

## Historic Scripture Lessons for the Last Sunday of 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.

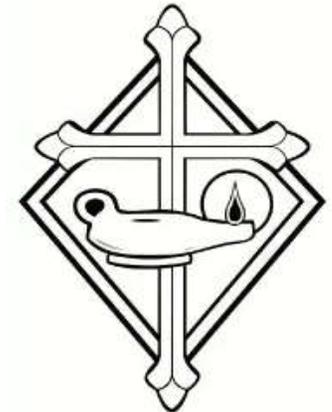
**Historic Gospel** ... ↗

**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."

### 3-Year Gospel (Sermon Text)

**Mark 13:32-37** "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in Heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. 34 It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. 35 "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back - whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. 36 If He comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. 37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"

Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL  ELS  
Last Sunday of Church Year    *Heaven's Eternal Joy*



# OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL

6920 N Socrum Loop Road / (north) Lakeland, FL 33809 USA

Phone: (863) 859-3400 ~ Web: [www.OSLLakeland.org](http://www.OSLLakeland.org)

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

✧ Rev. Andrew R. Burmeister 863-430-5859 ✧ Organ: A.R. Burmeister

## November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018 Trinity-Last ☪ Heaven's Joy

**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! **The LORD bless you.**

**OUR ORDER OF WORSHIP** On gold liturgy sheets and in (red) TLH.ymnal p.5

Suggested Hymn	TLH# (vv)	...First Line
Opening Hymn	609 (3v)	Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying
<i>Psalm 25</i>	<i>Ps.25 '3v'</i>	<i>To You, O Lord, I Lift My Soul ... ↗</i>
Hymn of the Day	619 (8v)	<b>Sing v1-4</b> Jerusalem Thou City Fair&High
<i>Offertory Verse</i>	<b>585 (2v)</b>	<b>Sing v.1-2</b> I Fall Asleep in Jesus' Wounds
Third Hymn	616 (8v)	Forever With the Lord
Closing Hymn	47 (4v)	Savior Again to Thy Dear Name We Raise

### Suggested Bible readings for the week of the 26<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Trinity

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Isaiah13:1-22	Isaiah 3:14-21	Isaiah	Daniel2:27-45	Dan. 2:27-45	Dan 9:1-28
Rom. 11:1-33	II Thes. 19:1	II Thes.3:1-18	II Tim. 3:1-17	II Tim. 9:1-23	Ma.24:1-14

### PROPERs for the LAST SUNDAY of CHURCH YEAR (TRINITY-26) ☪ NOV 25<sup>TH</sup>

**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 **JA-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 **Psalm 44**

### SCRIPTURE LESSONS *(printed on outside back page of the bulletin)*

O.T. **Isaiah 65:17-19** God will create a New Heaven & new earth.

Epi. **I Thessalonians 5:1-11** Be ready for the LORD's (2nd) Coming.

Gos. **Matthew 25:1-13** Jesus tells the Parable of the Ten Virgins.

### **Psalm 25 REFRAIN: To You, O LORD, I lift my soul; To You, I lift my soul.**

**Refrain C:** ♪ To You, O Lord, I lift my soul; To You, I lift my soul.

**Verse 1.** ♪ Lord, \_ Make me know Your ways, Teach me Your paths, And keep me in the way of Your truth, \_ For You are God, my Saviour.

**Refrain C:** ♪ To You, O Lord, I lift my soul; To You, I lift my soul.

**Verse 2.** ♪ For-the-Lord is good and righteous, \_ Revealing His way, To those who seek Him, \_ Gently leading the poor, and the humble.

**Refrain C:** ♪ To You, O Lord, I lift my soul; To You, I lift my soul.

**Verse 3.** ♪ To-the-ones who seek the Lord, \_ Who look to His Word, Who live in His Love, \_ He-will-always be near; He will show them His mercy.

**Refrain C:** ♪ To You, O Lord, I lift my soul; To You, I lift my soul.

**#585 1. I fall asleep in Jesus' wounds, - There pardon for my sins abounds; Yea, Jesus' Blood and righteousness - My jewels are, my glorious dress. In these before my God I'll stand - When I shall reach the heavenly land.**

**2. With peace and joy I now depart; - God's child I am with all my heart. I thank thee, Death, thou leadest me - To that true life where I would be. So cleansed by Christ, I fear not death. - Lord Jesus, strengthen Thou my faith.**

### PRAYER REQUESTS: (Member or Relation) Pray for...

<b>Dee Kurczewski</b> (David)	Dee - rehabbing. David back working
<b>Carolyn Miner</b> (Don)	Carolyn had brain bleed stroke. Home recovering well
<b>Jon &amp; Andrea Sawyer</b>	Jon's heart, changing work. Andrea started new work
<b>Ethel Wendt</b> (Steve)	Ethel had surgery. Recovering well at home. PTL
<b>Barb Wolkens</b>	Barb seriously stiff neck. Doctors don't know cause yet
<b>James Vanesky &amp; Delores Platt</b>	Both at home rehabbing. We miss them

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Bev &amp; Don Wienke</b>	<b>Joan Patrick</b>
<b>Treaters</b>	(Decorate &) <b>Potluck lunch</b>	

Statistics	Last week	Year To Date / Avg.
<b>Sunday, Attendance</b> (Communion)	<b>20 / (19)</b>	<b>21 / 17</b>
<b>Bible Class Attendance:</b> Sunday	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Sunday Offering</b> (Needed) & YTD	<b>\$. (\$1,350)</b>	<b>YTD \$, (\$63.3K)</b>

Calendar of Events		
<b>Today November 25</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Bible Study</b> Figures of Christ: "Rock"
<b>Trinity(26) = Last</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Divine Worship (NO Communion)</b>
<b>Sunday of Church Yr.</b>	<b>10:45 ff...</b>	<b>Decorate for Christmas &amp; Potluck lunch</b>
<b>Next Sunday 12/2</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Bible Study</b> Christ Figures: <i>Shepherd/Shp</i>
<b>First Sunday of</b>	<b>9:30 am</b>	<b>Divine Worship (WITH Communion)</b>
<b>Advent &amp; New Year</b>	<b>10:45 ff...</b>	<b>"FFF" = Food, Fun &amp; Fellowship ... Stay!</b>

**Elders: Tom Temple 213-4622; John Weber 853-5458; Don Wienke 815-8892**

✧ We come to the end of another (liturgical) Church year. Next Sunday will be the first Sunday in Advent and start of a new Church year. And, the first three Wednesdays in **December - 5<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup>** we will have **Midweek Advent Vespers at 4:30 PM.**

*Next Sunday: 12/2 Advent-1/C (L.S. p.15) Hymn #s: 70 Ps.25 55 68.1,2 58 34*

**TRINITY-LAST/B Mark 13:32-37 "LAST DAYS-LIVING...HOW-TO" 11.25.18 OSL**

(INTRO) "THE END" We are at the end. The Sunday of the Fulfillment. The **Last** Sunday of the church year. Next week, (if there is a next week,) we start all over again with Advent, looking toward the second appearing of Christ as we prepare to celebrate His first appearing. But today marks "The End." The Last Sunday that wraps everything up at the close of the age when Christ will appear as the Son of Man coming in the clouds with great and terrifying power and glory and send out his angels to gather his elect from the **four "corners"** of the earth. Or as we summarize it in the Creed: "*He will come again to judge the living and the dead.*"

**HOW TO LIVE** The question for the day is: **How do we LIVE as End-times people?** How do we live in the realization that the Day of the Lord is coming, it is nearer now than it was yesterday. How do we live, **as God's baptised believers**, knowing that Christ might appear at any moment, that the cosmic order as we know it may give way without warning, that the sun, moon, and stars would fall and the very heavens be shaken?

**WATCH** This is or will be the **visible appearing of Christ in glory**. He will come suddenly and without warning, like a thief in the night. Jesus' (single) Word for the End is an urgent word: Keep awake. Keep alert. (As **Mark 13:37** says) "**Watch!**"

**WHEN?!** No one knows the day or the hour. That's the reality of the End-times. Jesus leaves the last big question unanswered. Imagine **parents** going out for the evening and telling their **kids**, **P:** "*We'll be right back.*"

**Kids:** "*So when exactly are you coming back?*"

**Parents:** "*Who knows? Could be anytime at all. But when we do come back it will be suddenly and without warning.*"

**K:** "*Could you at least give us a ballpark estimate?*"

**P:** "*No, that wouldn't be good for you.*"

**K:** "*Maybe nine o'clock? Midnight? Something like that?*"

**P:** "*No but we'll be back. You can count on it. Why do you want to know anyway?*"

**WHY KNOW** **Why would we want to know?** Why do we insist on foolish figuring when the Lord has told us it's not for us to know the day or the hour? Why do we fixate on special years like 2000? One part of it, I think, is **fascination with the unknown** and a lurking sense that things seem to be tumbling to some sort of end point. Another part, though, is **our desire to "domesticate" God**, to put Him into a **convenient box** the way we do our holiday seasons, to **schedule** Him in on our busy calendars to make sure we're ready when He shows up so we can have our houses swept clean and our lives in order.

**HIGH ALERT** Jesus has set His church, you and me, on **high End-times alert** with the single word "**Watch. Keep awake.**" While the rest of the world is spiritually asleep to the point of being **comatose**, Jesus would have

His believers alert and ready, like the doorkeeper of the house who watches for the master of the house to return. He doesn't know when, so he's always alert, always ready, always watching. Jesus made it quite clear to His disciples. The End-times is not a time for **couch potato Christianity**, of **comatose complacency**. He said, "*Be careful, take heed, lest your hearts be weighed down with dissipation, with drunkenness, and the anxieties of life, and that Day will spring on you unexpectedly like a trap.*"

**GET BORED** The problem is that the call to end-times alertness after 2000 years **begins to "lose its oomph" on us**. We start to (get complacent and) take it for granted. It just **doesn't mean anything anymore**. The press of our work and social calendars crowd out the significance of any end of the church year, end of the age, end of all things considerations. And while we may have a lurking notion that the **world will end one day**, it also have this false confidence that it is not likely to end today, tomorrow, or the next day. And that would be as foolish as **those bridesmaids who thought that a little oil was enough** and never expected the groom to show up at the unlikely hour of Midnight.

(JESUS IS) JUDGED The Day of Jesus' coming is indeed a Day of Judgment. But judgment **cuts two ways**. 1) One *can* be judged **guilty** and sentenced to **punishment**; (but - 2) one can also be judged **innocent and set free**. In a very real sense, you were already judged on "**Jesus' Judgment Day**" - the Day He came not to judge but to be judged, when **He took your place on a Cross**, took your sin into His sinless life, embraced your death in His death, was condemned with the condemnation you deserve. That (**very**) **Good Friday** when the Son of God died for the sins of the world was a Day of the Lord. And we know where that Day led - to **Resurrection, to life, to glory** at the Right Hand of God.

**OLD GONE, NEW IN** That judgment was pronounced also over your own head **in your Baptism**, where you were united with Jesus in His death, His life, His glory. You were clothed with Christ. You were put "into Christ," made a new creation. "The Old has gone, the New has come." Many Christians, especially those who don't understand the power and work of Baptism, miss this point. In Christ you are already glorified. We are, in Christ, already in the new creation. What we are waiting for is to take possession of this ourselves, in our own bodies raised or changed to fit life in a new creation. And so the end of all things old means the beginning all things new. "*I am making all things new,*" Jesus says. **New heavens, a new earth, a new YOU.**

**PLANT-A-TREE...** So (again,) **How then shall we live, in view of the End?** Luther is reported to have said that if he knew the world were going to end tomorrow, he **would plant an apple tree today**. (Luther maybe didn't actually say that, but) **The idea is sound**. We would say: wash the car, mow the lawn, do what we are given to do. But **always, always, always** with **one eye toward the Heavens** from where comes our salvation.

(HE'S) NEAR! **Christ is coming soon!** And in the end it's **all about Christ**, who is the Beginning and the End. What greater topic is there than Christ **and His Word** as we prepare to meet Him face to face?

(ALSO) PRAY! With the Word comes **Prayer**. *"Pray in the Holy Spirit."* The End-times are a time for prayer, for "holy conversation" with the One who is coming. To pray *"in the Spirit"* does not mean to pray incoherently or pray without understanding, but to pray recognizing that **we do not know how to pray**, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with sighs and groans beyond words. He delivers God's Word to our ears, and our words to the Father's ears ...in Jesus' Name.

RECEIVE HIS GIFTS (OF GRACE) *"Keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the **mercy** of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life."* Notice it is "mercy" for which we are waiting and life. To keep in the love of God is to be on the receiving end of His Love toward us – hearing His **Word**, receiving the **Body and Blood** of Christ, taking in the **Words of Forgiveness** and life. And as we receive the tokens of His love for us **now**, we are being prepared to be the objects of His love when He does ultimately appear in glory.

HELP OUT OTHERS Lastly, we are told, *"Have mercy on those who doubt."* **He turns us to one another.** Doubt and faith always run together because we believe what we do not now see. The church is a body; there is safety in numbers. The **isolated believer is the vulnerable one.** We **need each other**, sometimes to stick out a rescuing hand to pull another from the fire of unbelief. That hand may leave a temporary bruise, but if someone were about to be run over by a truck, you wouldn't worry about a black and blue mark, would you? We are called to **watch out for each other, care** for each other, **support** and **even rescue** one another, because **we don't want anyone to miss the glory** that is coming.

TRUST HIM TO THE END There is a **final comfort here**, on this Last Sunday of the year. Jesus is the One who **keeps us** from stumbling and **presents us blameless at the end. NOT US. NOT our** religious efforts, **our** works, **our** piety, or anything. **JESUS** keeps us blameless in the robe of His righteousness; Jesus keeps us from stumbling by His sure feet that have trampled sin, death, and devil. He is your Beginning, your End, your Alpha, your Omega, your Life and your Salvation. Trust Him to the End, and you will see with Resurrection eyes what you now believe.

*"Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen." SDG*

**Possible Prayer of Church for The Last Sunday of Trinity November 25<sup>th</sup>**  
*Almighty God, You have invited us to pray and promised to hear the prayers of Your people until You come again. We come before You this day in the Name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. (Possible) Brief silence*

We give You thanks that You have granted us Your only Son and for His deliverance from the domain of sin and its darkness of death and for raising us up to be people of light. Give to us the courage we need to meet the troubled days ahead, and guard us against despair. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our....**

As Christ is Head of the Church, so do we call upon You to guard His precious body against all the assaults of the enemy. Give to us faithful pastors and church workers who will not shrink from faithfulness in time of threat and who will deliver to us the whole counsel of Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear**

In Christ, You have revealed the fullness of Your saving will and purpose. As He has forgiven us, teach us to forgive one another, that no one may be hindered in faith by a guilty conscience, no conflict or division distract us from the work He has given us to do, and we may live at peace by the blood of His Cross. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give to the nations and all who govern a sense of right and wrong and the courage to act decisively for good. Help us to honor the sacredness of life and to care for those least able to care for themselves, especially the unborn. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Preserve among us the fruits of Your creation for the well-being of all people, and teach us to care responsibly for all that You have made. Guide us to honor the vocations You have given us, that we may serve You faithfully in home and at work, in neighborhood and nation, in labor and in leisure. Accept from our hands the offerings we bring as tokens of our gratitude and signs of our trust in Your mercy. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Give to the sick healing and to the suffering relief, according to Your will. *[We pray especially for **OSL Prayer List** ; and all those hospitalized; and all those recuperating at home; for all in nursing homes; and all those in pain of body, mind or spirit.]* Receive our thanks for the faithful who have gone before us and now rest from their labors. Bring us at last with them to die in peace and awaken in Your arms in paradise. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

When Your Son was revealed as the Son of God who takes away the sin of the world, He did not shrink from the suffering that bore the fruit of our salvation. Keep us from the fear of our enemies, that we may not deny our Lord in the hour of trial but with good courage proclaim Jesus Christ to the end when we and all who live in Christ shall receive the great reward You have prepared for all who have loved His appearing. We pray You, O Lord, to grant us all things needful and to keep from us all things harmful, even as we pray in the Name and for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord, **Amen. Then, Lord's Prayer...**