

*For the week of the twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost  
November 12<sup>th</sup> through November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

**Notes for the Week — *The Hope of the Resurrection, 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18***

People will turn to this Scripture passage in order to support the false idea of “the rapture.” You can see why. Paul does say, “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 we will always be with the Lord.” Yet, does Paul mean that Christ will whisk us away forever to live in some ethereal reality for eternity? Such a notion goes directly against the sacred witness of the rest of the Scriptures. Christ Himself says that we will “inherit the earth.” He also says that the faithful will be “left behind” while those who do not believe will be “taken away” to the place of punishment. So if Paul is not talking about the rapture, then what is he talking about?

Two biblical images may help. In Revelation, 21 John sees a *new* heaven and a *new* earth. God does not renew heaven and earth simply to forsake it, but rather John sees the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God into this new creation. This new Jerusalem is all the people of God, those who Jesus brings when He comes again and those who are “caught up” with them. This new Jerusalem is brought down to dwell in the new creation with God Himself in their presence. Jesus says, “The one who conquers will have this heritage, and I will be his God and he will be my son.” The new Jerusalem, the Church, are the ones who have conquered through the blood of the Lamb, Jesus Christ.

The second image is drawn from a couple of places like 2 Samuel 19, 1 Kings 1, and the Triumphal Entry of Jesus. These are images of kings coming in victory and being received by the people. Each time, all Jerusalem comes out to meet the king on the way and accompany him back into the city. Each time the king is coming in victory over those who seek his overthrow. The victory of Jesus in the Triumphal Entry is hidden by His meekness and sacrifice for us. However, when Jesus’ final entry will be one marked with power over the devil, sin, and death once and for all. When He returns, we will meet him in the air as He returns to the earth.

In His conquering power, we will conquer the devil, sin, and death once and for all. When He returns, He will bring all those who have gone before us in death, and He will reunite them body and soul. Then those who are left, who are still alive when He returns, will be transformed. Our existence before the Lord forever will be spiritual, yes, but NOT because it is not physical. It will be spiritual because it will be lived in the spirit, from the Spirit. The devil, sin, and death will have no part in our eternal existence. This is our hope, to live with one another, body and soul, with Christ in the new creation forever! What a wonderful existence that will be: to enjoy God and His untarnished creation forever. May that Day come quickly!

### ***The Order of Meditation and Prayer***

*Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate.  
Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.*

#### **INVOCATION**

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

#### **APOSTLES' CREED**

#### **VERSE: MATTHEW 25:13**

Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

**PSALM 70 and/or the appointed daily psalms.**

**Prayer on the Psalm**

*It is proper and right for all on earth to give glory to You, O Father of mercy, because You sent Your Son to war against, and to overcome, our enemies. Endow us with strength and fortitude never to despair in the strife with the powers of darkness, but at all times grant us victory and perseverance through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen.*

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	1, 2	5, 6	8	10	13, 14, 15	18	20, 21	23, 24
Evening	3, 4	7	9	11, 12	16, 17	19	22	25

**BIBLE READINGS FOR THE WEEK:**

	Bible Narrative for the Week	Second Reading
Sunday	Matt. 25:1-13	
Monday	The Prophet Samuel Is Born—1 Samuel 1:19—2:2	
Tuesday	The Song of Hannah—1 Samuel 2:1-11	
Wednesday	The Lord Calls to the Boy Samuel—1 Samuel 2:12, 18-21; 3:1-20	
Thursday	The Ark of the Covenant Is Captured—1 Samuel 3:21—4:18 (19-22)	
Friday	The Ark of the Covenant Brings Judgment upon the Philistines—1 Samuel 5:1—6:1	
Saturday	Zeph. 1:7-16	1 Thess. 5:1-11

**The Catechism: The Creed— Introduction and First Petition**

<b>Our Father who art in heaven</b>	Pre +
<p><i>What does this mean?</i>            With these words God tenderly invites us to believe that He is our true Father and that we are His true children, so that with all boldness and confidence we may ask Him as dear children ask their dear father.</p>	First Grade+
<b>Hallowed be Thy name.</b>	Pre +
<p><i>What does this mean?</i>            God's name is certainly holy in itself, but we pray in this petition that it may be kept holy among us also.</p>	Second Grade +
<p><i>How is God's name kept holy?</i>            God's name is kept holy when the Word of God is taught in its truth and purity, and we, as the children of God, also lead holy lives according to it. Help us to do this, dear Father in heaven! But anyone who teaches or lives contrary to God's Word profanes the name of God among us. Protect us from this, heavenly Father!</p>	Third Grade +

**DEVOTION OR MEDITATION**

**DAILY PRAYER**

Select from among the following prayers as time and circumstances allow:

**Collect of the Week**

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. **Amen.**

### **Daily Themes for Prayer**

- Sunday:** *For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacrament.*
- Monday:** *For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.*
- Tuesday:** *For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.*
- Wednesday:** *For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:** *For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.*

### **In Our Prayers this Week**

**Our Congregation:** *Raymond Meyer; Connie Miller; Curtis Miller; Becca Mingle, Ezekiel, Zoey; Baili & Alli Matthews*

**Baptismal Birthdays:** *Will Peoples*

**Wedding Anniversaries:**

**Members of the Congregation:**

**Friends of our Congregation:**

**Other:**

**Our Circuit:**

*St. John Lutheran Church; Aliceville, Rev. Timothy Booth*

*Trinity Lutheran Church; Burlington, Vacant*

**Our District Staff and President,** *Rev. Justin Panzer.*

*Jim Bradshaw, Education and Youth*

*Janet Powell, Administrative Assistant*

**Our Synod and President,** *Rev. Matthew Harrison*

**Our Community:** *City of Wellsville, USD 289*

**Our State and Governor,** *Laura Kelly*

**Our Nation and President,** *Joseph Biden*

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

#### **MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER FROM THE CATECHISM**

*I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.*

—or—

*I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.*

**HYMN OF THE WEEK**

***“Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying***

**516**

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!  
Alleluia!  
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 Blessèd One,  
Lord Jesus, God’s own Son,  
Hail! Hosanna!  
We enter all  
The wedding hall  
To eat the Supper at Thy call.

3 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!

Text: tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.; Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608  
Text: Public domain

***Looking Forward to “Twenty-Fifth Sunday After Pentecost”***

***November 19, 2023***

***Readings: Zephaniah 1:7-16 | 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11 | Matthew 25:14-30***

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” (Zeph. 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” (Zeph. 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” (Zeph. 1:13). But those who fear, love and trust in the Lord are “good and faithful” stewards of His property (Matt. 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 (Matt. 25:19). Likewise, “God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ” (1 Thess. 5:9). Therefore, let us also “put on the breastplate of faith and love” in our dealings with one another (1 Thess. 5:8).

