

*An evening setting of Holy Communion*



St. David's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Saturday, November 18, 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

Our readings during November speak of the end times. Zephaniah proclaims that the coming day of the Lord will be filled with wrath and distress. Paul says it will come like a thief in the night and urges us to be awake and sober. Jesus tells the parable of the talents, calling us to use our gifts, while we still have time, for the greater and common good. In a world filled with violence and despair, we gather around signs of hope—word, water, bread and wine—eager to welcome the good news of Christ’s coming among us.

## 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. . . .

Lord God, so rule and govern our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit that, always keeping in mind the end of all things and the day of judgment, we may be stirred up to holiness of life here and may live with you forever in the world to come, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **FIRST READING: Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18**

A reading from Zephaniah the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

*{Zephaniah (like the prophet Amos in last week's first reading) presents the day of the Lord as one of judgment and wrath. Descriptions of the last day in the New Testament include details taken from Old Testament accounts of the day of the Lord.}*

<sup>7</sup>Be silent before the Lord GOD!

For the day of the LORD is at hand;  
the LORD has prepared a sacrifice,  
he has consecrated his guests.

<sup>12</sup>At that time I will search Jerusalem with lamps,  
and I will punish the people  
who rest complacently on their dregs,  
those who say in their hearts,  
“The LORD will not do good,  
nor will he do harm.”

<sup>13</sup>Their wealth 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.

<sup>14</sup>The great day of the LORD is near,  
near and hastening fast;  
the sound of the day of the LORD is bitter,  
the warrior cries aloud there.

<sup>15</sup>That day will be a day of wrath,  
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,  
<sup>16</sup>a day of trumpet blast and battle cry  
against the fortified cities  
and against the lofty battlements.

<sup>17</sup>I will bring such distress upon people  
that they shall walk like the blind;  
because they have sinned against the LORD,  
their blood shall be poured out like dust,  
and their flesh like dung.

<sup>18</sup>Neither their silver nor their gold  
will be able to save them  
on the day of the LORD's wrath;  
in the fire of his passion  
the whole earth shall be consumed;  
for a full, a terrible end  
he will make of all the inhabitants of the earth.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 90:1-8 [9-11] 12** (read responsively)

So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (*Ps. 90:12*)

<sup>1</sup> Lord, you have | been our refuge\*

from one generation | to another.

<sup>2</sup> **Before the mountains were brought forth, or the land and the | earth were born,\***

**from age to age | you are God.**

<sup>3</sup> You turn us back to the | dust and say,\*

"Go back, O | child of earth."

<sup>4</sup> **For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when | it is past\* and like a watch | in the night.**

<sup>5</sup> You sweep us away | like a dream,\*

we fade away suddenly | like the grass.

<sup>6</sup> **In the morning it is | green and flourishes;\***

**in the evening it is dried | up and withered.**

<sup>7</sup> For we consume away in | your displeasure,\*

we are afraid because of your wrathful | indignation.

<sup>8</sup> **Our iniquities you have | set before you,\***

**and our secret sins in the light | of your countenance.**

<sup>9</sup> When you are angry, all our | days are gone;\*

we bring our years to an end | like a sigh.

<sup>10</sup> **The span of our life is seventy years, perhaps in strength | even eighty;\* yet the sum of them is but labor and sorrow,**

for they pass away quickly and | we are gone.

<sup>11</sup> Who regards the power | of your wrath?\*

Who rightly fears your | indignation?

<sup>12</sup> **So teach us to num- | ber our days,\***

**that we may apply our | hearts to wisdom.**

**So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts to wisdom. (*Ps. 90:12*)**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11**

A reading from 1 Thessalonians the 5<sup>th</sup> chapter.

*{Though we do not know and cannot calculate the day of Christ's return, we live faithfully in the here and now as we anticipate the day when we will be given eternal salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ.}*

<sup>1</sup>Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. <sup>2</sup>For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>When they say, "There is peace and security," then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! <sup>4</sup>But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; <sup>5</sup>for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. <sup>6</sup>So then let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; <sup>7</sup>for those who sleep sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. <sup>8</sup>But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. <sup>9</sup>For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>10</sup>who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. <sup>11</sup>Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 25:14-30**

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*{Jesus tells a parable about his second coming, indicating that it is not sufficient merely to maintain things as they are. Those who await his return should make good use of the gifts that God has provided them.}*

[Jesus said to the disciples:] <sup>14</sup>"For it is as if a man, going on a journey, summoned his slaves and entrusted his property to them; <sup>15</sup>to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. <sup>16</sup>The one who had received the five talents went off at once and

traded with them, and made five more talents. <sup>17</sup>In the same way, the one who had the two talents made two more talents. <sup>18</sup>But the one who had received the one talent went off and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money. <sup>19</sup>After a long time the master of those slaves came and settled accounts with them. <sup>20</sup>Then the one who had received the five talents came forward, bringing five more talents, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me five talents; see, I have made five more talents.' <sup>21</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>22</sup>And the one with the two talents also came forward, saying, 'Master, you handed over to me two talents; see, I have made two more talents.' <sup>23</sup>His master said to him, 'Well done, good and trustworthy slave; you have been trustworthy in a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.' <sup>24</sup>Then the one who had received the one talent also came forward, saying, 'Master, I knew that you were a harsh man, reaping where you did not sow, and gathering where you did not scatter seed; <sup>25</sup>so I was afraid, and I went and hid your talent in the ground. Here you have what is yours.' <sup>26</sup>But his master replied, 'You wicked and lazy slave! You knew, did you, that I reap where I did not sow, and gather where I did not scatter? <sup>27</sup>Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest. <sup>28</sup>So take the talent from him, and give it to the one with the ten talents. <sup>29</sup>For to all those who have, more will be given, and they will have an abundance; but from those who have nothing, even what they have will be taken away. <sup>30</sup>As for this worthless slave, throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.' "

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.*

We pray for the church. Enliven its witness in ecumenical ministries, feeding programs, and new ventures. Open our hearts to friendships that share faith, and open our mouths to share your good news. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for parks and open spaces, for clean air and clear water. Help us protect places where we are reminded of God's work in creation and find renewal. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have been and are still today enslaved, trafficked, or oppressed. Make clear the needs of those who are silenced by suffering, that we may listen and bring an end to exploitation. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who cry out for healing, hope, or help, and for those for whom we have promised to pray (*especially*). Bring relief to caregivers and surround those who are lonely with your powerful presence. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this congregation and the talents and treasures each person brings. Bring new talents to blossom among us, as we encourage and build up one another. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

Lord, our dwelling place in all generations, we remember with thanksgiving all who have died in you (*especially*). Teach us to count our days as gifts from you. 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.**

## The Price of Worry

It doesn't take long before the effects of worry or stress are realized in the rhythm of daily life. The effects are often physical and personal, perhaps resulting in a lack of sleep or disruption in eating patterns. But worry can also be sensed collectively, for example, in a social group, community organization, or congregation. Worry can creep in when congregational giving is significantly behind budget. When a change in leadership results in members leaving. When things seem to be going all right but the youth aren't really showing up to church anymore. Changes like these are opportunities for God to use the gifts God gives us, but worrying can skew our attention. We may fixate on our vulnerabilities and what is missing instead of seeing the potential for God's provision.

Jesus tells a story about a property owner who goes away for a while, leaving the servants in charge. The first two servants have no time to worry about what to do with the money left to them. Perhaps they see the master's departure as an opportunity for their personal career advancement and are motivated to invest the money. Or maybe they are bold enough to make a decision because they know the master trusts them and they want to live in that trust. Whatever the motive, the servants are rewarded by being able to share in the master's joy. If they had let worry get the best of them, it would have been far more difficult to enter into that joy.

When worry gets in the way of experiencing the joy God desires for us, we would do well to turn our attention to practices that allow us to enter into that joy. Weekly worship with our faith community. Regular participation in holy communion. Prayer. Scripture study. Mutual conversation and listening. God has given us everything we need to live in trust.

| <i>Daily Readings for the Week<br/>November 19-25</i>  |
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| <i>Sunday</i><br>Zephaniah 1:7, 12-18J<br>Psalm 90:1-8 [9-11] 12<br>1 Thessalonians 5:1-11<br>Matthew 25:14-30 |
| <i>Monday</i><br>Psalm 9:1-14<br>Zechariah 1:7-17<br>Romans 2:1-11   |
| <i>Tuesday</i><br>Psalm 9:1-14<br>Zechariah 2:1-5; 5:1-4<br>1 Thessalonians 5:12-18                            |
| <i>Wednesday</i><br>Psalm 9:1-14<br>Job 16:1-21<br>Matthew 24:45-51  |
| <i>Thursday</i><br>Psalm 95:1-7a<br>1 Kings 22:13-23<br>Revelation 14:1-11                                     |
| <i>Friday</i><br>Psalm 95:1-7a<br>1 Chronicles 17:1-15<br>Revelation 22:1-9                                    |
| <i>Saturday</i><br>Psalm 95:1-7a<br>Isaiah 44:21-28<br>Matthew 12:46-50  |

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