



**Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming. — Matthew 25:13 NKJV**



[www.steadfastlutherans.org/parish](http://www.steadfastlutherans.org/parish)

© 2017 In the Crook of Thy Staff: Lambs at Pasture is propriety of Rev. Derrick C. Brown and Kris Brown for distribution at Steadfast Lutherans, Inc. This may be reproduced intact for congregational or personal use only, not to be sold. Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version, copyright © 2001 by Crossway Bibles, a division of Good News Publishers. Small Catechism quotations are from "Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation," ESV, copyright © 1991 by Concordia Publishing House. [www.crookofthystaff.wordpress.com](http://www.crookofthystaff.wordpress.com)

# Lambs at Pasture™

The Last Sunday of the Church Year — Trinity XXVII

2018

## INTROIT

*Psalm 39:4–5, 7–8; antiphon: Isaiah 35:10*

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

They shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

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

Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths,  
and my lifetime is as nothing before you.

**Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!**

And now, O Lord, for what do I wait?

**My hope is in you.**

Deliver me from all my transgressions.

**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 beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

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

They shall obtain gladness and joy,  
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

## DAILY READINGS & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

An answer key is available for download at [www.stluth.org/lap](http://www.stluth.org/lap)

## MEMORY VERSE

*Psalm 45:14–15*

Alleluia. In many-colored robes [the king's daughter] is led to the king, with her virgin companions following behind her. With joy and gladness they are led along as they enter the palace of the king. Alleluia.

**HYMN OF THE WEEK:** LSB #514 – The Bridegroom Soon Will Call Us

## CATECHISM CONNECTION:

The Third Article of the Creed with Explanation (page 17)

## COLLECT OF THE WEEK

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, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

## MONDAY — THE PSALM

Read Psalm 149

What does God instruct His people to do? (verses 1-3)

Praise and give thanks to the Lord

What does the two-edged sword represent?

St. Paul writes: the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh (2 Corinthians 10:4a). The weapon we use is the Word of God (See: Ephesians 6:17), both in Law and Gospel — the two edges of God's Word.

## TUESDAY — THE OLD TESTAMENT

Read Isaiah 65:17-25

This reading describes the Lord's new creation. When does it take place? (verse 17)

It describes the events that take place after the Day of Judgment, the Last Day of this creation.

Review *Luther's Small Catechism with Explanation*, question 200 (pages 177-178)

## WEDNESDAY — THE GOSPEL

Read Matthew 25:1-13

Who is the Bridegroom?

Christ Jesus

How are the virgins similar and different?

Five virgins who believed, and five virgins who only appeared to believe.

They all looked the same, all ten of them, for they were all virgins; they all had lamps; they all went out to meet the Bridegroom; they all slept. But only the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.

What do the lamp and oil represent?

The lamp is God's Word and the oil is the Holy Spirit.

Fill your vessel with oil; believe the words of the Gospel. For even the Gospel itself will do you no good at all, if you do not believe it.

Why is it important to be prepared and ready like the wise virgins?

The Lord is coming; and when He gathers all for judgment, there is no more time. Those prepared by His Blood and merit have eternal life, because by His Blood and merit they are made pure and holy. Those who are unprepared are still impure; they have unfaithfully ignored their Bridegroom in favor of other gods, and the Bridegroom will not have an unfaithful woman as His Bride on the Last Day.

## THURSDAY — THE EPISTLE

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:1-11

What is the day of the Lord? (verse 2) And, how is it like a "thief in the night"? (verse 4)

The Day of Judgment — It will be sudden and unexpected. Only God the Father knows when judgment will occur.

Compare "sleep" in verses 6-7 to the "sleep" in verse 5 of the Gospel lesson.

For there are two kinds of sleep. When St. Paul says, "let us not sleep as others do" (1 Thessalonians 5:6 NKJV), he's referring to the sleep of idleness. The second kind of sleep is the sleep of faith — contentedness in the Word of God. So we find the ten virgins all sleeping — five in the sleep of idleness and five in the sleep of faith and contentment in Christ. To hold fast to the Word of Christ is to have oil in your lamps; to be ready for the Lord.

## CATECHISM CONNECTION

What is the connection of the Third Article of the Creed with Explanation and the Last Sunday of the Church Year — Trinity XXVII?

The overall arching theme for the Last Sunday of the Church Year is the Day of Judgment. We believe: "On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ."