

Historic Scripture Lessons for Last Sunday in the Church Year

Old Testament

Isaiah 65:17-19 NIV "Behold, I will create new Heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. 18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. 19 I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in my people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more."


Epistle

I Thessalonians 5:1-11 Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2 for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. 5 You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. 6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. 9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Gospel

Matthew 25:1-13 "At that time the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the Bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5 The Bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. 6 At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the Bridegroom! Come out to meet Him!' 7 Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' 9 'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' 10 But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the Bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with Him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. 11 Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' 12 But He replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' 13 Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."



Our Savior Lutheran Church ✠ Lakeland, FL USA
(Last Sunday of the Church Year) ✠ Confirmation
November 24th, 2013  9:30 ~ *Heaven's Eternal Joy*



*Let me be Thine forever, Thou Faithful God and Lord;
Let me forsake Thee never Nor wander from Thy Word.
Lord, do not let me waver, But give me steadfastness,
And for such grace forever Thy Holy Name I'll bless.*



Jonathan Edward Sawyer, Junior
Confirmed at Our Savior Lutheran of Lakeland

✠ OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH ✠

www.EvangelicalLutheranSynod.org

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Phone: (863) 859-3400 ~ Web: www.osllakeland.org

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM

✠ A.R. Burmeister 430-5859 ✠ Organ: Janice Thomas (813) 650-9198

November 24, 2013 (Trinity-Last) ✠ CONFIRMATION

WELCOME to Our Savior! We are so happy to have you worship with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time (or in a long time), we ask that that you please fill out a visitor card found in the pew cardholder and place it in the offering plate. Come and worship with us again! **God bless you.**

OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP Printed here and in the red TLH hymnal p.5.

Service		
Opening Hymn	609 (3v)	Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying
Hymn of the Day	333 (3v)	Blessed Savior, Who Hast Taught Me
Offertory Verse	336 (6v)	1,2 My God Accept My Heart This Day
Confirmation Hymn	338 (5v)	Thine Forever, God of Love
Closing Hymn	618 (6v)	Jerusalem, My Happy Home

Suggested Bible readings for the weekdays of the 26th Sunday after Trinity

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Isaiah 13:1-22	Isaiah 3:14-21	Isaiah	Daniel 2:27-45	Dan. 2:27-45	Dan 9:1-28
Rom. 11:1-33	II Thess. 19:1	II Thess. 3:1-18	II Tim. 3:1-17	II Tim. 9:1-23	Matt.24:1-14

PROPERs for the LAST SUNDAY of CHURCH YEAR (TRINITY-26) ✠ NOV 24

INTROIT: I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil. Then you will call on Me and pray to Me, and I will listen to you; and I will turn your captivity and gather you from all nations and from all places. Lord, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob from **Jeremiah 29:11,14**

COLLECT: Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son, we pray, that He may lead home His Bride, the Church, that we with all Your saints may enter into Your eternal kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever.
C: ♫ A - -men.

GRADUAL: The King's daughter will be brought to the King; the virgins, her companions that follow her will be brought to You. They will be brought with gladness and rejoicing; they will enter the King's palace. Alleluia! Alleluia! I saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem, come down from God out of heaven, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. Alleluia!
...from **Psalms 44**

SCRIPTURE LESSONS: (printed on outside back page 11 of the bulletin)

Isaiah 65:17-19	God will create a New Heaven & new earth.
I Thessalonians 5:1-11	Be ready for the Lord's (Second) Coming.
Matthew 25:1-13	Jesus tells the Parable of the Ten Virgins.

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ILCW Year-C Lessons for the ✠ Last Sunday in the Church Year Old Testament

Malachi 3:14-18 NIV "You have said, 'It is futile to serve God. What did we gain by carrying out his requirements and going about like mourners before the LORD Almighty? 15 But now we call the arrogant blessed. Certainly the evildoers prosper, and even those who challenge God escape.'" 16 Then those who feared the LORD talked with each other, and the LORD listened and heard. A scroll of remembrance was written in his presence concerning those who feared the LORD and honored his name. 17 "They will be mine," says the LORD Almighty, "in the day when I make up my treasured possession. I will spare them, just as in compassion a man spares his son who serves him. 18 And you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not.

Epistle

Colossians 1:13-20 For He has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the Kingdom of the Son He loves, 14 in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. 15 He is the Image of the invisible God, the Firstborn over all creation. 16 For by Him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by Him and for Him. 17 He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. 18 And He is the Head of the body, the church; He is the Beginning and the Firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy. 19 For God was pleased to have all His Fullness dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, whether things on earth or things in Heaven, by making peace through His Blood, shed on the Cross.

Gospel

Luke 12:42-48 The Lord answered, "Who then is the faithful and wise manager, whom the master puts in charge of his servants to give them their food allowance at the proper time? 43 It will be good for that servant whom the master finds doing so when he returns. 44 I tell you the truth, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. 45 But suppose the servant says to himself, 'My master is taking a long time in coming,' and he then begins to beat the menservants and maidservants and to eat and drink and get drunk. 46 The master of that servant will come on a day when he does not expect him and at an hour he is not aware of. He will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the unbelievers. 47 "That servant who knows his master's will and does not get ready or does not do what his master wants will be beaten with many blows. 48 But the one who does not know and does things deserving punishment will be beaten with few blows. From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.



PRAYER REQUESTS: Member or Relation		Pray for...
Madeline Beck		Guidance & comfort
Leroy Dux		Recovering from surgery at home
Mary Fowler	(Sharon Williamson's mother)	Healing & comfort
Haley Kucsulain	(Robin Dux' daughter – pregnant)	Baby in breach
Dee Kurczewski	(& son David)	Providence & release
Jonathan Jumper	(Elaine's grandson)	Healing in youth
Theresa Leuck	(Ann Wentz' daughter-in-law)	Stage4 lung cancer
Doug Marsh	(Robin Dux' father)	In hospital – relief & release
David Sawyer	(JonSr's brother)	Had triple bypass surgery
Rita Wendt	(Steve Wendt's mother)	Recovering in Alabama
Marcus Wienke	(Bev&Don's grandson)	Leukemia - recovery, strength

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
Greeters	John Wuolle	Jeanette & Ernie Kubly
Ushers	Leroy Dux	Leroy Dux
Treats	Sawyer Confirmation	Bev Wienke

COFFEE will be served in the Fellowship Hall following the service. Everyone is invited to stay! We thank our volunteers for serving today. We are IN NEED OF SERVERS for future Sundays. If you can help, PLEASE SIGN UP. Thanks!

Statistics	Last week	Year to date (Avg)
Worship, Communion Attendance	37, 30	32, 26
Bible Class: Thursday, Sunday	9, 11	8, 11
Sunday Offering	\$	(YTD) \$

Calendar of Events		
Sunday, 11/24	8:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 ff...	Bible Study: Matthew 18 (Discipline) Divine Worship: Jonathan Sawyer Conf. Fellowship time: Jonathan Sawyer Conf.
Wednesday 11/27	7:00 pm	Special Thanksgiving (Eve) Worship!
Thursday, 11/28	-All day-	Happy & Safe Thanksgiving to All!
Saturday, 11/30	9:00 am...	Decorate OSL for Christmas (Workday)
Sunday, 12/1	8:30 am 9:30 am 11:00 ff...	Bible Study Divine Worship (W/ Holy Communion) FFF-Food Fun & Fellowship, Please Stay
OSL Ladies...	6:00 pm	Ladies' Advent by Candlelight at church

Our (Savior) Elders are: **Leroy Dux 940-3237; Jim Vanesky 644-7807; John Weber 853-5458 & Don Wienke 863-815-8892.** Please contact them.

OSL ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK & DECEMBER

We rejoice & thank the Lord with the Sawyers & **Jonathan Jr.** on his Confirmation.

This **Wednesday: Special Worship opportunity! 7pm Thanksgiving Service.**

Next **Sunday: OSLadies special event! 6pm Advent by Candlelight at church.**

Three Wednesdays in Advent 4th, 11th & 18th **4:30pm Midweek Advent Services.**

Next Sunday: **12/1 ✱ ADVENT-1 (L.S. p.15) TLH Hymns: 55 160 441 58 53**

PRAYER FOR PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

O Lord, our Maker, Redeemer and Comforter, we are assembled in Your presence to hear Your Holy Word and to offer You our praise and worship. We pray, open our hearts by means of Your Holy Spirit so that through the preaching of Your Word we may be taught to repent of our sins, to believe on Jesus in life and in death, and to grow day by day in grace and holiness. Hear us for Jesus' sake. Amen.



A WORD TO OUR GUESTS

We follow the historic Christian liturgy as our order of worship. For centuries disciples of Jesus have worshipped the Lord following this basic order of service. It is rich in Biblical content, tested by time and usage, and centered on the saving actions of God, not on the feelings of those worshipping.

Nothing as rich as the Christian liturgy can be appreciated and understood instantly. If you are new to liturgical worship, please allow yourself time to become familiar with its music and meaning. We are confident that you will not find it difficult. Even this first time you will hear the Good News of God's love clearly in the words of God's prophets, God's apostles and God's Son, Jesus Christ, as they speak to us from Scripture.

A very brief explanation of some outward actions may be helpful. The congregation in worship (we are not part of an audience, but a part of the action of worshipping) generally is seated to listen to God's Word and sing the regular hymns. The pastor faces the congregation when he is serving as God's spokesman and faces the altar when he is serving in the capacity of the congregations' spokesman and as he joins them as a worshipper.



OUR (SAVIOR) WELCOME

Our Savior congregation is so very pleased to have the opportunity to share with you the blessings of its Christ-centered ministry. We welcome you in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ. To the friends who know us, we renew our welcome and to our first time guests we extend it most sincerely.

It is our goal to focus attention on the record of God's gracious accomplishments for our eternal destiny with Him. May the certainty of His mercy help to brighten the week ahead and to supply you with resolve for living as God's child and an heir of eternal life.

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I. The Service of Preparation TLH p.5



WELCOME, ALL! LAST SUNDAY in TRINITY (HEAVEN &) CONFIRMATION

OPENING HYMN Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying TLH #609 WACHET AUF

1. "Wake, awake, for night is flying," The watchmen on the heights are crying;
 "Awake, Jerusalem, arise!" Midnight hears the welcome voices
 And at the thrilling cry rejoices: "Oh, where are ye, ye virgins wise?
 The Bridegroom comes, awake!
 Your lamps with gladness take!
 Hallelujah!

With bridal care Yourselves prepare To meet the Bridegroom, who is near."

2. Zion hears the watchmen singing, And all her heart with joy is springing,
 She wakes, she rises from her gloom; For her Lord comes down all-glorious,
 The strong in grace, in truth victorious, Her Star is ris'n, her Light is come.
 "Now come, Thou Blessed One,
 Lord Jesus, God's own Son,
 Hail! Hosanna!

The joyful call We answer all And follow to the nuptial hall."

3. Now let all the heav'ns adore Thee, Let men and angels sing before Thee,
 With harp and cymbal's clearest tone. Of one pearl each shining portal,
 Where, dwelling with the choir immortal, We gather round Thy radiant throne.
 No vision ever brought,
 No ear hath ever caught,
 Such great glory;

Therefore will we Eternally Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee.

The INVOCATION (Congregation please rise.)

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son ✱ and of the Holy Spirit. C: A - -men.

The CONFESSION of SINS

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking Him in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. A: Our help is in the Name of the Lord.

C: A: Who made heaven and earth.

P: A: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: A: And Thou forgavest the iniquity of- my- sin.

P: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess to Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean, and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Therefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

C: O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy Will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end, that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

(Absolution on next page 4 ↗)

The COLLECT for the Spread of the WORD (Prayer)

P: Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life which You have given us in our Savior Jesus Christ, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One True God, now and forever.

C: A - - -men

The BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless thee and keep thee,

The Lord make His face to shine upon thee and be gracious unto thee,

The Lord lift up his countenance upon thee and give ✱ thee peace.

C: A -men, A-men, A - -men.

CLOSING HYMN "Jerusalem, My Happy Home" #618 (6 verses) ST. PETER

1. Jerusalem, my happy home, - Name ever dear to me,
 When shall my labors have an end? - Thy joys when shall I see?

2. When shall these eyes thy heav'n-built walls And pearly gates behold,
 Thy bulwarks with salvation strong, - And streets of shining gold?

3. Oh, when, thou city of my God, - Shall I thy courts ascend
 Where evermore the angels sing, - Where Sabbaths have no end?

4. Apostles, martyrs, prophets, there - Around my Savior stand;
 And soon my friends in Christ below - Will join the glorious band.

5. Jerusalem, my happy home, - When shall I come to thee?
 When shall my labors have an end? - Thy joys when shall I see?

6. O Christ, do Thou my soul prepare - For that bright home of love
 That I may see Thee and adore - With all Thy saints above.

SILENT PRAYER. (CANDLES OUT) ✱ ✱ ✱ ANNOUNCEMENTS; FELLOWSHIP.

ALL ARE WELCOME TO THE FELLOWSHIP LUNCH FOR JONATHAN FOLLOWING!



Confirmation

UPCOMING EVENT - Advent By Candlelight: This year again on **December 1, at 6 pm**, Our Savior's Ladies Guild will be holding our fourth ladies Advent by Candlelight service. It is an evening for the women of the church and guests. This is a beautiful and inspirational way to begin the Advent season and focus on the Christmas message. It is also a perfect time to share the love of the Lord with un-churched acquaintances. There is a sign up sheet in the narthex and invitations will be on the table in the narthex. Any questions about the evening or what is expected **Nancy Durn 816-6823.**

*P: Do you desire to be a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of this **Our Savior Lutheran** congregation?*

J: I do.

P: Do you intend faithfully to conform all your life to the Divine Word, to be faithful in the use of God's Word and Sacraments, which are His Means of Grace, and in faith, word, and action to remain true to God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, even to death?

J: I do so intend by the grace of God.

*P: Then give your hand as a pledge and promise, and kneel to receive the blessing. -- **Jonathan Edward Sawyer, Junior**, God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, give you His Spirit, the Spirit of wisdom and knowledge, of grace and prayer, of power and strength, of sanctification and the fear of God.
(Your chosen Confirmation verse)*

Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord. "Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

P: Upon this your profession and promise I invite and welcome you, Jonathan Sawyer Jr. as a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of Our Savior congregation, to share with us in all the gifts, rights and privileges our Lord has for His Church and to live them out continually in His worship and service.

*Let us **pray** for the newly confirmed: (Please rise for prayer.)*

*P: Lord God, Heavenly Father, we thank and praise You for Your great goodness and mercy in bringing Your son, Jonathan, to the knowledge of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, and enabling him both with the heart to believe and with the mouth to confess His saving Name. Grant that, bringing forth the fruits of faith, he may continue steadfast and victorious to the Day when all who have fought the good fight of faith will receive the Crown of righteousness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives; and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.***

*P: The almighty and most merciful God: Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless and keep you. **C: Amen.***

CONFIRMATION HYMN: Thine Forever, God of Love TLH #338 (5v) VIENNA

1. Thine forever, God of Love! - Hear us from Thy throne above;
Thine forever may we be - Here and in eternity!
2. Thine forever! Oh, how blest - They who find in Thee their rest!
Savior, Guardian, heavenly Friend, - Oh, defend us to the end!
3. Thine forever, Lord of Life! - Shield us through our earthly strife.
Thou, the Life, the Truth, the Way, - Guide us to the realms of day.
4. Thine forever! Shepherd, keep - These Thy frail and trembling sheep
Safe alone beneath Thy care, - Let us all Thy goodness share.
5. Thine forever! Thou our Guide, - All our wants by Thee supplied,
All our sins by Thee forgiven; - Lead us, Lord, from earth to heaven.
✠ p.7 ✠

*P: Almighty God our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His Name He gives the power to become children of God and hath promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, unto us all. **C: ♪ A- -men.***

The INTROIT (Entrance)

*P: I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil. Then will you call on Me and pray to Me, and I will listen to you; and I will turn your captivity and gather you from all nations and from all places. Lord, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob.
...from Psalm 84*

The GLORIA PATRI (Glory be to God)

**C: ♪ Glory- be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning; is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

KYRIE ELEISON (Lord Have Mercy)

**C: ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS (Glory in the Highest) *P: ♪ Glory be to God on high.*

C: ♪ And on earth peace, good will toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty. O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son- of the Father, That takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon- us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the Right Hand of God the Father, have mercy upon- us. For Thou only art holy. Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. A-men.

The SALUTATION (Greeting)

P: ♪ The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with thy spir-it.

The COLLECT (Prayer for this Sunday prayed by Pastor - words on **page 1**)

C: (sung after the Collect) ♪ A- -men. The congregation may be seated.



II. The Service of The Word TLH p.10



OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 65:17-19 God will create a New Heaven & earth.

EPISTLE: I Thessalonians 5:1-11 Be ready for the Lord's (Second) Coming.

GRADUAL C: The King's daughter will be brought to the King; the virgins, her companions that follow her will be brought to You. They will be brought with gladness and rejoicing; they will enter the King's palace. Alleluia! Alleluia! I saw the holy city, the New Jerusalem, come down from God out of heaven, prepared like a bride adorned for her husband. Alleluia!
...from Psalm 44

C: (Sung after the Epistle & Gradual) ♪ Allelu-ia, Allelu-ia, Allelu -- ia!

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The HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13 *The congregation please rise.*

C: (Sung *before* the Holy Gospel is read) ♪ **Glory be to Thee, O LORD.**

C: (Sung *after* the Holy Gospel is read) ♪ **Praise- be to Thee, O CHRIST.**

APOSTLES' CREED (Creed will be said during the **Rite of Confirmation**)

The Congregation may be seated for the next hymn.

(CONFIRMATION) **HYMN of DAY Blessed Savior, Who Hast Taught #333**

1. **Blessed Savior, who hast taught me - I should live to Thee alone,
All these years Thy hand hath brought me Since I first was made Thine own.
At the font my vows were spoken - By my parents in the Lord;
That my vows shall be unbroken - At the altar I record.**

2. **I would trust in Thy protecting, - Wholly rest upon Thine arm,
Follow wholly Thy directing, - O my only Guard from harm,
Meet me now with Thy salvation - In Thy Church's ordered way;
Let me feel Thy confirmation - In Thy truth and fear today.**

3. **So that, might and firmness gaining, - Hope in danger, joy in grief,
Now and evermore remaining - In the one and true belief,
Resting in my Savior's merit, - Strengthened with Thy Spirit's strength,
With Thy saints I may inherit - All My Father's joy at length.**



(End of Sermon) The **Peace** of God, which passes all understanding, keep
your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus to life everlasting, **Amen.**

(After Sermon) C: ♪ **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and- renew a
right spirit within me, Cast me not away from Thy presence; and take
not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salva-tion;
and uphold me with Thy- free spirit. A-men.**

OFFERTORY VERSE My God Accept My Heart This Day #336 verses 1&2

1. **My God, accept my heart this day - And make it always Thine
That I from Thee no more may stray, - No more from Thee decline.**

2. **Before the Cross of Him Who died, - Behold, I prostrate fall;
Let every sin be crucified - And Christ be All in all.**

The PRAYER of the CHURCH

Here are Congregation Responses for the general PRAYER of the CHURCH

(Pastor prays a section, then) P: ...Let us pray to the Lord: C: Lord, have mercy.

After the General Prayer, **The LORD'S PRAYER**

**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 & ever, Amen.**

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The Rite of Confirmation

P: Beloved in the Lord, our Lord Jesus Christ said: "All authority in heaven
and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all
nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the
Holy Spirit an teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And
surely I will be with you, to the very end of the age."

Jonathan Edward Sawyer, Junior, you have been baptized and
you have been taught the faith according to our Lord's bidding. We now
celebrate the fulfillment of His bidding with thankful hearts, rejoicing to
confess the faith into which you were baptized and which you yourself will
now confess before God and His Church.

Jesus said: "Whoever confesses me before men, I will also confess
him before My Father in heaven. But he that denies me before men, I will
deny him before My Father in heaven."

Lift up your heart therefore to the God of all grace and joyfully give
answer to what, in the Name of the Lord, as a minister of His Church, I will now
ask you.

P: Do you today in the presence of God and of this congregation
acknowledge the gifts which God gave you in your Baptism?

J: I do.

P: Do you renounce the devil and all his works and all his ways?

J: I do.

P: Do you believe in God, the **Father Almighty**?

J: Yes, I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in **Jesus Christ**, His only Son?

**J: Yes, I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;
Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary;
Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and was buried;
He descended into hell; the Third Day He Rose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the Right Hand of God the Father Almighty;
From thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in the **Holy Ghost**?

**J: Yes, I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Christian Church, the Communion of Saints,
the Forgiveness of sins, the Resurrection of the body, and the Life (everlasting.**

P: Do you intend to continue steadfast in this confession and Church and to
suffer all, even death, rather than fall away from it?

J: I do so intend with the help of God.

P: Do you hold all the prophetic (Old Testament) and apostolic (New
Testament) Scriptures (the Bible) to be the inspired Word of God and
confess the doctrine of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, which is drawn
from them, as you have learned to know it from the **Small Catechism**, to be
faithful and true?

J: I do.

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LAST Sunday (Confirmation) Matthew 25:1-13 “OIL IT!” 10.24.13

PRAYER: Lord God, Heavenly Father, fill our lamps with the oil of faith to believe in Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom, and be ready for Him and His coming. Keep us ever mindful that the Day of Your Judgment will come like a thief in the night. Turn also those with empty lamps to be filled with the same oil of faith, in Jesus Christ, Your Son... Amen.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

INTRODUCTION: Mr. Suberbier was giving his grade-8 English class the (usual) assignment to write an original essay. The topic he had chosen for the students that day was a rather pragmatic one: (Write an essay on) **“How To Keep Your Mother’s Sewing Machine Running.”** He had given sufficient direction and ample guidelines of generally *what* and even *how much* of a paper he expected in return. Students in the class approached it with varying levels of motivation, organization and dedication. Young **Richard** (Burmeister) took the assignment home, thought about it (with his usual amount of seriousness), organized his thoughts, and put together his “original” composition in preparation for hand-in the next day. As Mr. Suberbier collected the assignments from all the students, he was quite struck by Richard’s “paper.” While others handed in their respective work, some hand-written, some typed; some multiple pages, Richard’s submission was a single sheet of paper with his name, the date, and (two words)

(THEME:) **OIL IT.**

We know how important, and nowadays how *valuable* oil is in earthly things. Whether it be sewing machines, or power lawn mowers, or in **cars**, oil is an important part and essential for many machines, tools, etc. and even for the human body, as in skin oils. Oil can **also be useful as an metaphor for our spiritual well-being**, specifically our **readiness** for Christ’s return on the Last Day, which we consider on this Last (Sun)day of the Christian church year. Christ **IS** returning for His Church. This is what the wedding illustration tells us. Jesus is the bridegroom in this parable and the bride is his Holy Christian Church. As we sing in the hymn,

***From Heaven He came and sought her to be His holy bride.
With His own Blood He bought her, and for her life He died.***

The meaning of the parable is clear. The oil that is in the lamps represents the **Gospel and Sacraments of Christ**, for these are the very presence of God the Holy Spirit. It is through these means of grace that **the Holy Spirit calls us to faith** and keeps the light of faith alive in our hearts. The light is the faith that the Holy Spirit creates through the means of grace. The **wedding is heaven**, and entrance into the wedding is only given to those who have the Holy Spirit, for only they have true faith. The ten virgins represent the total number of those who are outwardly attached to the church. The wise virgins are the Christians who *really* were members of Christ’s church. The foolish virgins are those who attached themselves to the church, but neglected the Gospel and sacraments. They heard, but they did not hear. They paid no attention to the gospel. It bored them. They

thought it was unimportant. They had no use for it. So when the day came that they most needed it, it wasn’t there. But it was too late to get it.

Now is the day to hear the Gospel. Now is the day to believe it. Now is the day to take refuge in the wounds of Jesus, to find His grace in Holy Baptism, to find His forgiveness in the holy Supper of His body and blood. Now is the day, because on the Day of His return, it will be too late. Today. Sunday. The *Last Sunday* of *this* church year. Confirmation day. And *every Sunday*. Every Sunday until that day that God has already set for *when* Christ will return (when it *will be too late*), we **all** have the opportunity to hear God’s Word (= the Gospel) and partake of His Sacrament. **How can we** take that lightly, or bypass **any one** of those opportunities?!

Christ *is* returning for His Church. But not everyone who is attached outwardly to Christ’s Church is really a member of her. The foolish virgins belong to the church, but they *don’t*. They are **baptized**. Baptism saves. But they *aren’t* saved. They hear the **absolution**. The absolution gives them **forgiveness of their sins**. But they *don’t have* forgiveness of their sins. They eat and they drink the Body and the Blood of Jesus in the **Lord’s Supper**. This body and blood gives the forgiveness of sins, eternal life, and salvation from sin, death, and hell. But they *don’t have* forgiveness, life, or salvation. Surrounded by these precious means of salvation, they are unsaved. *Why? How can this be?* They fail to see what really matters. Like the foolish virgins who were a part of the group, but had no oil in their lamps, they belonged to the church, they had their names properly recorded in the church records, they gave an offering, and participated in the various activities, but they simply **did not believe**. They did not hide that Word in their hearts. **They did not guard it, keep it, and take it in.** It went in one ear and out the other. All that “religious business” meant nothing to them. They didn’t even notice that their oil vessels were empty. Why should they care?

I pray that you/we all will care! Whoever you are, **nothing can be more precious** to you than the Gospel and the Sacraments of Jesus that reveal your Savior to you in your deepest sin. Think of all the religious foolishness that occupies peoples’ minds, and then consider how little time is spent preaching, teaching, expounding upon, and delving into the precious mystery of God’s eternal grace revealed in the suffering of the God-man Jesus Christ on Calvary’s cross.

I. “Have oil.” It is a simple matter to be ready for Christ’s return. It is simply a matter of having the (oil of the) Gospel. Jesus gave his Great Commission to his disciples in **Matthew 28**. After telling the ministers of His church to teach all nations and baptize them by His authority in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, he added the words, “teaching them to **observe** all things whatsoever I have commanded you.” The word **“observe”** here means to keep, to guard, or to treasure. To take hold of and never to let go. That, brothers and sisters in Christ, is a simple matter.

But it becomes complicated. *We* make it that way. We are so easily distracted from what is precious and we spend our time and our energy on things that are fundamentally worthless. **What should we be doing with our time while we wait for Jesus to come back and take His church home?** We should be drinking in His **promises**, we should be **listening** to His **voice**, we should be discussing and talking about what He says to us. This is what it **means to keep oil for the lamps**. After God revealed His Law to Moses for the children of Israel, He went on to say,

*And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart; you shall **teach them diligently to your children**, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*
(Deut. 6:6-9)

What God is saying here is very simple. **He wants His children to care about what He says**. He wants us to listen to Him because we love His voice and find what He says *more important* than what anyone else says. If you care about the gospel, you take it in. **You keep your flask full of oil**. The only way to run out of oil is to pay no attention to it and the only reason you pay no attention to it is because *you just don't care*.

Furthermore, not to care about the oil – not to care about the Gospel – is **not to care about God or even heaven itself**.

II. “Use oil.” To love the Gospel today is to love heaven on the Last Day. To love the oil is to **use the oil**. We won't find anything in heaven that we haven't already received – by faith – here on earth. This is why St. John in Revelation describes heaven as he does, picturing for us the Lamb who was slain. The Christian loves today **the crucifixion** of Jesus for him and her. “Christ for us” is the theme of our faith *now*. And Christ for us will also be the theme of our joy in heaven. We have everything heaven is right now, but it is not by sight or feeling, it is by faith.

When the church has lost her love for the Word of God, she is no longer the church. When the Christian cares nothing about hearing, learning, talking about the holy mysteries of the faith, that Christian has **run out of oil**. His faith won't burn anymore. He or she had better take serious stock of her situation before Jesus returns, because when Jesus returns it **will be too late**.

Nobody knows when that day will be. We know that we don't know and cannot know the day or the hour that Christ will return. Every date-setter is therefore a false prophet, **period**. We don't need to disprove anyone's theory about when Jesus will return. If someone says he knows, he contradicts Jesus who told this parable.

But we do know that He **will** return to **judge**, as we saw last week (sheep/goats). He will create the new heavens and the new earth. He purchased this home with His Blood. He promised it to us. He gave it to us in the precious Gospel and Sacraments. It is our home today by faith but we won't enter it until Jesus Himself greets us at the door and receives us in.

What a day of joy that will be! Just think of it! No more regrets and guilt for what we've done wrong. No more worry over what may go wrong. No more sadness or anguish of any kind. No more pain. Arthritis, cancer, stroke, heart disease, diabetes, depression, you name it, will be gone, forgotten, never again mentioned, experienced, or even *known* among God's people. Nobody will ever steal again or lie or cheat and tear down his neighbor. And we won't even want to do any of these things ever. Our hearts will be so pure that no sin will ever come into them. This is the glory that God will reveal in His children, those who found God in Christ and found Christ in the **lowly** but **holy** means of salvation: **the Gospel and the Sacraments**.

So we **treasure** and we **use** our oil. We know how oil is useful and essential for us in earthly things. But *spiritually*, it is for us **the true oil of gladness**, for it **lights** our way into the wedding hall where true joy will be found forever. We (wait and) pray for that blessed day, as we echo the prayer at the close of the Revelation of St. John: **“Come, Lord Jesus, Come quickly. Amen!” SDG**

Our Savior Lutheran Church ✠ Lakeland, FL USA
(Last Sunday of the Church Year) 🕊 *Confirmation*



Woodcut illustration from a **1695 Bible – Matthew 25:1-13**
Jesus receives five bridesmaids (**saved**), but five unwise are left (**unsaved**).