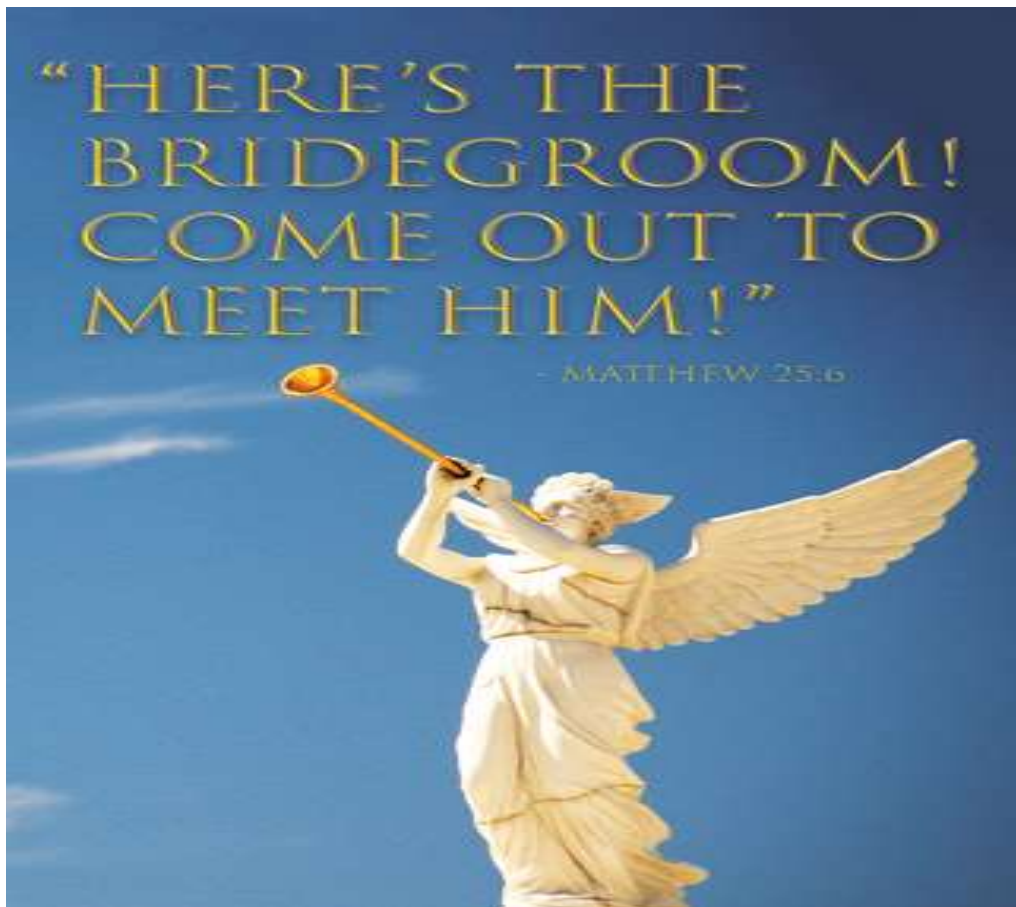




THIRD SUNDAY OF END TIME – SAINTS TRIUMPHANT



NOVEMBER 15, 2020

St. Matthew's Danube, St. John's Renville, and St. Matthew Flora Twp. MN (WELS)

St. Matthew Flora Twp. - St. Matthew's Danube - St. John's Renville (WELS)

www.stmatthewsdanube.org | Pastor Mike Kuschel | home: 320-826-2280 | cell: 320-522-2428

Little Lambs Learning Center: 100 Main St. Danube, MN | office: 320-826-2340

Prayer Before Worship: *Lord keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven. Amen.*

Jerusalem the Golden – CW # 214

Congregation sings stanzas 1 & 4

Pastor sings stanzas 2-3

**[1] Jerusalem the golden,
With milk and honey blest--
The sight of it refreshes
The weary and oppressed.
I know not, oh, I know not
What joys await us there,
What radiancy of glory,
What bliss beyond compare.**

*[2] They stand, those halls of Zion,
All jubilant with song
And bright with many an angel
And all the martyr throng.
The Prince is ever in them;
The daylight is serene;
The pastures of the blessed
Are ever rich and green.*

**[4] Oh, sweet and blessed country,
The home of God's elect!
Oh, sweet and blessed country
That eager hearts expect!
Jesus, in mercy bring us
To that dear land of rest;
You are with God the Father
And Spirit ever blest.**

*[3] There is the throne of David,
And there, from care released,
The shout of them that triumph,
The song of them that feast;
And they who with their leader
Have conquered in the fight
Forever and forever
Are clad in robes of white.*

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Tune: Alexander C. Ewing, 1830-95, alt.

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SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT – CW page 26

M: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful, and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

M: God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

M: For all that we need in life and for the wisdom to use all your gifts with gratitude and joy, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord have mercy.

M: For the steadfast assurance that nothing can separate us from your love and for the courage to stand firm against the assaults of Satan and every evil, hear our prayer, O Christ.

C: Christ, have mercy

M: For the well-being of your holy Church in all the world and for those who offer here their worship and praise, hear our prayer, O Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy

M: Merciful God, maker and preserver of life, uphold us by your power and keep us in your tender care:

C: Amen

Prayer of the Day

M: Almighty God and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen**

THE WORD
FIRST LESSON - Isaiah 52:1-6

Awake, awake, O Zion, clothe yourself with strength. Put on your garments of splendor, O Jerusalem, the holy city. The uncircumcised and defiled will not enter you again. ² Shake off your dust; rise up, sit enthroned, O Jerusalem. Free yourself from the chains on your neck, O captive Daughter of Zion. ³ For this is what the LORD says: "You were sold for nothing, and without money you will be redeemed." ⁴ For this is what the Sovereign LORD says: "At first my people went down to Egypt to live; lately, Assyria has oppressed them. ⁵ "And now what do I have here?" declares the LORD. "For my people have been taken away for nothing, and those who rule them mock," declares the LORD. "And all day long my name is constantly blasphemed. ⁶ Therefore my people will know my name; therefore in that day they will know that it is I who foretold it. Yes, it is I."

Verse of the Day: (spoken together)

**Alleluia. They are before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple.
Alleluia. (Revelation 7:15a)**

SECOND LESSON - 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

¹³ Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. ¹⁴ We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord's own word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left till the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage each other with these words.

Alleluia Response (sung)

**Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! These words are written that we may believe
that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!**

THE 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.

M: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise be to You, O Christ!

**Hymn #206 - Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying
Congregation Sings Stanzas 1 & 3**

Pastor Sings Stanza 2

**[1] "Wake, awake, for night is flying,"
The watchmen on the heights are crying,
"Awake, Jerusalem, arise!"
Midnight hears the welcome voices
And at the thrilling cry rejoices;
"Oh, where are all you virgins wise?
The Bridegroom comes--awake!
Your lamps with gladness take! Alleluia!
With bridal care Yourselves prepare
To meet the Bridegroom who is near."**

**[2] Zion hears the watchmen singing,
And all her heart with joy is springing;
She wakes, she rises from her gloom,
For her Lord comes down all-glorious,
The strong in grace, in truth victorious;
Her Star is ris'n, her Light is come.
"Now come, O Blessed One,
Christ Jesus, God's own Son. Hail! Hosanna!
The joyful call We answer all
And follow to the wedding hall."**

**[3] Now let all the heav'ns adore you;
Let saints and angels sing before you
With harp and cymbal's clearest tone.
Of one pearl each shining portal,
Where, dwelling with the choir immortal,
We gather round your radiant throne.
No vision ever brought,
No ear has ever caught
Such great glory;
Therefore will we In victory
Sing hymns of praise eternally.
Amen**

Sermon: The bridegroom is coming!

Sermon Text: *Matthew 25:1-13*

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offering:

Please mail in your offering as we continue to support the work of spreading the gospel throughout our community and the world. Thank you for your continued support!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH – SAINTS TRIUMPHANT

M: Lord of eternity and King of saints, all the heavens adore you.

Saints and angels sing before you.

C: We too join them to praise your majesty.

M: You clothe us with garments of splendor. You bless us with grace and mercy in this life and eternal glory forever. What undeserved love you show us!

C: We thank you, Lord, that you have made us your saints.

M: Encourage us by your gracious promises. Forgive our failures to live as you desire. Strengthen the faith of all who are weak and wandering.

C: Give us power to live as your faithful people.

M: Your saints will triumph forever in new heavens and a new earth. The sound of weeping and crying will be heard no more. We anticipate with joy an eternity of perfect fellowship with you.

C: Be with us as we work and witness for Christ, so that many more people can join us before your throne.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow

M: Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer

M: Lord of life, the day is coming when you will come down from heaven with the voice of the archangel and the trumpet call of God. On that glorious day, the saints triumphant will rise in bright array, clothed in your perfect righteousness.

C: Give us strength until that day when we will share fully in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE SACRAMENT

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you**

M: Lift up your hearts

C: **We lift them up to the Lord**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give him thanks and praise**

M: Praise to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In love he has blessed us with every spiritual blessing. He protects and preserves his Church in every age and gives us confidence to lift up our heads and watch for Jesus with joy. Now have come the salvation and the power and the kingdom of our God and the authority of his Christ. To him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be praise and thanks and honor and glory for ever and ever.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Holy, Holy, Lord God of Heavenly hosts.
Holy, Holy, Lord God of Heavenly hosts.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna, Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna, Hosanna. Blessed is he who comes,
Blessed is he who comes,
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Text: Public Domain (ref. Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9) Tune: Tracy Fedke, b. 1975, arr. Koiné

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

M: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

M: Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD (spoken by all)

O Christ, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us and grant us your peace.

THE BLESSING

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace.
Live in harmony with one another.
Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and + give you peace.

C: Amen

Distribution:

*Please note that communion will be distributed as you are dismissed.
Please approach the designated table at the direction of the usher and after you have received communion you may depart in peace.*

Announcements - *View our website and like us on Facebook for updated announcements.*

Thank you for your continued support

We thank you for your continued support of our efforts to share the good news of Jesus with our community and the world. Thank you for your mailing your offerings into the church the office.

*St. Matthew's Danube
PO Box 67
Danube, MN 56230*

*St. John's Renville
209 Bryant Ave NE
PO Box 416 - Renville, MN 56284*

*St. Matthew Flora Twp.
PO Box 67
Danube, MN 56230*

Please contact or write to us with any questions, concerns, words of encouragement or prayer requests. God be with you, and God willing we will be able to meet together in God's house soon. If you are in need of pastoral care and would like to have a visit over the phone please contact me. You can reach me either through my home number 826-2280 or cell phone 320-522-2428.

Stay Connected Wherever You Are:

We realize that not everyone will be ready or ought to return to public worship as our congregations reopen. We would like to encourage all those who are unable to come to worship or unsure if they ought to come to continue to make use of local radio, television, and online ministries. Below is a listing of different ministries available on different forms of media.

Television:

- Watch *Time of Grace* at 10:30am on Kare 11 on Sunday mornings - visit timeofgrace.org to learn more about Pastor Mike Novotny and other WELS pastors that contribute to Time of Grace and their varied resources.

Radio:

- Listen to St. John's Lutheran Church of Redwood Falls on 97.7 KLGR FM @ 8:00am Sunday mornings
- Tune in to Lutheran Chapel Services on KNUJ 97.3 FM or 860 AM @ 7:45 am Sunday mornings

Online: Join us for worship online in one of several ways: visit www.stmatthewsdanube.org or Search for St. Matthews Danube on YouTube for recorded services and livestreaming or follow us on Facebook.

Other Online Resources: wels.net, timeofgrace.org, nph.net forwardinchrist.net & *Meditations online at nph.net*

Share this information with neighbors, friends, relatives, and fellow members of our congregation as we put our hope and trust in the living God and make his name known among the nations and our communities.

New Worship Service Precautions

Due to increased health concerns in our area we will not meet for worship at St. Matthew Flora Twp or St. John's Renville this Sunday. At St. Matthew's Danube we will meet for worship according to our protocols that we have put in place. We encourage you to pay careful attention to these protocols. Please remember to wash your hands, wear a mask for the entire service, watch your distance, and please stay home if you are not feeling well. Monitor closely any symptoms you might have and remember to make use of our online services if you are unable to be with us in person. May the LORD bless you and keep you, and make his face shine upon you, and give you his peace.

Sunday School:

St. John's in Renville and St. Matthew's in Danube will be directing parents to online learning resources this week. Please email beth.kuschel@gmail.com for more information about the remote learning resources or with any question about the lesson. May God bless these efforts to share the word of God in a variety of forms as we bring up the next generation in the training and instruction of the Lord.

St. John's Renville (contact Faye Schmidt 320-979-6663)

St. Matthew's Danube (contact Beth Kuschel 320-522-2428)

Follow the link for materials for children of all ages (teacher's guides also available) <https://online.nph.net/cl-ss-downloads>

Pastor Kuschel Has Declined the Call to Trinity Lutheran of Marshfield, WI

After prayerful deliberation Pastor Kuschel has declined the call to serve at Trinity Lutheran Church in Marshfield, WI. Please pray that God may answer Trinity's prayer for a pastor soon. Pastor Kuschel and his family would like to thank all those who reached out with words of encouragement during the last few weeks. May God continue to bless the ministry and the relationships that we share together here in Renville County.

Thanksgiving Worship Services:

This year a Thanksgiving Service is being planned for the evening before Thanksgiving Day. St. John's in Renville will also host a Thanksgiving Day service. We invite you to come and give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever! Join us for these special Thanksgiving worship opportunities.

November 25 - Thanksgiving Eve - 6:30 pm

November 26 - Thanksgiving Day - 9:00 am

Thank You to Mr. Stephen Pankow: We thank Mr. Stephen Pankow for his years of service in our area and his many contributions to Little Lambs Learning Center. We wish him well as he will be relocating his family to Wisconsin. God's blessings to you Stephen, Megan, and Hattie!

Upcoming Meetings: St. John's Renville Council Meeting - Monday, November 16 @ 7:30pm

St. Matthew's Danube Council Meeting - Tuesday, November 17 @ 8:00 am

Tri-Parish Ministry: Sunday Worship Schedule

St. Matthew Flora Twp - 8:00 am St. Matthew's Danube - 9:30 am St. John's Renville - 11:00am