

Our Saviour Lutheran Church



The Last Sunday of the Church Year
25 November 2012



At midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.'

The Parsonage, 65 Furzehall Avenue, Fareham, PO16 8UD
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A note to visitors

We are delighted to have you with us this morning to receive the Lord's gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. Please stay for a cup of tea or coffee after the service.

The Offering

At this time, members of this church are privileged to give to the Lord for the work of His church in this community and throughout the world. For God loves a cheerful giver. Visitors should not feel obliged in any way to contribute to the offering plate.

Children in the Service

It is a delight and a privilege to have children in the service. Children as much as adults are members of God's family and Jesus welcomes little children to Him.

There is a Sunday School for children during the sermon. The children leave at the beginning of the sermon and return to church before the Service of the Sacrament.

Please do not worry if your child will not sit still or quietly throughout the service. Most young children won't manage that! There is plenty of space at the back of the room. If you do need to take a child outside, the smaller room is available for that purpose.

Holy Communion

It is our desire that all people receive the body and blood of our Lord at this altar! However, our Lord has told us in His Word that His body and blood, given into our mouths, are powerful and not to be given or received lightly or in a careless way. Therefore, in respecting the Word of the Lord that anyone who eats and drinks in an unworthy manner is doing harm to themselves, and that He desires that all who commune together be truly united in the confession of the truth, we ask that only those who have been instructed in the Lutheran Confessions and are under our pastor's care come forward to receive the Lord's Supper.

All who are visiting us and who desire to commune with us are asked to first speak with our pastor before the service, so that all can make an informed decision about participating with us in our fellowship in this place. *We are not condemning anyone with this practice*; we seek only to follow the Word of the Lord and carry out responsible pastoral care.

Thank you for honouring our beliefs.

A note on the service:

Both the hymns and the order of service are found in the Lutheran Service Book. The outline of the service is given in this bulletin. The congregation stands for the parts of the service printed in italics and sits for the rest.

The numbers in the bulletin refer to page numbers in the hymnal, where Psalm 1 is also page one, and the first hymn is 331, following page 330.

It helps to follow the service if you mark your place in the liturgy with this bulletin.

Explanation of Symbols:

- C** Congregation
- P** Pastor (ordained)
- A** Assistant minister (ordained or lay)
- L** Liturgist (ordained or lay)
- ✠ You may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of your baptism.
- ❖ You may bow at this point as a sign of reverence.

Divine Service III

LSB 184

507 Hymn: Holy, Holy, Holy

184 Confession and Absolution

Catechism

P What is the Office of the Keys?

C The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His

church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

P Where is this written?

C This is what St John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld."

P What do you believe according to these words?

C I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

Introit (Ps. 39:4-5, 7-8; antiphon: Isa. 35:10)



A The ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with | singing;*
everlasting joy shall be | upon their heads;

C they shall obtain glad- | ness and joy,*
and sorrow and sighing shall | flee
away.

A O LORD, make me know my end and what is
the measure | of my days;*
let me know how fleeting | I am!

C Behold, you have made my days a few
handbreadths, and my lifetime is as
nothing be- | fore you.
Surely all mankind stands as a | mere
breath!*

A And now, O Lord, for what | do I wait?*

My hope | is in you.

C Deliver me from all my
trans- | gressions.*

Do not make me the scorn | of the
fool!

❖ *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

A The ransomed of the LORD shall return and
come to Zion with | singing;*
everlasting joy shall be | upon their heads;

C they shall obtain glad- | ness and joy,*
and sorrow and sighing shall | flee
away.

189 *Salutation and Collect of the Day*

Lord God, heavenly Father, send forth Your Son, we pray, 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 Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

The Readings

By Faith We Are Prepared for Christ's Return

“The day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night” (1 Thess. 5:1–11). The arrival of the bridegroom will be sudden and unexpected. Therefore you are to be watchful and ready like the five wise virgins. “For you know neither the day nor the hour” when the Son of Man is to return. (Matt. 25:1–13). The lamps are the Word of Christ. The oil in the lamps is the Holy Spirit, who works through the Word to create and sustain the flame of faith in Christ. The foolish are those who do not give proper attention to the working of the Holy Spirit in baptism, preaching, and the supper, and so their faith does not endure. The wise, however, are those who diligently attend to these gifts of the Spirit, and who therefore have an abundance of oil. The flame of faith endures to the end. By God’s grace they are received into the eternal wedding feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, the new heavens and the new earth created by the Lord for the joy of His people (Is. 65:17–25).

Old Testament reading—Isaiah 65:17–25

- ¹⁷ “For behold, I create new heavens
and a new earth,
and the former things shall not be re-
membered
or come into mind.
- ¹⁸ But be glad and rejoice forever
in that which I create;
for behold, I create Jerusalem to be a joy,
and her people to be a gladness.
- ¹⁹ I will rejoice in Jerusalem
and be glad in my people;
no more shall be heard in it the sound of
weeping
and the cry of distress.
- ²⁰ No more shall there be in it
an infant who lives but a few days,
or an old man who does not fill out his
days,
for the young man shall die a hundred years
old,
and the sinner a hundred years old shall
be accursed.
- ²¹ They shall build houses and inhabit them;
they shall plant vineyards and eat their
fruit.
- ²² They shall not build and another inhabit;
they shall not plant and another eat;

- for like the days of a tree shall the days of
 my people be,
 and my chosen shall long enjoy the work
 of their hands.
- ²³ They shall not labour in vain
 or bear children for calamity,
 for they shall be the offspring of the blessed
 of the LORD,
 and their descendants with them.
- ²⁴ Before they call I will answer;
 while they are yet speaking I will hear.
- ²⁵ The wolf and the lamb shall graze together;
 the lion shall eat straw like the ox,
 and dust shall be the serpent's food.
 They shall not hurt or destroy
 in all my holy mountain,"
 says the LORD.

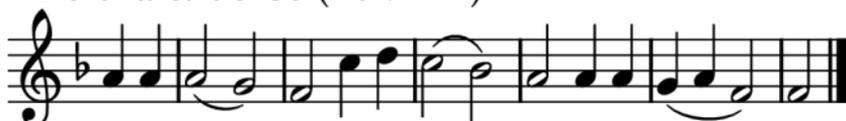
Gradual (*Ps. 45: 14–15*)

**☐ In many-coloured robes the king's
 daughter is led | to the king,*
 with her virgin companions following
 be- | hind her.
 With joy and gladness they are | led
 along*
 as they enter the palace | of the king.**

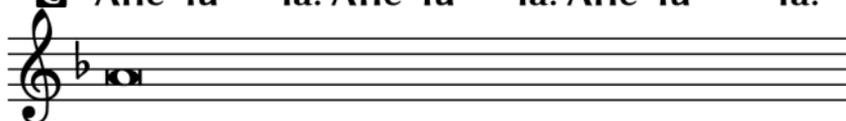
Epistle Reading—1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. ²For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "There is peace and security", then sudden destruction will come upon them as labour pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. ⁴But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. ⁵For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. ⁶So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. ⁷For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. ⁸But 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. ⁹For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, ¹⁰who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. ¹¹Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

Alleluia & Verse (Rev. 21:2)



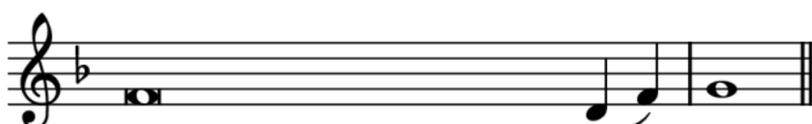
C Alle-lu - ia. Alle-lu - ia. Alle-lu - ia.



I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming



down out of heaven from God,* prepared



as a bride adorned for her hus - band



Alle-lu - ia. Alle-lu - ia. Alle-lu - ia.

Gospel Reading—Matthew 25:1–13

L The ✠ holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fifth chapter.



C Glo-ry be to Thee, O Lord!

[Jesus said,] “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ²Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. ⁶But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’ ⁷Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ ⁹But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ ¹⁰And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut. ¹¹Afterwards the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’ ¹²But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ ¹³Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ!

516 Hymn: Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying

Sermon

192 *The Offertory*

Offering

193 *Prayer of the Church*

637 Hymn: Draw Near and Take the Body

194 *The Service of the Sacrament*

514 *Hymn: The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us*

Sunday School Presentation

IN OUR PRAYERS

Members

Ron, Forbes, Dot

Family of members

Lucy, Diana (old age); Megan (pregnancy); Alex, Sarah & family; Jerry Harbin (cancer)

Friends of members

Ilse Kelly (old age); Frank Knibbs (back); Marie & family (distress); Brian & Kay (distress); Mike (health); Kayleigh & unborn child (health); Cynthia (health); Claire and Phil (health); Pauline (health); Helen Kriewaldt (stroke); Johann Wiebusch (CP); Margaret & Patrick Tustin (Alzheimer's); Rob (depression); Debra (depression); Claire (leukemia); Brian, Jan & family (cancer); Don & Julie Gardner (cancer); Graham (tumour); Ronnie (cancer); Lisa & children (cancer); Steve (cancer); Christine (recovering from operation); Margaret & family of †Philip

ELCE

St. Columba Lutheran Church, Prs. Samiec & McNally; ELCE Congregational Life Committee; Boor family (St. Andrew's)

The Church of God

Lutherans in Africa, Pr. James May; Fareham Community Church

**A READING FROM THE BOOK OF CONCORD
APOLOGY OF THE AUGSBURG CONFESSION
ARTICLE XXI: THE INVOCATION OF SAINTS**

Hilary [of Poitiers] says of the foolish virgins:

As the foolish virgins could not go forth with their lamps extinguished, they sought those who were prudent to lend them oil; to whom they replied that they could not give the oil because there might not be enough for all. In other words, no one can be aided by the works and merits of another, because it is necessary for everyone to buy oil for his own lamp. Para. 30

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

The Week Ahead

Today	5pm	Pastor at Oxford Mission
27 Nov	3.15pm	Drama Club
28 Nov	10.30am	Bible Study (Parsonage)
	12.30pm	Pastor's Surgery (The Hub)
	3pm	Devotion (Merry Hall)
2 Dec	10.30am	Divine Service (Scout Hall)

Further ahead

4 Dec	3.15pm	Drama Club
5 Dec	10.30am	Bible Study (Parsonage)
	12.30am	Pastor's Surgery (The Hub)
	7pm	Advent Vespers (St. Francis, Funtley)
9 Dec	10.30am	Morning Service (Scout Hall)
	4.30pm	Divine Service at Brighton Mission

Next Sunday's Readings:

Jeremiah 23:5-8; Romans 13:11-14; Matthew 21:1-9

Daily Readings:

Sun: Daniel 5:1-30 Revelation 21:9-27 *Apology of the Augsburg Confession XXVIII (XIV): 15-19*

Mon: Dan 6:1-28 Dan 9:1-27 Rev 22:1-21 *Ap XXVIII (XIV): 20-27*

Tue: Isaiah 1:1-28 1 Peter 1:1-12 *Large Catechism Longer Preface: 1-6*

Wed: Is 2:1-22 1 Pet 1:13-25 *LC Longer Preface: 7-13*

Thu: Is 5:1-25 1 Pet 2:1-12 *LC Longer Preface: 14-20*

Fri: Is 6:1-7:9 1 Pet 2:13-25 *LC Short Preface: 1-13*

Sat: Is 7:10-8:8 1 Pet 3:1-22 *LC Short Preface: 14-28:*

Our Saviour on air!

Starting next Sunday, Pastor Tapani will be presenting a weekly programme on Lutheran Radio UK, introducing a cantata written by J.S. Bach for each Sunday of the Church Year. You can listen live, or afterwards, by visiting:

www.lutheranradio.co.uk.

Advent Midweek Services

There will be a service of Vespers on each Wednesday during Advent. The services will be held at **St. Francis**, Funtley at **7 pm**. The theme for the midweek series is the Creed.

Christmas Day Lunch in Fareham 2012

Do you know someone who will be alone on Christmas Day? This is the third year *Christians Together in Fareham* and *Community Action Fareham* have organised a Christmas Day lunch for people who will be on their own on this special day.

If you know of anyone who you think would like to attend please pick up a form and return it by the 3rd December to Jennie Romecheva at Fareham Community Action.

If you would like to volunteer to help on the day please call **01329 223140** and leave your details.