Children don't get weary 'til your work is done.
Christian, journey soon be over, the time is drawing nigh.

Please stand

OFFERTORY *Psalm 116:12–13, 17–19*



LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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

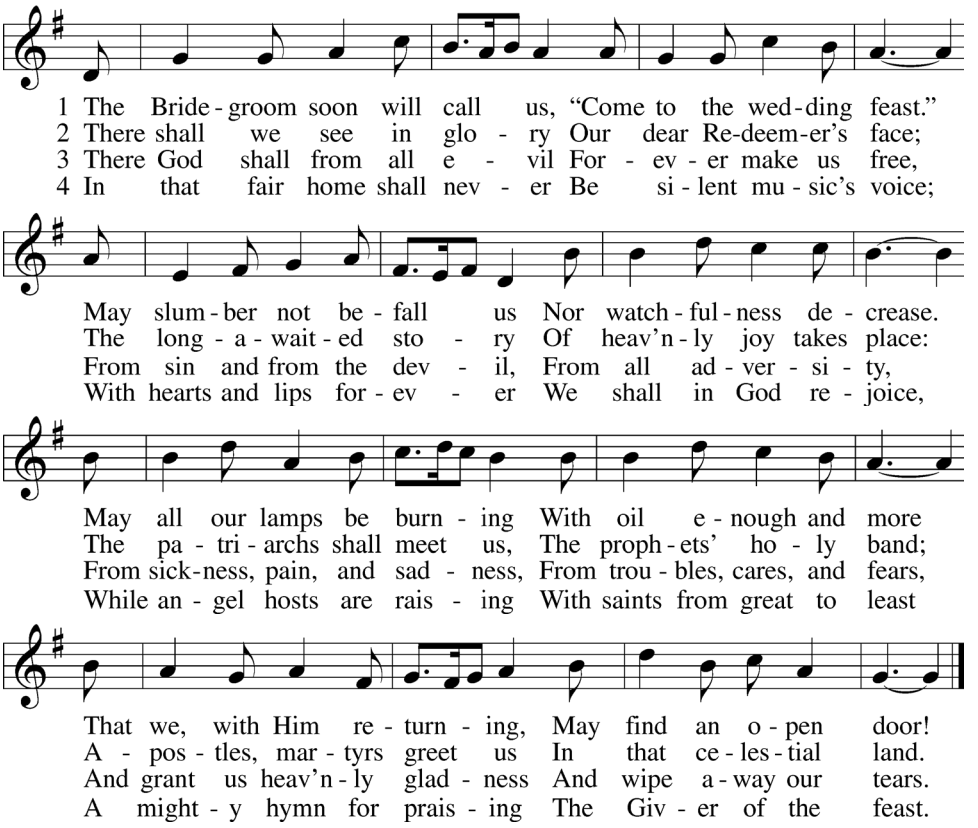
Numbers 6:24–26

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.**

CLOSING HYMN

514 The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us



Text: Johann Walter, 1496–1570; (st. 1): tr. F. Samuel Janzow, 1913–2001; (sts. 2–4): tr. Matthias Loy, 1828–1915, alt.
Tune: Musae Sioniae, 1609, vol. 7, Wolfenbüttel, ed. Michael Praetorius
Text (st. 1): © 1982 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 708390
Text (sts. 2–4) and tune: Public domain

Please sit

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Rev. Mark Stapleton, Homilist & Liturgist
Dr. Marc Brunelle, Director of Music/Organist
The Cantata Choir | 10:45am
Sue Kunz, Lector | 10:45am

ALTAR FLOWERS

Today's flowers are given by John and Connie O'Brien in honor of Grandson's Anthony's 1st birthday, Jonathon's 16th birthday and daughter Lauren's 40th birthday.

THE MUSIC FUND OF ST. JOHN'S

The Music Ministry at St. John's is sustained entirely through the generosity of our congregation and the faithful contributions made to the Music Fund. Through your support, we are able to offer uplifting and inspirational sacred vocal and instrumental music that enriches our worship, strengthens our faith, and glorifies God.

The three pillars of Christian stewardship—**time, talent, and treasure**—are essential to the vitality and continued growth of our Music Ministry. In that spirit, the Board of Worship prayerfully invites you to consider making a contribution to the Music Fund. Your generosity enables us to continue offering music of excellence and beauty in praise of God and in service to His Church.

White Music Fund contribution envelopes are available in the pews, and gifts may also be made conveniently through our online giving options.

We are deeply grateful for your continued generosity and for the important role you play in sustaining the Music Ministry of St. John's.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Mark your calendar for **"A Visit from St. Nikolaus!"** This fun, family friendly program by Elmhurst Harmonie, a German-language chorus in the western suburbs will include carols in German and English, cookies and hot chocolate – and St. Nikolaus and his mischievous sidekick Knecht Ruprecht will tell the real story of Santa Claus. It will be held here at **2:00pm** on **Saturday, Dec. 5**. Not available on December 5? Go to www.elmurst harmonie.com for another performance on Dec. 6.



ST. JOHN'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH
MUSIC MINISTRY

SAVE THE DATE

A Festival of NINE LESSONS and CAROLS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20
AT 4:00 PM

THE CANTATA CHOIR

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL
505 S. Park Road, LaGrange, Illinois, 60525

EQUIPPING them with God's Word through Christian Education
ENGAGING them in Worship and Fellowship
ENCOURAGING them to serve and love more like Jesus

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