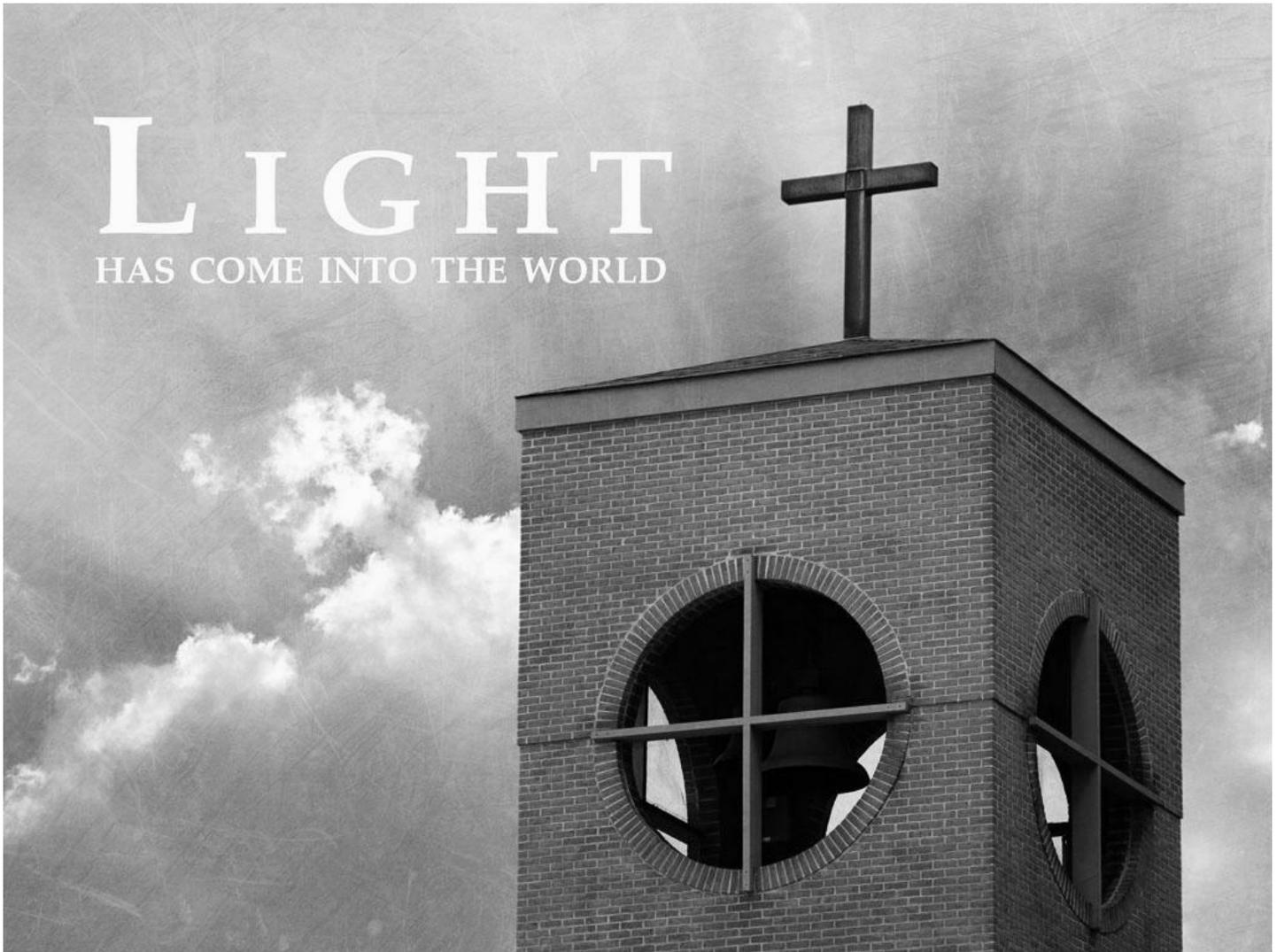


*An evening setting of Holy Communion*



St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Saturday, November 11, 2017  
5:30 pm  
Holy Communion  
Interim Pastor: Rev. Larry Hoover  
Interim: Bishop Emeritus Gregory Pile  
Church: 479-4110; Fax: 479-2994  
[www.stdavidslutheran.org](http://www.stdavidslutheran.org)

# Welcome to St. David's Lutheran Church!

We are blessed by your presence and honored that you have chosen to worship with us today. Please take a moment to sign the friendship sheet that is located in the booklet at the end of each pew, near the center aisle. These sheets will be collected with the offering.

**The Sacrament of Holy Communion** is offered to all who are baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit and who recognize the Sacrament as the true body and blood of our Lord. Baptized children are also welcome to the Lord's table at St. David's with the guidance and consent of their parents or guardians.

**Prayer Requests** may be made by placing the request in the small wooden box at the rear, near the doors through which you entered. The acolyte will collect the requests and they will be included during the prayers of the congregation.

**For your comfort** there is a restroom and a water fountain located upstairs. Simply exit through the double doors back into the narthex. The restroom is straight ahead in the parlor, beside the grandfather clock, and the water fountain is to the right at the beginning of the hallway.

**Devotional** –Copies of Scripture readings for the month of December, Gospel Messages for Advent, Christ in Our Home (large print) devotions and The Word in Season devotions are located on the table in the back, next to the prayer box.

**For your convenience** there is a cry room for infants, equipped with changing table and supplies, a crib, rocking chairs, blankets, and toys. Simply exit through the double doors back into the narthex, turn right down the hallway, and it is the last room on the left.

## INTRODUCTION

Today the prophet Amos calls for justice to roll down like waters. Paul urges us to encourage one another with the promised coming of the Lord. Jesus tells the parable of the wise and foolish bridesmaids. Surrounded by the faithful of every time and place, we celebrate Christ's coming in our midst in the word of life and the feast of victory—the marriage feast of the lamb.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

*The assembly stands.*

## BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Kneel/Sit*

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

*The minister stands and addresses the congregation.*

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*The assembly stands.*

## **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## **KYRIE**

Lord, have mercy:

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy:

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy:

**Lord, have mercy.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray. . . .

Stir up, O Lord, the wills of your faithful people to seek more eagerly the help you offer, that, at the last, they may enjoy the fruit of salvation; through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **FIRST READING: Amos 5:18-24**

A reading from Amos the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

*{In the days of Amos people thought that the day of the Lord would be a time of great victory, but Amos announced that it would be a day of darkness, not light. He said liturgy is no substitute for obedience. The Lord demands justice and righteousness in the community.}*

<sup>18</sup>Alas for you who desire the day of the LORD!

Why do you want the day of the LORD?

It is darkness, not light;

<sup>19</sup>as if someone fled from a lion,

and was met by a bear;

or went into the house and rested a hand against the wall,

and was bitten by a snake.

<sup>20</sup>Is not the day of the LORD darkness, not light,

and gloom with no brightness in it?

<sup>21</sup>I hate, I despise your festivals,

and I take no delight in your solemn assemblies.

<sup>22</sup>Even though you offer me your burnt offerings and grain offerings,

I will not accept them;

and the offerings of well-being of your fatted animals

I will not look upon.

<sup>23</sup>Take away from me the noise of your songs;

I will not listen to the melody of your harps.

<sup>24</sup>But let justice roll down like waters,

and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 70** (read responsively)

You are my helper and deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry. (*Ps. 70:6*)

<sup>1</sup> Be pleased, O God, to de- | liver me;\*

O LORD, make | haste to help me.

<sup>2</sup> **Let those who seek my life be ashamed and altogeth- | er dismayed;\***  
**let those who take pleasure in my misfortune draw back and be disgraced.**

<sup>3</sup> Let those who say to me "Aha!" and gloat over | me turn back,\*  
because they | are ashamed.

<sup>4</sup> **Let all who seek you rejoice and be | glad in you;\***  
**let those who love your salvation say forever, "Great | is the LORD!"**

<sup>5</sup> But as for me, I am | poor and needy;\*  
come to me speedi- | ly, O God.

<sup>6</sup> **You are my helper and | my deliverer;\***  
**O LORD, | do not tarry.**

You are my helper and deliverer; O LORD, do not tarry. (*Ps. 70:6*)

## **SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

A reading from 1 Thessalonians the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

*{Some of the Thessalonians are worried that dead Christians will be excluded from the resurrection to eternal life when Christ comes again. Paul reassures them with the word of hope that all Christians, living or dead, will be raised into everlasting life with Christ.}*

<sup>13</sup>We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup>For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. <sup>15</sup>For this we declare to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will by no means precede those who have died. <sup>16</sup>For the Lord himself, with a cry of command, with the archangel's call and with the sound of God's trumpet, will descend from heaven, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup>Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up in the clouds together with them to meet the Lord in the air; and so we will be with the Lord forever. <sup>18</sup>Therefore encourage one another with these words.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 25:1-13**

The holy gospel according to Matthew the 25<sup>th</sup> chapter.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*{Jesus tells a parable about his own second coming, emphasizing the need for readiness at all times.}*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>1</sup>“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. <sup>2</sup>Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. <sup>3</sup>When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; <sup>4</sup>but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. <sup>5</sup>As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. <sup>6</sup>But at midnight there was a shout, ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ <sup>7</sup>Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. <sup>8</sup>The foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ <sup>9</sup>But the wise replied, ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’ <sup>10</sup>And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. <sup>11</sup>Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ <sup>12</sup>But he replied, ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’ <sup>13</sup>Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.”

The gospel of the Lord.

### **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **SERMON**

*Silence for reflection may follow.*

*The assembly stands.*

Together we confess our faith:

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again.**

**He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Welcoming God's reign of righteousness and mercy, let us pray with people of every time and place.

*A brief silence.*

Awaken your church to be ready to respond when Christ meets us in the cries of those in need. We lift up the church's mission of care through Lutheran World Relief and other agencies (*especially*). Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We give thanks for natural resources like oil, coal, trees, sun, water, and wind. Help us to use them wisely. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Answer the cries of your people in nations caught in war and destruction (*especially*). Hold in your care all veterans and their families. Ease the burden of tough memories and bring restoration and wholeness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Shine your merciful and healing light on the despairing places of our minds and souls. Bring hope in the midst of danger, depression, and illness. (*We pray especially for . . .*) Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bless those who prepare for marriage or who have been married in this place. Strengthen all bonds of friendship and relationship in our community. Give us joy in life together. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Keep us alert for Christ's coming, sustained by the promise that we will be reunited with all the faithful who have died (*especially*). Thank you for their lives of witness. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Receive these prayers and the hopes and concerns of our hearts, O God, as we entrust into your loving care all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The minister and congregation may greet one another in the name of the Lord.*

Peace be with you.

**Peace be with you.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **OFFERING**

### **OFFERTORY HYMN**

*The assembly stands.*

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Blessed are you,

**O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son,  
whom you sent in this end of the ages  
to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word,  
inseparable from you.  
Through him you created all things,  
and in him you take delight.

He is your Word,  
sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.  
He there took on our nature and our lot  
and was shown forth as your Son,  
born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

It is he, our Lord Jesus, who fulfilled all your will  
and won for you a holy people;  
he stretched out his hands in suffering  
in order to free from suffering those who trust you.

It is he who, handed over to a death he freely accepted,  
in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one,  
to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous,  
to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,  
taking bread and giving thanks to you, said:  
Take and eat; this is my body, broken for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This is my blood poured out for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection,  
we lift this bread and cup before you,  
giving you thanks that you have made us worthy  
to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

And we ask you:

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your Church;  
gather into one all who share this bread and wine;  
fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth,  
that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ.

Through him all glory and honor are yours,  
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,  
in your holy Church both now and forever.

**Amen, amen, amen, amen, amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

### **LAMB OF GOD**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**grant us peace, grant us peace.**

*The assembly is seated.*

*The Holy Communion is distributed with these or similar words:*

The body of Christ, given for you

The blood of Christ, shed for you

### **COMMUNION HYMN**

*Following the Holy Communion the congregation stands:*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

### **QUIET MEDITATION**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Beyond the Shut Door

Perhaps the most striking image in today's gospel is the one at the end of the parable: "And the door was shut." A shut door is often the imagery used to indicate the end of an opportunity. Worshiping communities may come up against various types of shut doors. Some may be found only occasionally, as when everyone seems happily connected and efforts to welcome newcomers are ignored. Other shut doors may be well known and a source of persistent frustration, as when positions of leadership are held by a select few, or when what happens inside the church rarely seems to connect with what is going on in the neighborhood or the world. A shut door is not the image one hopes for when considering congregational health or the mission of the church in the local community. It is surprising to hear Jesus speaking about a shut door and the kingdom of heaven in the same parable, since he is the one who criticizes the scribes and Pharisees who "lock people out of the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 23:13). It is also surprising because the shut door doesn't fit with Jesus' ministry of welcoming, healing, and eating with those whom society shunned. What does seem to fit is the invitation to meet the bridegroom and then go into the wedding banquet. Jesus is always encouraging his followers to join him, to come and see and share in the life he offers. But it is often our fear that shuts the door against Jesus.

Whether shut doors stand for opportunities gone or present obstacles, at the heart of discipleship is the willingness to be moved by instruction. As followers of Jesus we are given the challenge to remain with Jesus. Remaining with Jesus means hearing him tell us not to be afraid. Remaining with Jesus means that we can follow him into the banquet feast without delay.

<i>Daily Readings for the Week November 12-18</i>
<i>Sunday</i> Amos 5:18-24 or Wisdom 6:12-16 Psalm 70 or Wisdom 6:17-20 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 Matthew 25:1-13
<i>Monday</i> Psalm 63 Amos 8:7-14 1 Corinthians 14:20-25
<i>Tuesday</i> Psalm 63 Joel 1:1-14 1 Thessalonians 3:6-13
<i>Wednesday</i> Psalm 63 Joel 3:9-21 Matthew 24:29-35
<i>Thursday</i> Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 Ezekiel 6:1-14 Revelation 16:1-7
<i>Friday</i> Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 Ezekiel 7:1-9 Revelation 16:8-21
<i>Saturday</i> Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12 Ezekiel 7:10-27 Matthew 12:43-45

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