

# St. John's Lutheran Church

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18 November 2020

**PRELUDE:** "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" Johann Sebastian Bach  
(Text for meditation: See the Opening Hymn)

**OPENING HYMN:** "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" # 516



1 "Wake, a - wake, for night is fly - ing," The watch - men on the  
2 Zi - on hears the watch - men sing - ing, And all her heart with  
3 Now let all the heav'ns a - dore Thee, Let saints and an - gels



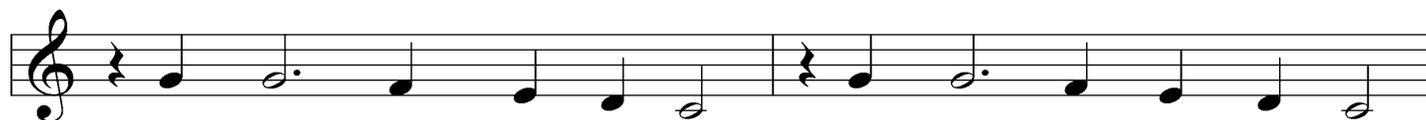
heights are cry - ing; "A - wake, Je - ru - sa - lem, a - rise!"  
joy is spring - ing; She wakes, she ris - es from her gloom.  
sing be - fore Thee With harp and cym - bals' clear - est tone.



Mid - night hears the wel - come voic - es And at the thrill - ing  
For her Lord comes down all - glo - rious, The strong in grace, in  
Of one pearl each shin - ing por - tal, Where, join - ing with the



cry re - joic - es: "Oh, where are ye, ye vir - gins wise?  
truth vic - to - rious; Her star is ris'n, her light is come.  
choir im - mor - tal, We gath - er round Thy ra - diant throne.



The Bride - groom comes, a - wake! Your lamps with glad - ness take!  
Now come, Thou Bless - ed One, Lord Je - sus, God's own Son,  
No eye has seen the light, No ear has heard the might

Al - le - lu - ia! With brid - al care Your - selves pre - pare  
 Hail! Ho - san - na! We en - ter all The wed - ding hall  
 Of Thy glo - ry; There - fore will we E - ter - nal - ly  
 To meet the Bride - groom, who is near."  
 To eat the Sup - per at Thy call.  
 Sing hymns of praise and joy to Thee!

*Stand*

## CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

*The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.*

**P** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

**P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**C** But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination.*

**P** Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

**C** Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. 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. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. 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.

**P** Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** Amen.

## SERVICE OF THE WORD

### INTROIT

(Antiphon, Jer. 29:11, 12, 14; Ps. 85:1-2, 12)

I know the plans I have for you, de - | clares the LORD,\*  
 plans for welfare and not for | evil.

Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will | hear you.\*

I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all | plac -  
 es.

LORD, you were favorable | to your land;\*  
 you restored the fortunes of | Jacob.  
 You forgave the iniquity of your | people;\*  
 you covered | all their sin.

Yes, the LORD will give | what is good,\*  
 and our land will yield its | increase.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son\*  
 and to the Holy | Spirit;  
 as it was in the be- | ginning,\*  
 is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

I know the plans I have for you, de- | clares the LORD,\*  
 plans for welfare and not for evil.

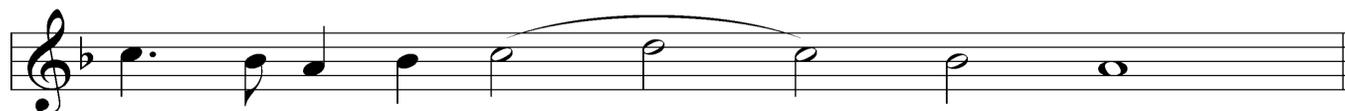
Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will | hear you.\*  
 I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all | plac-  
 es.

## KYRIE

# 944



1 Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy. Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy.  
 2 Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy. Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy.  
 3 Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy. Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - cy.



Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - - - cy.  
 Christ, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - - - cy.  
 Lord, \_\_\_\_\_ have mer - - - cy.

## SALUTATION AND COLLECT

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** And with thy spirit.

**P** 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.

*Sit*

## OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

**Zephaniah 1:7-16**

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.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GRADUAL

## Psalm 90

Lord, you have been our | dwelling place\*  
in all gener- | ations.

**Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth**

**| and the world,\***

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

You return | man to dust\*

and say, “Return, O chil- | dren of man!”

**For a thousand years in your sight are but as yesterday when | it is past,\*  
or as a watch | in the night.**

You sweep them away as | with a flood;\*

they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the | morning:

**in the morning it flourishes and | is renewed;\***

**in the evening it fades and | withers.**

For we are brought to an end by your | anger;\*

by your wrath we | are dismayed.

**You have set our iniquities be- | fore you,\***

**our secret sins in the light of your | presence.**

For all our days pass away un- | der your wrath;\*

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

**The years of our life are seventy, or even by reason of strength | eighty;\*  
yet their span is but toil and trouble; they are soon gone, and we | fly  
away.**

Who considers the power of your | anger,\*

and your wrath according to the | fear of you?

**So teach us to number | our days\***

**that we may get a heart of | wisdom.**

Return, O LORD! | How long?\*

Have pity on your | servants!

**Satisfy us in the morning with your | steadfast love,\*  
that we may rejoice and be glad | all our days.**

Make us glad for as many days as you have af- | flicted us,\*  
and for as many years as we have seen | evil.

**Let your work be shown to your | servants,\*  
and your glorious power to their | children.**

Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us, and establish the work of our  
hands up- | on us;\*

yes, establish the work | of our hands!

## EPISTLE

## 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

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.

**A** This is the Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

## HOLY GOSPEL

## Matthew 25:14-30

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 25th chapter.

**C** Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] “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 sowed 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.’”

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

*Sit*

**HYMN OF THE DAY: “Rise, My Soul, to Watch and Pray”**

**# 663**



1 Rise, my soul, to watch and pray; From your sleep a - wak -  
 2 Watch a - gainst the dev - il's snares Lest a - sleep he find  
 3 Watch! Let not the wick - ed world With its lies de - feat  
 4 Watch a - gainst your - self, my soul, Lest with grace you tri -



en! Be not by the e - vil day Un - a - wares o'er -  
 you; For in - deed no pains he spares To de - ceive and  
 you Lest with bold de - cep - tions hurled It be - tray and  
 fle; Let not self your thoughts con - trol Nor God's mer - cy



tak - en; For the foe, Well we know, Is a  
 blind you. Sa - tan's prey Oft are they Who se -  
 cheat you. Watch and see Lest there be Faith - less  
 sti - fle. Pride and sin Lurk with - in, All your



har - vest reap - ing While the saints are sleep - ing.  
 cure are sleep - ing And no watch are keep - ing.  
 friends to charm you, Who but seek to harm you.  
 hopes to shat - ter; Heed not when they flat - ter.

5 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.

## SERMON

*Stand*

## PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

### LORD'S PRAYER

**P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

**C** **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.**

### SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

**P** The Lord be with you.

**C** **And with thy spirit.**

**A** Let us bless the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

### BENEDICTION

**P** The Lord bless you and keep you.

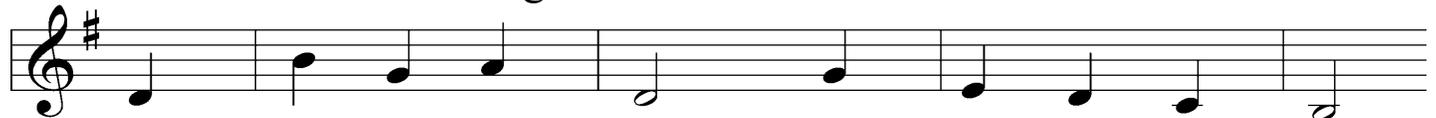
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

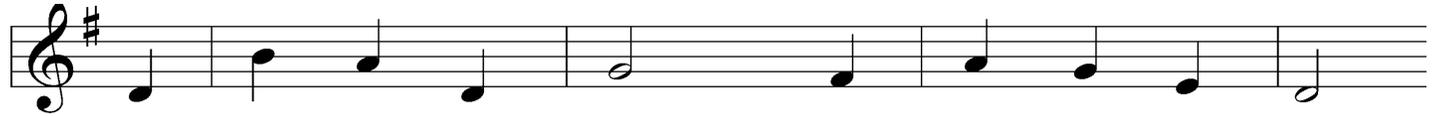
**C** **Amen.**

# CLOSING HYMN: "Be Strong in the Lord"

# 665



1 Be strong in the Lord In ar - mor of light,  
2 In - teg - ri - ty gird You round to im - part  
3 With ea - ger - ness shod Stand firm in your place,  
4 Though Sa - tan pre - sume To test you and try,



With hel - met and sword, With shield for the fight;  
The truth of His Word As truth in your heart;  
Or go forth for God With news of His grace;  
In hel - met and plume Your head shall be high;



On prayer be de - pen - dent, Be belt - ed and shod,  
His righ - teous - ness wear - ing As breast - plate of mail,  
No foe shall dis - arm you Nor force you to yield,  
Be - set by temp - ta - tion Be true to your Lord,



In breast - plate re - splen - dent: The ar - mor of God.  
His vic - to - ry shar - ing, Be strong to pre - vail.  
No ar - row can harm you With faith as your shield.  
Your hel - met sal - va - tion And Scrip - ture your sword.

5 So wield well your blade,  
Rejoice in its pow'rs,  
Fight on undismayed  
For Jesus is ours!  
Then in Him victorious  
Your armor lay down,  
To praise, ever glorious,  
His cross and His crown.

## POSTLUDE: "Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying" Johann Walther

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