Christ Lutheran Church

Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod
Hillsboro, Texas



3rd Last Sunday of the Church Year

HERE COMES THE GROOM!

November 8, 2026

TODAY'S MESSAGE: HERE COMES THE GROOM!

During these last Sundays of the church year (until the church year begins again with the season of Advent), we focus on the warnings and the promises of Jesus' second coming. Today's readings from God's Word warn us to be ready for that day, but today's readings also comfort us with the promise that Jesus has done everything necessary so that we can be prepared for that day and even look forward to it with anticipation. When Jesus comes again, everyone whose lamp is filled with the oil of God's Word and the Holy Spirit, and burning with faith in Jesus Christ, will enter with Jesus into the eternal marriage feast in heaven.



In the Lord's Supper, Jesus gives us His body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. The Lord's Supper is also a very sacred and intimate proclamation of fellowship among those who confess the same faith (doctrine, teachings) concerning God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ. Therefore, we practice close communion and ask that those who are not confirmed members of an LC-MS congregation receive instruction prior to receiving the Lord's Supper.

Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. A man ought to examine himself before he eats of the bread and drinks of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.
1 Corinthians 11:27-29

Before receiving the Lord's Supper, we need to examine ourselves in the following way: (1) Am I truly repentant (sorry) for all of my sins and do I truthfully desire to change my sinful life? (2) Do I believe that Jesus is my Lord and Savior and that in the Lord's Supper I receive His body and His blood for the forgiveness of all my sins? And (3) Have I been instructed in the Scriptures and have I publicly confessed my belief that the teachings of this church and the LC-MS are faithful to God's Word and the Gospel of His Son Jesus Christ?

If you have questions about what God's Word says concerning the Lord's Supper, please speak with the pastor and/or pick up our brochure titled "Fellowship in the Lord's Supper". Those not confirmed are welcome to come to the altar, keep your hands down and folded and receive a blessing. For those who will be communing: **Non-alcoholic** wine is located in the center of each tray for those who have concerns with alcohol. We offer the **chalice** as well as individual cups. If you desire the chalice, do not take an individual cup from the tray and the pastor will serve you from the chalice. Christ is present in both to grant you forgiveness.

✙ ORDER OF SERVICE WITH COMMUNION ✙

["Divine Service: Setting Three" from LSB p.184]

Please silence – or turn off – your phones and refrain from using them during the service.

Welcome

Announcements

Opening Hymn "O'er the Distant Mountains Breaking" [TLH 606]

O'er the distant mountains breaking, comes the redd'ning dawn of day.
Rise, my soul, from sleep awaking; rise and sing and watch and pray.
'Tis thy Savior, 'tis thy Savior, on His bright returning way.

O Thou long-expected, weary waits my anxious soul for Thee.
Life is dark, and earth is dreary, where Thy light I do not see.
O my Savior, O my Savior, when wilt Thou return to me?

Nearer is my soul's salvation; spent the night, the day at hand.
Keep me in my lowly station, watching for Thee till I stand.
O my Savior, O my Savior, in Thy bright, Thy promised, land.

With my lamp well trimmed and burning, swift to hear and slow to roam,
Watching for Thy glad returning, to restore me to my home.
Come, my Savior, come, my Savior, O my Savior, quickly come.

Invocation *Matthew 28:19b*

P: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: *(sung)* **A - - - men**

Confession of Sins *Hebrews 10:22; 1 John 1:8-9*

P: Beloved in the Lord. Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, imploring him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord. *Psalm 124:8*
C: *(sung)* **Who made heaven and earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord. *Psalm 32:5*

C: *(sung)* **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

ALL: O almighty God, merciful Father, I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended you and justly deserved your punishment now and forever. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray you of your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and His Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you of all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. *John 20:19-23*

C: *(sung)* **A - - - men.**

Entrance Psalm [ESV] Psalm 130

P: Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD! O Lord, hear my voice!

C: Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleas for mercy!

P: If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

C: But with you there is forgiveness, that you may be feared.

P: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.

C: My soul waits for the Lord more than watchmen for the morning, more than watchmen for the morning.

P: O Israel, hope in the LORD! For with the LORD there is steadfast love, and with him is plentiful redemption. And he will redeem Israel from all his iniquities.

ALL: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope.

Gloria Patri *(sung)*

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 *(sung)* *Mark 10:47*

Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ have mercy upon us. Lord have mercy upon us.

Gloria in Excelsis *(sung)*

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

Glory be to God on high, 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, heavenly 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. Amen.

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* **And with thy spirit.**

P: Let us pray.

Opening Prayer

ALL: Heavenly Father, when the Day of Judgment comes, our only hope will be your grace. Keep us alert and watchful for Jesus' return and prepare us for the marriage feast in heaven. This we pray through faith in your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading [ESV]

Amos 5:18-24

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: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope. Psalm 130:5

Epistle Reading [ESV] — 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

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: I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I hope. Psalm 130:5

Gospel Reading [ESV] — Matthew 25:1-13

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.
C: *(sung)* **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] "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."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
C: *(sung)* **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Children's Message

Sermon Hymn "The Bridegroom Soon will Call Us" LSB 514 [Tune: 644]

The Bridegroom soon will call us, "Come to the wedding feast."
May slumber not befall us, nor watchfulness decrease.
May all our lamps be burning, with oil enough and more,
That we, with Him returning, may find an open door!

There shall we see in glory, our dear Redeemer's face.
The long awaited story, of heav'nly joy takes place:
The patriarchs shall meet us, the prophets' holy band.
Apostles, martyrs greet us, in that celestial land.

There God shall from all evil, forever make us free,
From sin and from the devil, from all adversity,
From sickness, pain and sadness, from troubles, cares and fears,
And grant us heav'nly gladness, and wipe away our tears.

In that fair home shall never, be silent music's voice.
With hearts and lips forever, we shall in God rejoice,
While angel hosts are raising, with saints from great to least,
A mighty hymn for praising, the Giver of the feast.

Sermon HERE COMES THE GROOM!

Confession 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.

Offertory *(sung)* *Psalm 51:10-12*

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 salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Offering *(Greet those seated near you. You may say, "The peace of the Lord be with you.")*

[If you are a guest, please feel under no obligation to give anything, but receive this worship service as our gift to you. For the members and friends of this congregation, our mission and ministry is dependent upon your generous giving, a significant act of our worship.]

Offering Prayer [LSB 781 (v.1-2)]

P: We give Thee but Thine own, whatever the gift may be. All that we have is Thine alone, a trust, O Lord, from Thee.

C: May we Thy bounties thus, as stewards true receive. And gladly, as Thou blessest us, to Thee our first-fruits give! Amen.

Prayers

✚ THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION ✚

VISITORS and MEMBERS

Please read the message inside the first page of this bulletin re: participation in the Lord's Supper.

P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*

C: *(sung)* **And with thy spirit.**

P: Lift up your hearts. *Colossians 3:1*

C: *(sung)* **We lift them up unto the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God. *Psalm 136*

C: *(sung)* **It is good and right so to do.**

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who on this day overcame death and the grave and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and saying:

Sanctus *(sung)* *Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9*

Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Sabaoth. Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He. Blessed is He. Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.

Lord's Prayer *Matthew 6:9-13*

ALL: 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.

Words of Our Lord *Mt. 26:26-28; Mk. 14:22-24; Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

P: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when he was betrayed . . .

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always. *John 20:19*
C: *(sung)* **A - - - - - men.**

Agnus Dei *(sung)* *John 1:29*

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace.... A - - - - - men.

Distribution Hymns "Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray" LSB 663

Rise, my soul, to watch and pray, from your sleep awaken!
Be not by the evil day, unawares o'er taken.
For the foe, well we know, is a harvest reaping, while the saints are sleeping.

Watch against the devil's snares, lest asleep he find you.
For indeed no pains he spares, to deceive and blind you.
Satan's prey, oft are they, who secure are sleeping, and no watch are keeping.

Watch! Let not the wicked world, with its lies defeat you,
Lest with bold deceptions hurled, it betray and cheat you.
Watch and see, lest there be, faithless friends to charm you, who but seek to harm you.

Watch against yourself, my soul, lest with grace you trifle.
Let not self your thoughts control, nor God's mercy stifle.
Pride and sin, lurk within, all your hopes to shatter. Heed not when they flatter.

But while watching, also pray, to the Lord unceasing.
God protects you day by day, strength and faith increasing,
So that still, mind and will, shall unite to serve Him, and forever love Him.

"Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying" LSB 516

"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! Alleluia!"
"With bridal care, yourselves prepare, to meet the Bridegroom, who is near."

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!
We enter all, the wedding hall, to eat the Supper at Thy call.

Now let all the heav'ns adore Thee, let saints and angels sing before Thee,
With harp and cymbals' clearest tone. Of one pearl each shining portal,
Where, joining with the choir immortal, we gather round Thy radiant throne.
No eye has seen the light, no ear has heard the might, of Thy glory.
Therefore will we, eternally, sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

"The Day is Surely Drawing Near" LSB 508

The day is surely drawing near, when Jesus, God's anointed,
In all His power shall appear, as judge whom God appointed.
Then fright shall banish idle mirth, and flames on flames shall ravage earth,
As Scripture long has warned us.

The final trumpet then shall sound, and all the earth be shaken,
And all who rest beneath the ground, shall from their sleep awaken.
But all who live will in that hour, by God's almighty, boundless pow'r,
Be changed at His commanding.

The books are opened then to all, a record truly telling,
What each has done, both great and small, when he on earth was dwelling.
And ev'ry heart be clearly seen, and all be known as they have been,
In thoughts and words and actions.

Then woe to those who scorned the Lord, and sought but carnal pleasures,
Who here despised His precious Word, and loved their earthly treasures!
With shame and trembling they will stand, and at the judge's stern command,
To Satan be delivered.

My Savior paid the debt I owe, and for my sins was smitten.
Within the Book of Life I know, my name has now been written.
I will not doubt, for I am free, and Satan cannot threaten me.
There is no condemnation!

May Christ our intercessor be, and through His blood and merit,
Read from His book that we are free, with all who life inherit.
Then we shall see Him face to face, with all His saints in that blest place,
Which He has purchased for us.

O Jesus Christ, do not delay, but hasten our salvation.
We often tremble on our way, in fear and tribulation.
O hear and grant our fervent plea. Come, mighty judge, and set us free,
From death and ev'ry evil.

Nunc Dimittis *(sung)* *Luke 2:29-32*

Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word.
For mine eyes have seen Thy Salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles and the Glory of Thy people Israel.
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.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

ALL: Gracious God, our heavenly Father, you have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in this Holy Supper of your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

P: The Lord be with you. *2 Timothy 4:22*
C: *(sung)* **And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord. *Psalm 103:1*
C: *(sung)* **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.
C: *(sung)* **A - men, A - men, A - - men.**

Closing Hymn "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers" LSB 515

Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear.
The evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising, and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle. At midnight comes the cry.

The watchers on the mountain, proclaim the Bridegroom near.
Go forth as He approaches, with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting. The gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory. The Bridegroom is at hand.

The saints, who here in patience, their cross and suff'rings bore,
Shall live and reign forever, when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory, the Lamb they shall behold.
In triumph cast before Him, their diadems of gold.

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear.
Arise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see,
The day of earth's redemption, that sets Your people free!