



**November 17, 2024**



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**Welcome!** Thank you for joining us for worship! In our service we receive God's grace through his Word and sacraments. As he works to strengthen our faith in Jesus, we respond to his goodness with our prayers, praise, and offerings. We are glad to be here and glad that you have joined us today!

- Restrooms are located in the main hallway, narthex, and back classrooms.
- If you wish to step out of the service to calm your child, please feel welcome to use the Fellowship Hall or the Toddler Sunday School Room (located in the back-corner classroom of the building, connected to the Fellowship Hall). Both of these rooms have televisions showing the worship service. Also, please do not hesitate to ask an usher or any member if you need help locating anything. We want to make you feel welcome.

**Serving the Lord and Serving Us:**

**Pastor:** Rev. Paul Jenkins

**Today's Focus:** Jesus raises us from death to life twice: first to the life of faith, then to life in heaven on the Last Day. Our worship follows *Service of the Word*.

# We Come into the Presence of God

## MUSICAL INTRODUCTION

*This is an opportunity to quiet your mind and heart and prepare for the joy of worshipping your God.*

## OPENING HYMN: 369, Beautiful Savior



1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
2 Fair are the mead - ows, Fair are the wood - lands,  
3 Fair is the sun - shine, Fair is the moon - light,  
4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!  
Robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;  
Bright the spar - kling stars on high;  
Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, Tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er;  
Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,  
Glo - ry and hon - or, Praise, ad - o - ra - tion



Light of my soul, my Joy, my Crown.  
He makes our sor - r'wing spir - it sing.  
Than all the an - gels in the sky.  
Now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Münsterisch Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677, abr.; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904.

Tune: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU (557 558) Silesian folk tune, 19th century, alt.

*Stand*

## INVOCATION

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

Congregation: **And also with you.**

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

M: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

## PRAYER AND PRAISE

M: In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

### OH, TASTE AND SEE

C: Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him. Your Word, O Lord, is e - ter - nal; it stands firm in the heav - ens. Your faith - ful - ness con - tin - ues for - ev - er. Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good. Bless - ed are they who take ref - uge in him.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature. It consists of six staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The final staff ends with a double bar line.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: Let us pray. 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 of heaven; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

*Be seated*

## THE WORD

### FIRST LESSON

#### **Daniel 12:1-3**

*In perfect harmony, Scripture teaches two resurrections: the first is a resurrection to faith, through which our names are written in the Book of Life. At the second resurrection on the Last Day, all people will rise. Those who were raised to faith will rise to eternal life.*

Then at that time, Michael, the great prince who stands over your people, will arise. There will be a time of distress that has not happened from the first time that there was a nation until that time.

At that time your people will be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. <sup>2</sup> Many who are sleeping in the dusty ground will awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame, to everlasting contempt. <sup>3</sup> Those who have insight will shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who bring many to righteousness will shine like the stars forever and ever.

### PSALM OF THE DAY: 118

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup> Let Israel say now: Yes, his mercy endures forever.

<sup>3</sup> Let the house of Aaron say now: Yes, his mercy endures forever.

<sup>4</sup> Let those who fear the LORD say now: Yes, his mercy endures forever.

<sup>5</sup> Under pressure I cried to the LORD.

The LORD answered me.

He set me in a wide-open space.

<sup>6</sup> The LORD is with me.

I will not be afraid.

What can people do to me?

<sup>7</sup> The LORD, who is with me, is my helper,  
so I will look in triumph on my enemies.

<sup>8</sup> It is better to take refuge in the LORD  
than to trust in people.

*(Continued on Next Page)*

<sup>9</sup> It is better to take refuge in the LORD  
than to trust in human benefactors.  
<sup>10</sup> All the nations surrounded me,  
but in the name of the LORD I cut them off.  
<sup>11</sup> They surrounded me, yes, they surrounded me,  
but in the name of the LORD I cut them off.  
<sup>12</sup> They surrounded me like bees,  
but they were extinguished as quickly as a fire of thorns.  
In the name of the LORD I cut them off.  
<sup>13</sup> You pushed me hard to make me fall,  
but the LORD helped me.  
<sup>14</sup> My strength and song is the LORD,  
and he has become salvation for me.  
<sup>15</sup> Loud shouts of victory are heard in the tents of the righteous:  
"The right hand of the LORD has done a mighty deed!  
<sup>16</sup> The right hand of the LORD is lifted high!  
The right hand of the LORD has done a mighty deed!"  
<sup>17</sup> I will not die. No, I will live,  
and I will proclaim the works of the LORD.  
<sup>18</sup> The LORD has chastened me severely,  
but he has not handed me over to death.  
<sup>19</sup> Open for me the gates of righteousness.  
I will enter them. I will give thanks to the LORD.  
<sup>20</sup> This is the gate to the LORD.  
The righteous enter it.  
<sup>21</sup> I will give you thanks,  
because you answered me,  
and you have become salvation for me.  
<sup>22</sup> The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone.  
<sup>23</sup> This is from the LORD.  
It is marvelous in our eyes.  
<sup>24</sup> This is the day the LORD has made.  
Let us rejoice and be glad in it.  
<sup>25</sup> O LORD, please save us now.  
O LORD, grant us success.  
<sup>26</sup> Blessed is he who comes in the name of the LORD.  
We bless you from the house of the LORD.  
<sup>27</sup> The LORD is God,  
and he makes light shine on us.  
Bind the festival with branches as far as the horns of the altar.  
<sup>28</sup> You are my God, and I will give you thanks.  
You are my God, and I will exalt you.  
<sup>29</sup> Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his mercy endures forever.

## SECOND LESSON

### Hebrews 9:24-28

*Both resurrections – the first to faith and the second to eternal life – are because of Jesus' work.*

For Christ did not enter a handmade sanctuary, a representation of the true sanctuary. Instead, he entered into heaven itself, now to appear before God on our behalf. <sup>25</sup> And he did not enter to offer himself many times, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place year after year with blood that is not his own. <sup>26</sup> Otherwise he would have needed to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But now he has appeared once and for all, at the climax of the ages, in order to take away sin by the sacrifice of himself. <sup>27</sup> And, just as it is appointed for people to die only once and after this comes the judgment, <sup>28</sup> so also Christ was offered only once to take away the sins of many, and he will appear a second time—without sin—to bring salvation to those who are eagerly waiting for him.

## VERSE OF THE DAY

M: Alleluia! Watch therefore, for you do not know the day your Lord is coming. Alleluia!  
*(Matthew 24:42)*

*Stand*

## GOSPEL AND SERMON TEXT

### John 5:25-29

“Amen, Amen, I tell you: A time is coming and is here now when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who listen will live. <sup>26</sup> For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he has granted the Son to have life in himself. <sup>27</sup> And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

<sup>28</sup> “Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice <sup>29</sup> and will come out. Those who have done good will rise to live, but those who have practiced evil will rise to be condemned.”

M: The Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise be to you, O Christ!**

*Be Seated*

**CHILDREN'S SERMON: Jesus Raises Us Twice**





HYMN OF THE DAY: 145, Jesus Lives! The Victory's Won



1 Je - sus lives! The vic - t'ry's won! Death no  
 2 Je - sus lives! To him the throne High o'er  
 3 Je - sus lives! For me he died; Hence will  
 4 Je - sus lives! I know full well Noth - ing  
 5 Je - sus lives! And now is death But the



long - er can ap - pall me. Je - sus lives! Death's  
 heav'n and earth is giv - en. I shall go where  
 I, to Je - sus liv - ing, Pure in heart and  
 me from him shall sev - er, Life nor death nor  
 gate to life im - mor - tal; This shall calm my



reign is done! From the grave Christ will re -  
 he is gone, Live and reign with him in  
 act a - bide, Praise to him and glo - ry  
 pow'rs of hell Part me now from Christ for -  
 trem - bling breath When I pass its gloom - y



call me. Bright - er scenes will then com - mence;  
 heav - en. God is faith - ful; doubt - ings, hence!  
 giv - ing. All I need God will dis - pense;  
 ev - er. God will be a sure de - fense;  
 por - tal. Faith shall cry, as fails each sense:



This shall be my con - fi - dence.  
 This shall be my con - fi - dence.  
 This shall be my con - fi - dence.  
 This shall be my con - fi - dence.  
 "Je - sus is my con - fi - dence!"

Text: Christian F. Gellert, 1715-69, abr.; tr. Frances E. Cox, 1815-97, alt.  
 Tune: JESUS, MEINE ZUVERSICHT (78 78 77) Johann Crüger, 1598-1662.

SERMON

TEXT: John 5:25-29  
 THEME: Listen for Your Savior's Voice

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy Christian Church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

*Be Seated*

## **OFFERING**

*Please take a moment to sign the friendship register found in your pew.*

*The members of Trinity make joyful offerings to support this church's ministry. A portion of our offerings is also used for the training of future pastors and teachers, and the worldwide mission work carried out by our fellowship, the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod. Our guests are under no obligation to give, but any gifts freely given are welcome and will be put to work in service to God's kingdom.*

*Stand*

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

**M:** Let us pray for the whole Church, that our gracious Father would defend her from the devil and keep her faithful to the Lord:

Almighty and everlasting God, you have revealed your saving name to the world through Jesus Christ our Lord. Protect us from the assaults of the evil one, and help us remain true to your Word so that, in every adversity, we may stand firm in our faith and give ourselves fully to our Savior's work, through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

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M: Let us pray for those who serve in the public ministry and for all people of God:

Almighty and everlasting God, you rule over all things for the good of your people. Preserve us from divisive spirits and false teachers. Give your servants the grace to proclaim Christ joyfully in word and deed so that all who hear them may come to know their Savior better and be strengthened for their lives of service, through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

M: Let us pray for those who are being instructed in the Word, that they remain firm in the simple faith of baptism:

Almighty and everlasting God, you make us your own dear children by the washing of rebirth and renewal in the Holy Spirit. Give strength to all who are buried with Christ in baptism that each day they may die to sin and rise again to live a new and holy life, through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

M: Let us pray for our earthly government, our rulers, and all who are in authority:

Almighty and everlasting God, you have established earthly government to keep a measure of order in this dying world and to protect us from the disorder of sin. Give to all rulers the wisdom to govern well and to all citizens the desire to obey them, so that we may live peaceful lives in all godliness and holiness, through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

M: Let us pray that our gracious Father would protect us and our communities from the earthly calamities that threaten us:

Almighty and everlasting God, on all sides we are surrounded by danger from wars and famines, from disease and pestilence, with the devil begrudging us every minute of our lives. Protect us from all these miseries so that your name may still be glorified in them and so that we may safely pass through them to your heavenly kingdom, through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

M: Let us pray for those who are outside the Church, that they may come to know the one, true God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent:

Almighty and everlasting God, your Son was lifted up on the cross so that he might draw all people to himself. Through the proclamation of your Word, mercifully gather from the nations a people that are your very own, that we may join together around your throne in glory and thank you forever, through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

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M: Let us pray for our enemies and for all those who hate us:

Almighty and everlasting God, no one can harm us without grieving you whose name we bear. We ask that you would change the hearts of those who work against us and who hate us without reason. Give them repentance and life so that they may be glad with us and find joy in your love, through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

M: Let us pray for those who suffer cross and trial:

Almighty and everlasting God, you sent your Son into the world to bear our griefs and to carry our sorrows. Help those who are suffering for your name's sake and who are struggling against temptation so that they may not be overwhelmed with sadness but find relief in your grace, through Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

M: Finally, let us pray for all those things for which our Lord would have us ask in the words he himself has taught us:

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.**

## **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.**

*Be Seated*

## CLOSING HYMN: 141, At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing

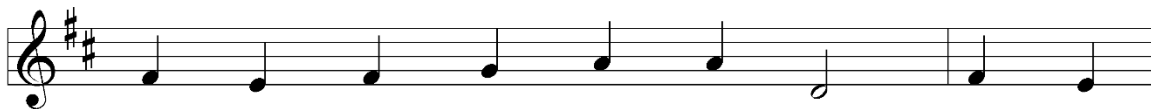
*In the early service, the Small Choir sings verses 1-3; the congregation joins in verses 4 and 5. In the late service, the congregation sings all verses.*



1 At the Lamb's high feast we sing  
2 Might - y Vic - tim from the sky,  
3 Now no more can death ap - pall,  
4 Eas - ter tri - umph, Eas - ter joy!  
5 Fa - ther, who the crown shall give,



Praise to our vic - to - rious King,  
Hell's fierce pow'rs be - neath you lie.  
Now no more the grave en - thrall;  
This a - lone can sin de - stroy;  
Sav - ior, by whose death we live,



Who has washed us in the tide Flow - ing  
You have con - quered in the fight; You have  
You have o - pened par - a - dise, And your  
From sin's pow'r, Lord, set us free, New - born  
Spir - it, guide through all our days, Three in



from his pierc - ed side. Al - le - lu - ia!  
brought us life and light. Al - le - lu - ia!  
saints in you shall rise. Al - le - lu - ia!  
souls in you to be. Al - le - lu - ia!  
One, your name we praise. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: Latin hymn, 17th century, abr.; tr. Robert Campbell, 1814-68, alt.  
Tune: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT (77 77 4) *Kirchengeseng*, Ivancice, 1566.

## Trinity Lutheran Church

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Find us online at [www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org](http://www.TrinityofWoodbridge.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge](http://www.facebook.com/trinityofwoodbridge)

### **Wine and Word Bible Study – Thursday, November 21**

The Wine and Word Bible Study meets at the home of Bruce and Dawn Knox. Their home is located just 5 minutes from the church in Old Bridge Estates. We meet the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays from 7-8:30 pm. We are studying The Apocrypha with Larry Kovaciny as our guide. The study of follows the study guide for *The Apocrypha: The Lutheran Edition with Notes* (available from Northwestern or Concordia Publishing Houses and other booksellers). You can also follow the readings at [apocrypha.org](http://apocrypha.org). Those who wish can bring a bottle of wine and a small bite appetizer. Come and join us whether you drink wine or not! Contact Dawn at 703-615-9320 or [dawn.f.knox@gmail.com](mailto:dawn.f.knox@gmail.com) to RSVP.

### **Sunday School Service Project**

Beginning next Sunday and running until December 8th, our Sunday School will be collecting cold weather items to donate to HUGS Warm in Woodbridge. There will be a donation box in the narthex, and everything will go to help these in need in our neighborhoods during the winter months.

### **Christmas for Kids – December 7**

Trinity's next outreach event will be our Third Annual Christmas for Kids on Saturday, December 7, from 9:30-11:30. We are aiming to welcome 30-40 kids to learn God's love in action in the Christmas story. Pastor will be preparing the songs, Bible stories, games, gifts, snacks, and crafts. Just two or three more adult or teen volunteers will be needed simply to supervise and help out kids who might need a hand. If you could be one of those helpers, please let pastor know.

### **Advent and Christmas Worship Information**

Brief devotions will follow our midweek Advent suppers on December 4, 11, and 18. The suppers start at 6, and are potlucks. Please bring something to share if you can; beverages and tableware are provided.

The Children's Christmas Worship Service will be during the 11:00 service on December 15. The 8:30 service on that Sunday will follow the order of *Service of Word and Sacrament*.

Christmas Eve Candlelight services will be at 5:00 and 7:00; Christmas Day worship with Communion is at 10:00.

## Proposal Passed at Voters' Meeting

In addition to passing a 2025 Spending Plan and approving membership changes, the voters' meeting on November 3 also passed the following. Any questions should please be directed to pastor, who put the resolution forward:

Whereas

- A. The Thanksgiving holiday does not have deep roots in the Christian Church, but is rather a mostly secular, American-made holiday and
- B. Thanksgiving Eve worship services at Trinity have been very lightly attended in recent years and
- C. Trinity's pastors both present and future could more easily visit or host family for Thanksgiving without a worship service and
- D. two WELS churches within reasonable driving distance (Bethlehem in Manassas at 8.3 miles and Grace in Falls Church at 14.1 miles) hold Thanksgiving worship services that Trinity members wishing to worship on Thanksgiving could attend and
- E. the Biblical teaching of thanksgiving to God for all gifts is already thoroughly covered in Sunday worship by the Lectionary and
- F. the holy day of Ascension does have deep historic roots in the Christian Church and
- G. no other WELS church in the entire circuit currently holds worship on Ascension Day, so members of neighboring churches wishing to worship on Ascension would now have such an opportunity at Trinity and
- H. the significance of Christ's Ascension is not as thoroughly covered in Sunday worship by the Lectionary, be it resolved that

1. Trinity no longer hold Thanksgiving Eve worship

And be it further resolved that

2. Trinity hold 7pm worship services with Communion on the festival of Ascension each year beginning 29 May 2025 (with possibly a fellowship supper beforehand)

**Trinity's Little Free Library** is one of our church's most effective tools for reaching out to our neighborhood. Many families in the area around Trinity regularly visit our LFL for books and shelf-stable food items, especially those who are experiencing food scarcity. Particularly useful are canned or boxed foods that do not require additional ingredients besides water to prepare. Books are always welcome, too, of course! If the shelves happen to be full, there is a donation bin for overflow items in the fellowship room beside the door to the hallway.

## Small Choir

Trinity's small choir sings about once a month during worship. Anyone is welcome to join! We'll sing hymns from our hymnal, Christian Worship. If you are interested in joining, please let John or Erika Ohlendorf know.

## Ushers and Usher Assistants Needed

A sign-up sheet is sent via email through Sign-up Genius. You are welcome to fill in as many Sundays as you are available. If you would like to become part of the regular rotation of ushers, or even just fill in once in a while when needed, please speak to Worship Elder Matt Popelier. If you are not getting the emails for Sign-Up Genius, please email [admin@trinityofwoodbridge.org](mailto:admin@trinityofwoodbridge.org)

### **Lord's Supper Available to All Members**

If you are a confirmed member of Trinity, Pastor would be happy to commune you at home, or anywhere else you would like to meet. Just contact him at (309) 433-5807 or [revpauljenkins@yahoo.com](mailto:revpauljenkins@yahoo.com) with a date, time, and place, and he will make it work





## Don't Be Afraid of the Dark!

<https://wels.net/family-devotion/fd20231115/>

Read: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake.

1 Thessalonians 5:4-6

Today's devotion is about a very special day—so special, it's the only one of its kind. It's the day when Jesus is going to come back to our world. It hasn't happened yet, and we don't know when it's going to happen exactly. But here's a clue: "the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night." It will come like someone who is trying to break into your home. Why is nighttime the best time of the day to do that? Because it's dark, and a thief hopes you're asleep and won't be able to see him. That is a scary thought! A lot of people are afraid of the dark because they are afraid of what they can't see.

If you can't see this big day of Jesus' return, should you be afraid? Absolutely not! Today's devotion gives three really good reasons why you shouldn't be afraid.

We are children of the light and of the day. We don't fear the dark because we don't live in the darkness. We live in the light of Jesus! If we are near to Jesus, we can be surrounded by darkness, but it can't touch us. He is always there with us.

We have faith and love as a breastplate and the hope of salvation as a helmet. A breastplate is a piece of armor that protects your heart. A helmet protects your head. If you are wearing those two things, you are covered! Our faith in Jesus and what he did for us is like a breastplate. The love that he shows to us, self-sacrificing love, covers and protects us. And we have the hope of salvation! Paul says God has salvation waiting for us on the last day, not punishment. Because Jesus died for us, we get to look forward to living with him. So we should see salvation coming!

We have encouragement from each other. If you are ever afraid of that coming day, just turn to another follower of Jesus for some strength and encouragement. And share that same kind of encouragement with them! Build each other up with the good news that we can look forward to salvation!

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## Questions to Consider:

Sometimes darkness is scary. Are you afraid of the dark? Give at least one reason why.

The next time you are in the dark, what is one thing you can remember in your head that will help to lessen your fear?

Paul mentions we should wear “faith and love as a breastplate” and “the hope of salvation as a helmet.” How do faith, love, and hope protect us in a dark world?

Paul calls us “children of the light and of the day.” Does that fact make it harder or easier to stay awake and clear-minded?

After today’s devotion, what would you say to someone who says, “We don’t know when Jesus will come back, so we shouldn’t think about it at all”?

Why is it important for Christians to encourage and build each other up before Jesus returns?

**It is the mission of**

**trinity**



LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

**to glorify God**

by growing in His Word and by going with His Word

to Woodbridge and to the world.



Trinity Lutheran Church is part of a group of nearly 1,300 churches called the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod or WELS. The WELS is a world-wide church with congregations serving in all fifty of the United States, as well as in Mexico and Canada. The WELS also serves over 26 foreign countries through world mission work. We are united in faith and teaching with the other churches of the WELS as well as the members of the Confessional Evangelical Lutheran Conference, consisting of 21 confessional Lutheran church bodies throughout the world.