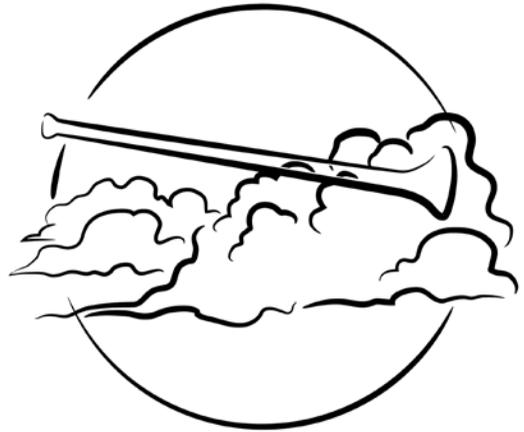


Sunday Worship Bulletin

Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost

10:00 a.m.
November 12,
A.D. 2017



Saint John's Lutheran Church

--- Missouri Synod ---

60 Broad Street, Westfield, MA
(413)568-1417

Pastor David Riley, Pastor

Cell phone # 870-814-4828

Website: <http://stjohnswestfield.org> e-mail: info@stjohnswestfield.org

Radio Broadcast at 7:30 a.m. on WHYN 560 AM

WELCOME IN THE NAME OF JESUS, OUR LORD

We pray that our worship this day will be an inspiration to every one of us.

If you are a visitor or the guest of someone, please sign our Guest Book at the round table in the Foyer. Requests for prayers in this morning's service may be made by writing them on the Prayer Request form in the entryway of the church.

A Nursery for infants and toddlers is available in Room 4 on this level.

Jesus said: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you are also to love another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35

The Order of Morning Worship

AS WE GATHER

The final three weeks of the Church Year are traditionally concerned with “the last things.” The lessons of the Church bring a special opportunity to reflect on the end of time and on the end of our earthly lives. In the Apostles’ Creed, we affirm our belief in the resurrection of the body, which is God’s good but temporary gift to us while we are living on earth. With all who have died in the faith before us, we await the coming of the Lord. Paul writes, “We shall all be changed.” Our faithful worship helps us prepare for that glorious event!

† PRELUDE

† OPENING HYMN No. **474**: *“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen”*

† INVOCATION, CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

L: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: Great and amazing are Your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty!

C: Just and true are Your ways, O King of the nations!

L: Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify Your name?

C: For You alone are holy.

L: All nations will come and worship You,

C: for Your righteous acts have been revealed. Alleluia!

L: Let us confess our sins to God, our heavenly Father.

C: Merciful Father, we bring before You our confession, imploring Your mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. We are sinful from birth and daily add to that burden. Our actions have been thoughtless and have resulted in evil. Our words have been hurtful, and we have not always honored Your name in our speaking. We have left undone many things that could have brought glory and praise to You. O Lord, grant us Your grace and the blessing of forgiveness. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to amend our sinful lives, that we may grow daily in righteousness and be bringers of peace in our time.

L: Because of the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus, God promises full and free forgiveness. As you believe, so may it be.

C: Amen.

✠ PRAYER of the DAY

L: 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.

(Be Seated)

✠ OLD TESTAMENT: Amos 5:18–24 *(The Lord calls for justice.)*

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, 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.

Is not the day of the LORD darkness, and not light, and gloom with no brightness in it? "I hate, I despise your feasts, and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies. 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. Take away from me the noise of your songs; to the melody of your harps I will not listen. But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

✠ EPISTLE: 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 *(The Day of the Lord is coming.)*

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

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

(Please Stand)

✠ HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1–13 *(The parable of the wise and foolish virgins)*

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.

C: Glory be to You, O Lord.

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are

going out.' But the wise answered, saying, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' And 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. Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ.

✠ STATEMENT of FAITH: Apostles' Creed

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.

(Be Seated)

✠ HYMN of the DAY No. **696**: *"O God, My Faithful God"* (Sts. 1-4)

✠ SERMON: *"The Bridegroom is Coming"* Matthew 25:1-13

✠

Offering

We respond to God's love with our OFFERINGS

✠ OFFERING HYMN NO. **781**: *"We Give Thee But Thine Own"* (Sts. 1 & 2)

✠ PRAYER of the CHURCH

L: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. We pray for the Church, the gathering of God's forgiven people, that we may support and encourage one another as we await the day of the Lord's return.

C: In mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.

L: We pray for our nation, our state, our local community, and our neighborhoods. May justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream in our courts and in all centers of government, that we may lead lives that are peaceful and peaceable.

C: In mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.

L: We pray for those who serve among us as leaders in the Church, that they may find support and joy in their service. We pray that many young men and women would be led into vocations of service in the Church, encouraged by our prayers and our gifts.

C: In mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.

L: We pray for those with special need for our petitions in these times, including the sick and hospitalized, the shut-ins, those facing challenges in employment or in other parts of their lives, that their needs may be met according to God's gracious plan.

C: In mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.

L: We pray, O Lord, that we may use all of the good gifts You have given us with thanksgiving, caring for our own bodies, using the talents we have been given, and seeking to be the neighbors and friends You have designed us to be.

C: In mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.

L: We thank You, Lord, for the witness left to us by Your saints, those we have known personally in our lives and those from times past whose witness continues to inspire and inform us. May Your Holy Spirit lead us each day to be those people who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with You as we await the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting.

C: In mercy, Lord, hear our prayer.

L: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy; through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

L: O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: THE LORD'S PRAYER

✠ BENEDICTION

L: 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 No. **801**: *"How Great Thou Art"*

✠ SILENT PRAYER

† **POSTLUDE**

SERVING US AS WE WORSHIP TODAY:

Worship Leaders – Tom McClure & Bill
Schneeloch
Acolyte – Daniel Provost

Lay Reader – Erika Slozak
Guest Organist – Marla Zippay
Altar Care – Matt & Ali Talmadge

THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST, (November 12, 2017)

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

The Gospel Prepares Us for Our Heavenly Bridegroom's Coming

The Day of the Lord is “darkness, and not light” (Amos 5:18, 20) for all who trust in their own righteousness and piety. The Lord will not accept their “burnt offerings and grain offerings,” nor will He look upon their “peace offerings” (Amos 5:22). Instead, He desires a heart of faith that trusts in Him, which lets “justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream” (Amos 5:24) in love for the neighbor. In order for the “lamps” of our lives to burn brightly with such love, we must be filled with the “oil” of forgiveness through faith in our Bridegroom, Jesus Christ (Matthew 25:1–4). Therefore, as we await His coming, wisdom directs us “to the dealers” (Matthew 25:9), that is, to the ministers of His Gospel. Thus we wait upon the Lord, and we “encourage one another with these words” (1 Thessalonians 4:18). Waking or sleeping, we are prepared to meet Him when He comes “with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God,” and “we will always be with the Lord” (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17).

THIS WEEK at ST. JOHN'S:

Wednesday, November 15	5:00 p.m.	Youth Confirmation
	7:00 p.m.	Mid-Week Worship
Thursday, November 16	6:30 p.m.	Hand Chime Choir
Saturday, November 18	11:00 a.m.	WINGS Meeting & Chrismon Making
Sunday, November 19	8:30 a.m.	Sunday School and Adult Bible Study
	10:00 a.m.	Worship Service – No Communion

2017 ALTAR FLOWERS: The flower book pages for the New Year are now in the book. The cost for each bouquet is \$21.00. We can do up to three bouquets per Sunday. If anyone would like to have flowers for a particular Sunday, please sign up in the flower book located in the church foyer or see Jane McClure (562- 0492).

RADIO MINISTRY: There are many Sundays coming up that are available for sponsorship. Please help in the continuing outreach mission project of our Radio Broadcast of Sunday morning Worship. Broadcasts can be heard each Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on WHYN (560 AM). The cost for the program is now \$125 per week. If you are interested in sponsoring a broadcast (or a part of a broadcast) in memory of or in honor of anyone please call the church or sign up on the sheet outside the office door.