

Historic Scripture Lessons for the  Last Sunday of the Church Year

**OLD TESTAMENT** Isaiah 65:17-19 NIV "Behold, I will create new Heavens and a new Earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind. 18 But be glad and rejoice forever in what I will create, for I will create Jerusalem to be a delight and its people a joy. 19 I will rejoice over Jerusalem and take delight in My people; the sound of weeping and of crying will be heard in it no more."

**Epistle**

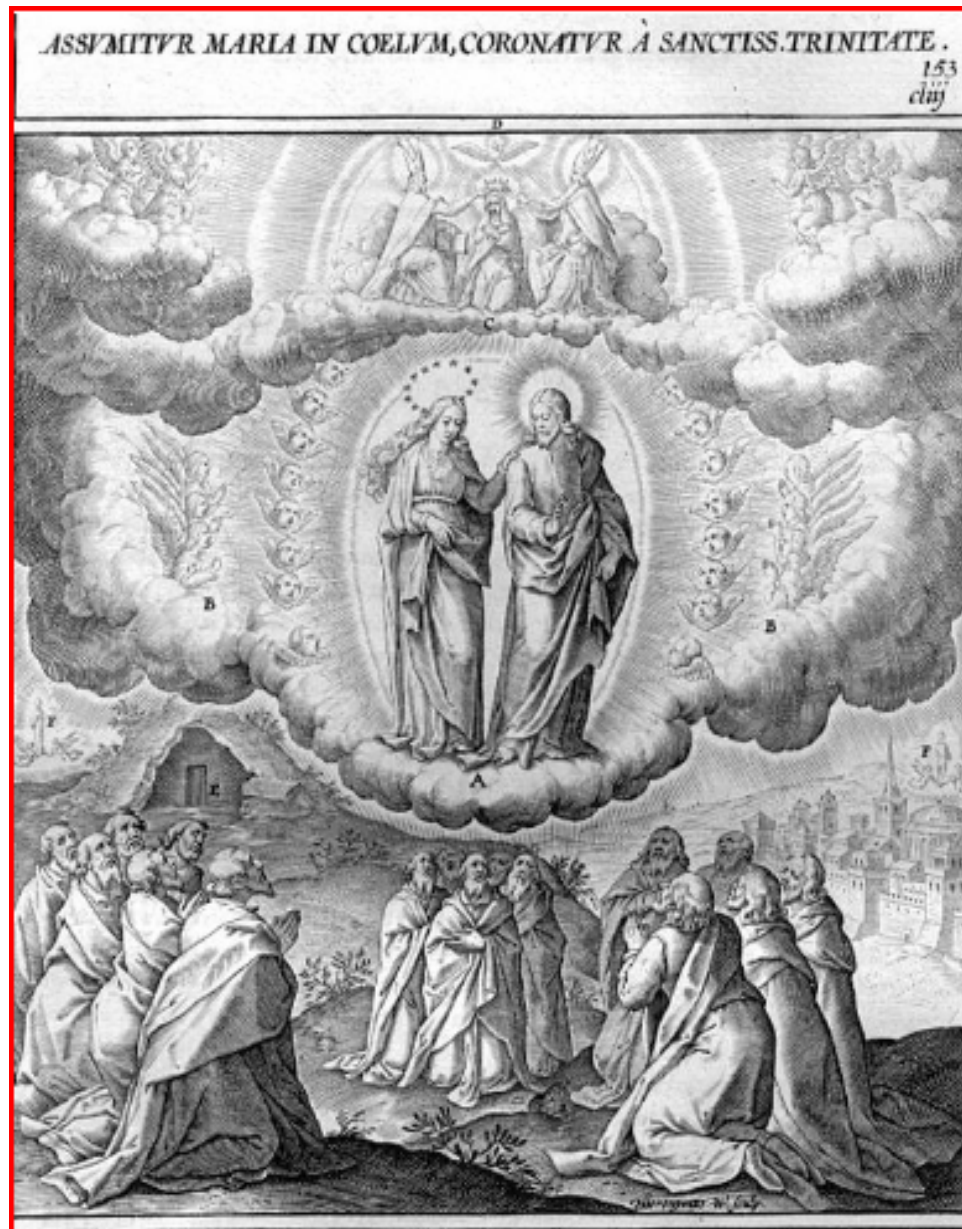
**I Thessalonians 5:1-11** Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, 2 for you know very well that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. 3 While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. 4 But you, brothers, are not in darkness so that this Day should surprise you like a thief. 5 You are all sons of the light and sons of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. 6 So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be alert and self-controlled. 7 For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. 8 But since we belong to the day, let us be self-controlled, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. 9 For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. 10 He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

**Gospel**

**Matthew 25:1-13** "At that time the Kingdom of Heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2 Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3 The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4 The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5 The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. 6 At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' 7 Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8 The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' 9 'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' 10 But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the Bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with Him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. 11 Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' 12 But He replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' 13 Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour."



Our Savior Lutheran Church  Lakeland, FL  EL  
Last Sunday of the Church Year  Heaven's Eternal Joy  
November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 ✕ 11:00 am



From "Illustrations of the Gospel Stories" by Jerome Nadal – Matthew 25, Mark 13  
The (five) prepared virgins are taken into Heaven by Jesus.

Image courtesy of the Biblical and Religious Art Collection, <http://catholic-resources.org/Nadal/153.jpg>

**OSL OUR SAVIOR LUTHERAN CHURCH OSL**

[www.ELS.org](http://www.ELS.org) = [www.EvangelicalLutheranSynod.org](http://www.EvangelicalLutheranSynod.org)

6920 N Socrum Loop Road / (north) Lakeland, FL 33809-4102

Phone: (863) 859-3400 ~ Web: [www.OSLlakeland.org](http://www.OSLlakeland.org)

BIBLE CLASS 8:30 AM WORSHIP 9:30 AM FELLOWSHIP 10:45 AM  
 ✱ A.R. Burmeister 430-5859 ✱ Organ: Janice Thomas (813) 650-9198

**November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2015 Trinity-Last Heaven's Joy**

**WELCOME to OUR SAVIOR!** We are so happy to have you worship Our Savior with us today. If you are visiting us for the first time or in a long time, we ask that that you please fill out a visitor card found in the pew cardholder and place it in the offering plate. Come and worship with us again! **God bless your week.**

**ORDER OF WORSHIP Common Service (No Communion) Red hymnal p.5**

Hymns	TLH# (v)	1 <sup>st</sup> Line of Hymn
Invocation Hymn	10 (5v)	This Is the Day the Lord Hath Made
Hymn of the Day	609 (3v)	Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying
<i>Offertory Verse</i>	644 (1v)	<i>Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow</i>
Third Hymn	72 (4v)	Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers
Closing Hymn	660 (4v)	I'm But A Stranger Here, Heaven Is My

Suggested Bible readings for the weekdays of the (25<sup>th</sup>) Sunday after Trinity

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dan.11:36-12:1	Ezek. 38:1-23	Ezek.39:1-29	Isa.43:14-25	Isa.33:17-24	Ezek. 37:1-14
Matt.24:29-51	Matt.22:23-33	1 Cor. 15:11-50	Heb.3:7-4:13	Heb.11:8-16	Heb.12:18-29

**PROPERS for the LAST SUNDAY of CHURCH YEAR (TRINITY-27) NOV 22<sup>ND</sup>**

**INTROIT** I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil. Then you will call on Me and pray to Me, and I will listen to you; and I will turn your captivity and gather you from all nations and from all places. Lord, You have been favorable to Your land; You have brought back the captivity of Jacob. ...from **Jeremiah 29:11,14**

**COLLECT** Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son, we pray, that He may lead home His Bride, the Church, that we with all Your saints may enter into Your eternal Kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit one true God now and forever **JA-men**

**GRADUAL** The King's daughter will be brought to the King; the virgins, her companions that follow her will be brought to You. They will be brought with gladness and rejoicing; they will enter the King's palace. Alleluia! Alleluia! I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, come down from God out of Heaven, prepared like a bride adorned for her Husband. Alleluia! ...from **Psalm 44**

**SCRIPTURE LESSONS** *(printed on the outside back page of the bulletin)*

O.T. **Isaiah 65:17-19** God will create a New Heaven & new earth.  
 Epi. **1 Thessalonians 5:1-11** Be ready for the Lord's (2nd) Coming.  
 Gos. **Matthew 25:1-13** Jesus tells the Parable of the Ten Virgins.

**OFFERTORY VERSE** *(Sung as offering brought forward. Please rise. Sample verse)*

**C: ♪ Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;**

**Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, Ye Heav'nly Host:**

**PRAISE FATHER, SON, AND HOLY GHOST. A-MEN.**

PRAYER REQUESTS:	Member or Relation	Pray for...
Jeanette Ammann	(Donna's daughter)	Health. Pray for healing and peace
Rex Headapohl	(Carol)	Rex fell last week, bump on head, recovering at home
Elma & Jim Hendricks	E&J's health and Elma's brother and sister-in-law	
Linda Kryszak	Linda's ongoing health. Plus stress of selling house	
Dee Kurczewski	(David)	Dee's ongoing health. Dee at home. David helps
Mary, Pam & Karen	Friends & family of DonnaM, all battling health issues	
Vivian Temple	(Tom)	Vivian showing improvement at home. Tom helping
Janice Thomas	We hope to see Janice back as she is in round two of chemo	
James & Delores Vanesky	Jim in Highland Lakes Rehab. & Delores' health	

Volunteers	Today	Next Sunday
<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ethel &amp; Steve Wendt</b>	<b>Vivian &amp; Tom Temple</b>
<b>Treaters</b>	<b>Elma &amp; Jim Hendricks</b>	<b>Ladies' Guild (Pre-Samples?)</b>
(Head)Usher	<b>John Weber</b>	<b>John Weber</b>

Statistics	Last Sunday	Year to date / Avg
<b>Sunday Attendance / Communion</b>	<b>36 / 29</b>	<b>29 / 25</b>
<b>Bible Class Attend / Sunday School</b>	<b>10 / 0</b>	<b>12 / 0</b>
<b>Last Sunday Offering / Year To Date</b>	<b>\$1,236</b>	<b>\$62,477</b>
<b>Average; Actual Expenses / Budget</b>	<b>Avg.Need \$1,500</b>	<b>\$66,856 / \$66,000</b>

Calendar of Events		
<b>Sunday, 11/22</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Bible Study Sacraments, LORD'S SUPPER</b>
<i>Last Sunday of Trinity, Church Year</i>	<b>9:30 am</b> <b>10:45 ff...</b>	<b>Worship (NO Communion)</b> <b>Fellowship, Coffee ...Please stay &amp; talk</b>
<b>Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>4:30 pm</b>	<b>Special Thanksgiving (Eve) Worship</b>
<b>Thursday, 11/26</b>	(all day)	<b>Thanksgiving Holiday. Thank the Lord!</b>
<b>Saturday, 11/28</b>	<b>10 am -??</b>	<b>Decorate OSL church, inside and out</b>
<b>Sunday, 11/29</b>	<b>8:30 am</b>	<b>Bible Study Sacraments, LORD'S SUPPER</b>
<i>First Sunday of Advent and of the New Church Year</i>	<b>9:30 am</b> <b>10:45 ff...</b> <b>6:00 pm</b>	<b>Worship (WITH Communion)</b> <b>Fellowship, Coffee ...Please stay &amp; talk</b> <b>OSLadies' "Advent by Candlelight"</b>

Our Savior Elders are: **Leroy Dux 940-3237; Jim Vanesky 644-7807; John Weber 853-5458 & Don Wienke 815-8892.** Please contact them.

- ✱ We finish off another (Church) year at Our Savior and move into a new one.
- ✱ **Thanksgiving (Eve) Vespers Worship this Wednesday, Nov. 25<sup>th</sup> - 4:30 pm.**
- ✱ Pastor will be **our of town Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> to Monday 30<sup>th</sup>** but still reachable.
- ✱ This **Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> 10 am** until it's done - **Come help decorate Our church.**
- ✱ **2015 OSLadies Advent by Candlelight is Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.**

*This Thursday: 11/25 Thanksgiving (BLACK ELH p.120) #s 461 463 464 63*  
*Next Sunday: 11/29 Advent-1 (NO L.S. p.5) Hymns 225 55 344.1,2 634 341*

## TRINITY-LAST(B) Matthew 25:1-13 "PREPARE OR PANIC?" 11.22.15 OSL

**INTRODUCTION** If you have ever been asked to stand up in a friend's wedding--to serve as a bridesmaid or groomsman - you know what an honor that is. People generally select their closest and most trusted friends to participate in one of the key moments of their life - their wedding day. And if you are honored with an invitation to be part of a friend's wedding, you would not dare show up after the wedding had already started.

In the world of the (early) New Testament, weddings were even **greater social occasions than they are today**. The wedding feast might last **seven or more days**. A key part of the wedding ceremony was **the bridal procession**. It appears that the bridesmaids would wait outside the bride's home for the groom and his attendants to come from his parents home, claim his bride and lead the entire party to the nuptial hall for the ceremony, feasting and dancing. Not to be ready to join in that procession would have been an insult to the bride and groom. One Bible scholar notes *"The foolish virgins were not excluded simply because the door was locked, nor because the host did not actually recognize them, but because they had insulted the bride and the groom, as well as all their relatives! The expression 'I do not know you' was sometimes used when one wished to treat others as strangers and keep them from approaching. This was an offense they would never be allowed to forget. To participate in their friend's wedding was a great honor....But to have spoiled the wedding for her by failing to do their appropriate part was a great insult to their friend and to the groom and guests"* (C.Keener, *Commentary on Gospel of Matthew*, 599).

Now it is **not** as though the five foolish bridesmaids did **not** have an **opportunity to prepare**. During the time of the bridegroom's delay they would have had ample time to secure a supply of oil for their lamps. But they did not. **What a wasted opportunity!** The lamps or actually the torches that they carried would probably have needed to be re-fueled every 15 minutes or so. **Why** do they **procrastinate**? **Why** do they delay? **We are not told**. Perhaps they think that the groom will come sooner rather than later. Maybe they don't see the urgency of having a lighted torch for the walk through the streets to the site of the wedding. It could be that they reasoned that the other five bridesmaids would have enough oil for them also. It doesn't matter. When the groom approaches, **they are unprepared**. Too late they run to the merchant to make a purchase. When they return, the groom and the wedding party are gone. It is too late.

Now, the **contrast between the wise and foolish** virgins is simply this: the five wise virgins **have oil while the foolish have none**. When the groom is delayed, both the foolish and the wise virgins slumber and sleep. For the wise, it is a **sleep of confidence** because they know that when the groom finally arrives they will be ready to meet him. For the foolish virgins it is a **slumber of irresponsibility** because they have **no oil** and when they wake up they will be found **unprepared**. **Sleep dulls** and deadens them to the fact they lack the oil that they will need to participate in the march to the wedding hall.

For the wise virgins **nothing else is so important as being ready** for the wedding to which they have been invited. They realize what a high honor it is attend to their friend, the bride. They prepare. They watch. They wait. **The**

**whole of their lives is oriented toward that wedding**. But the foolish virgins live as though the wedding were not terribly important. Their time and attention are occupied with the present moment. They take no thought for the wedding itself.

**What is God saying to you in this parable?** Are **YOU** among the wise or the foolish virgins? Are you living your life in light of the Marriage Supper of the Lamb or are you living it just for this present and fast-fleeing moment in time?

In Scripture, to be **wise is to see all of life from God's perspective**. Don't confuse being wise with being smart or being intelligent as the world counts intelligent. Hell will be filled with **many intelligent people** and heaven will be populated by some folks who did rather poorly as far as grades or academics are concerned. To be (truly) wise is **to see your life in the light of eternity**. That is why God teaches us to pray in **Psalm 90**, *"So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom."* A heart of wisdom is that heart which knows that Jesus Christ is the Bridegroom who was crucified for us and raised again to give us a life. Wisdom is to know that He alone is the Lord who gives meaning and purpose to our days because His Blood has redeemed us and His Resurrection opens the door to Heaven. Wisdom knows that if we gain every thing this world has to offer and yet **do not have faith in Him we have absolutely nothing**. Wisdom knows that this Lord Jesus **will** come again at an hour that no one knows and only those who have faith in Him will have access to His Wedding Hall.

**To be a fool**, on the other hand, it is to live so pre-occupied with the **projects, dreams and aspirations, the wants and the needs** of this passing world, that you have no time for Him. To be a fool is to live as though God did not matter. To be a fool is to live as though there were only this day and nothing else. To be a fool is to live as though there was no Marriage Feast coming. To be a fool is to ignore the need for oil, to think or conclude that it doesn't matter.

**CONCLUSION** But the **oil does matter**. It is finally what separated the wise from the foolish virgins. The oil in the parable points to something that is always being consumed and must always be replenished. That is the way it is with **faith**. **Faith is not something that is static**. Faith is living and like a flame it **must be fueled or it will grow dim and finally die**. Faith doesn't feed off itself but it is fueled by the Words of our Lord which are poured into our ears and His Body and Blood that are given us to eat and to drink. In His Word and with His Body and Blood, our Lord Jesus Christ is giving us the gifts through which He keeps the flame of faith burning until that Day when He returns to usher us into the Wedding Hall of Heaven.

Jesus says *"Watch therefore, for you neither know the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."* **We do not know** what lies between today and the Day of His Coming. We do not know what we might be called upon to suffer for the sake of His name. We do not know what crosses we may have to carry. Will He return tomorrow or many centuries from now? We don't know. But this we do know ... our Lord Jesus Christ, crucified and Risen from the dead is here with us freely giving us the oil of Forgiveness, Life, and Salvation in His Word and Supper so that we will be prepared to receive Him when He comes.



**Possible Prayer of Church for Last Sunday of Church Year November 22**

*Blessing, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honor, power and might be to our God forever and ever.*

*Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. (Possible brief silence)*

Heavenly Father, You sent Your Son into the world to bear our sin and be our Savior. By Your Holy Spirit, write the Word we have heard preached this day on our hearts. Give all the members of our congregation thankful hearts for the great treasure they possess in Your Word. When our last hour shall come, support us by Your power and receive us into Your everlasting Kingdom.

Almighty God, Your Church, the Bride of Christ, waits for Her Lord with eager expectation. Strengthen us, that we hold fast to the Salvation won for us in Christ Jesus and richly given to us through the pure proclamation of the Word and the right administration of the Sacraments.

Heavenly Father, by Your mighty arm, defend the weak. You have made us stewards of Your creation. Teach us, who were created in Your image and likeness, to cherish all life and to give thanks for our daily bread.

Almighty God, You kept Abraham and Sarah in safety throughout the days of their pilgrimage and led Your people Israel on dry ground throughout the midst of the sea. Guide all those who travel. Bring them safely to their destinations, and bring them safely home again, that their homecomings may be joyful.

Heavenly Father, visit and relieve all those who are sick or injured. [Esp.]

**PRAYER REQUESTS: Member or Relation Pray for...**

<b>Jeanette Ammann</b>	(Donna's daughter) Health. Pray for healing and peace
<b>Rex Headapohl</b>	(Carol) Rex fell last week, bump on head, recovering at home
<b>Elma &amp; Jim Hendricks</b>	E&J's health and Elma's brother and sister-in-law
<b>Linda Kryszak</b>	Linda's ongoing health. Plus stress of selling house
<b>Dee Kurczewski</b>	(David) Dee's ongoing health. Dee at home. David helps
<b>Mary, Pam &amp; Karen</b>	Friends & family of DonnaM, all battling health issues
<b>Vivian Temple</b>	(Tom) Vivian showing improvement at home. Tom helping
<b>Janice Thomas</b>	We hope to see Janice back as she is in round two of chemo
<b>James &amp; Delores Vanesky</b>	Jim in Highland Lakes Rehab. & Delores' health

By Your Holy Spirit, comfort those who mourn [especially \_\_\_\_\_]. Lead all to trust in You and find peace in the promised Resurrection of all flesh.

Almighty God, give us repentant hearts, that we may know and rejoice in the Body and Blood of Jesus, given and shed for the forgiveness of our sins, and that as we eat His Body and drink His Blood, we may proclaim the Lord's death until He comes in glory.

Into Your Hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. **Amen.** (After the **General Prayer**, ...)

**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.**

**ILCW Year-B Lessons for the Last Sunday in the Church Year**

**Old Testament**

**Isaiah 51:4-6 NIV** "Listen to Me, My people; hear Me, My nation: The Law will go out from Me; My Justice will become a Light to the nations. 5 My Righteousness draws near speedily, My Salvation is on the way, and My Arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look to Me and wait in hope for My Arm. 6 Lift up your eyes to the heavens, look at the earth beneath; the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment and its inhabitants die like flies. But My Salvation will last forever, My Righteousness will never fail.

**Epistle**

**Revelation 1:4b-8** Grace and peace to you from Him Who is, and Who was, and Who is to come, and from the seven spirits before His throne, 5 and from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful Witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth. To Him Who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His Blood, 6 and has made us to be a kingdom and priests to serve His God and Father - to Him be glory and power for ever and ever! Amen. 7 Look, He is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see Him, even those who pierced Him; and all the peoples of the earth will mourn because of Him. So shall it be! Amen. 8 "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "Who is, and Who was, and Who is to come, the Almighty."

**Gospel**

**Mark 13:32-37** "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. 34 It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with his assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. 35 "Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back - whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. 36 If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. 37 What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"

