

Sunday Worship  
Bulletin

**Twenty-Fourth  
Sunday  
after  
Pentecost**

10:00 a.m.  
November 19,  
A.D. 2017



**Saint John's Lutheran Church**

--- Missouri Synod ---

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*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!

✠ ORGAN PRELUDE

✠ OPENING HYMN No. **905**: *“Come, Thou Almighty King”*

✠ INVOCATION, CONFESSION and ABSOLUTION

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

**C: Amen.**

L: Praise our God, all you His servants, you who fear Him, small and great.

**C: For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give Him the glory.**

L: Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,

**C: for His judgments are true and just.**

L: As children of the light and well beloved by our gracious God, let us come with confidence before the throne of grace to confess our sins and to receive absolution.

**C: Almighty God, whose compassion never fails, we come before You in penitence. We know that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed. Grant us Your mercy, and spare us from the just punishment of our sin, which our Lord Jesus Christ has borne for us on the cross. Renew us by Your Holy Spirit, that we may walk in the light of Your love, now and forever.**

L: God has promised to grant His forgiveness to all who repent of their sins and turn to Him for mercy. May our God keep you in His grace, lead you in ways of faith and obedience, and bring you to live with Him forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

✠ PRAYER of the DAY

L: Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, You have given exceedingly great and precious promises to those who trust in You. Dispel from us the works of darkness, and grant us to live in the light of Your Son, Jesus Christ, that our faith may never be found wanting; 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:** Zephaniah 1:7–16 (The Day of the Lord is coming near.)

Be silent before the Lord GOD! For the day of the LORD is near; the LORD has prepared a sacrifice and consecrated his guests. And on the day of the LORD's sacrifice—"I will punish the officials and the king's sons and all who array themselves in foreign attire. On that day I will punish everyone who leaps over the threshold, and those who fill their master's house with violence and fraud.

"On that day," declares the LORD, "a cry will be heard from the Fish Gate, a wail from the Second Quarter, a loud crash from the hills. Wail, O inhabitants of the Mortar! For all the traders are no more; all who weigh out silver are cut off. At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps, and I will punish the men who are complacent, those who say in their hearts, 'The LORD will not do good, nor will he do ill.' Their goods shall be plundered, and their houses laid waste. Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them."

The great day of the LORD is near, near and hastening fast; the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter; the mighty man cries aloud there. A day of wrath is that day, a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation, a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick darkness, a day of trumpet blast and battle cry against the fortified cities and against the lofty battlements.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

✠ **EPISTLE:** 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11 (Encouragement at the coming of the Lord)

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

***(Please Stand)***





✠ HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30 (The parable of the use of the talents)

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

**C: Glory be to You, O Lord.**

“For it will be like a man going on a journey, who called his servants and entrusted to them his property. To one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. He who had received the five talents went at once and traded with them, and he made five talents more. So also he who had the two talents made two talents more. But he who had received the one talent went and dug in the ground and hid his master's money. Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. And he who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five talents more, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me five talents; here, I have made five talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ And he also who had the two talents came forward, saying, ‘Master, you delivered to me two talents; here, I have made two talents more.’ His master said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master.’ He also who had received the one talent came forward, saying, ‘Master, I knew you to be a hard man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you scattered no seed, so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here, you have what is yours.’ But his master answered him, ‘You wicked and slothful servant! You knew that I reap where I have not sown and gather where I scattered no seed? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and at my coming I should have received what was my own with interest. So take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. For to everyone who has will more be given, and he will have an abundance. But from the one who has not, even what he has will be taken away. And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’

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. **791**: *“All People That on Earth Do Dwell”*

✠ SERMON: *"Living in Our Master's Joy"* Matthew 25:14-30

## **Offering**

We respond to God's love with our OFFERINGS

✠ OFFERING HYMN NO. **781**: *"We Give Thee But Thine Own"* (Sts. 3 & 4)

✠ PRAYER of the CHURCH

L: We pray for the Church. We bless You, O God, for the gift of the Church, our place of nurture and of refuge. May the Church continue to be faithful in sharing the message of salvation and in distributing the gifts You have for Your people. In mercy, O Lord,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: We thank You, O God, for the world in which we live and for the human family of which we are a part. May all who are in positions of leadership around the globe find ways that lead to peace and security. May the leaders of our nation, state, and local communities seek to do that which brings blessing to all people and serves the common good. Help us to be bringers of light into places that are darkened, that our lives may be marked by service in the name of Christ, who has served us with love and forgiveness. In mercy, O Lord,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: When You created the world, O God, You called it good. We know that sin has darkened and marred much of that original good creation. Direct our ways, O God, toward a respectful use of the earth and all that comprises our world, that we may be faithful stewards in our time, leaving a legacy for those who come after us until the time of the return of Christ, who will establish a new heaven and a new earth. In mercy, O Lord,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: Lord, You know all things. You know our needs and the needs of others even before we speak of them with words or in our hearts. Hear our petitions for those who are hospitalized or ill, for those who are shut in or find their lives limited in some way, for those whose work is unfulfilling or who have no work at all, for those who are grieving on this day, and for those who seek some special blessing, that their lives may know Your presence. In mercy, O Lord,

**C: hear our prayer.**

L: We thank You, Lord, for all those people whose faith and faithfulness have inspired us. We thank You for the lessons we have learned from them and pray that, as the Holy Spirit works in and through us, we may pass along the light that they kindled in us. May our days and our deeds bring glory to Your name for the sake of Christ, our Savior. In mercy, O Lord,

**C: 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. **921**: *"On What Has Now Been Sown"*

✠ SILENT PRAYER

✠ POSTLUDE

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SERVING US AS WE WORSHIP TODAY:

Worship Leaders – Tom McClure & Bill  
Schneeloch

Acolyte – Daniel Provost

Lay Reader – Linda Slozak

Guest Organist – Martha Sienkiewicz

Altar Care – Matt & Ali Talmadge

THE FLOWERS in the chancel this morning are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of my brother, Edward and my sister, Marlene Morgan from John Fisher and family.

**THE TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST** (November 19, 2017)

Zephaniah 1:7–16, 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11, Matthew 25:14–30

***God's Gift of Forgiveness Motivates Our Forgiveness of Others***

The Day of the Lord is *"near and hastening fast,"* and it will be *"a day of distress and anguish, a day of ruin and devastation"* (Zephaniah 1:14, 15). The Lord will search out and punish *"the men who are complacent"* concerning His Word, *"who fill their master's house with violence and fraud"* (Zephaniah 1:9, 12). Then all their works and efforts will be for nothing: *"Though they build houses, they shall not inhabit them; though they plant vineyards, they shall not drink wine from them"* (Zephaniah 1:13). But those who fear, love and trust in the Lord are *"good and faithful"* stewards of His property (Matthew 25:21). They live by faith in His free gift of forgiveness, and they multiply His goods in the loving forgiveness of their neighbor, and *"the master of those servants"* settles His accounts with them by the gracious reckoning of His Gospel (Matthew 25:19). Likewise, *"God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (1 Thessalonians 5:9). Therefore, let us also *"put on the breastplate of faith and love"* in our dealings with one another (1 Thessalonians 5:8).