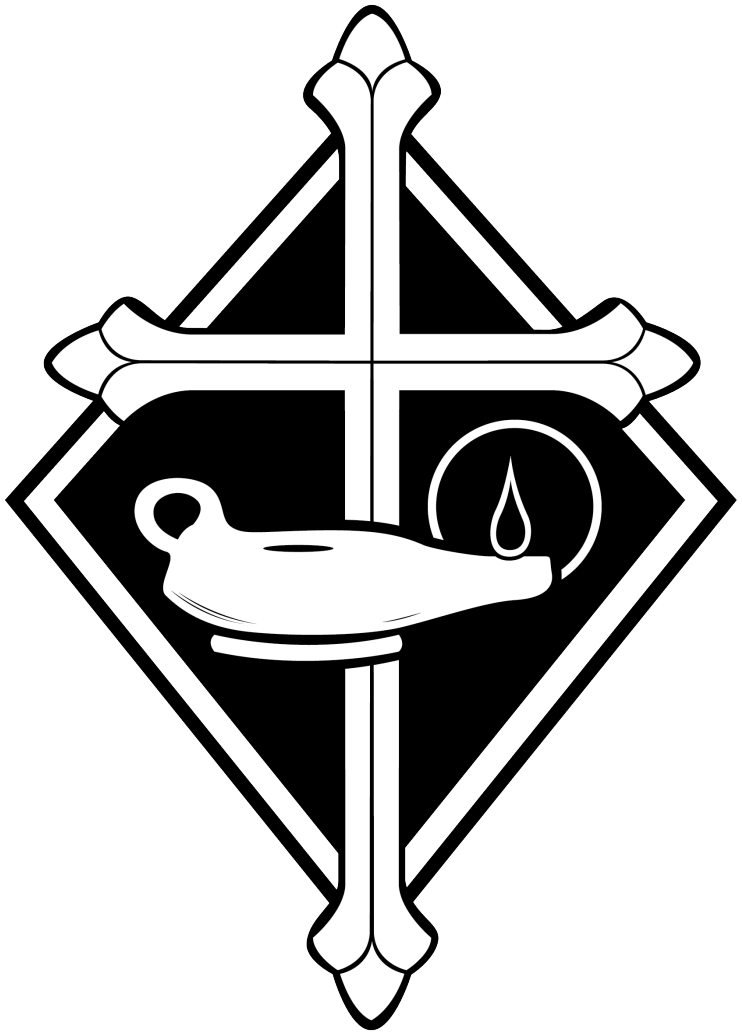
Old Testament Connections

We must guard against the assumption that all was idolatry and wickedness in the disastrous period after the death of Solomon. God always had His "*remnant*" of believers, who did not "bow the knee to Baal". Sometimes this remnant was few in number and sometimes many, but they were upheld amidst the trials and discouragements of an apostate age through the prophetic promises concerning the coming Redeemer. Malachi, the last of the inspired prophets, was active around 420 B.C. He exhorted the people to be ready for the coming of Elijah (John the Baptist) who would prepare the way of the Lord. "And then the Lord shall suddenly come into His Temple." And even though there was a 400 year "famine of hearing the words of the LORD" through any other prophet, there would be those still awaiting the consummation of all the promises from Genesis through Malachi. Believers, such as Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph, the shepherds and the Magi, Simeon and Anna, would hold those promises sacred, gladly hearing and learning them, so that in all the types found in Israel's history and all the prophecies spoken through faithful prophets pointing to the Messiah, they would receive Jesus of Nazareth through faith as the Christ, their Savior and ours.

Parkland Ev. Lutheran Church

THE LAST SUNDAY OF THE CHURCH YEAR

Heaven's Eternal Joy



November 22, 2026 — 9:30AM | Rite I (p. 41)

You may find the "Prayers for Worship" on page 40 helpful for your preparation for the Divine Service.

I. THE SERVICE OF PREPARATION

** Indicates the congregation may stand.*

***Prelude:**

Bell Choir: "For the Beauty of the Earth", Arr. Cathy Moklebust

***2. The Entrance Hymn**
#543 - Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

***3. The Confession of Sin** p. 41 *Form I*

***4. The Kyrie Eleison** p. 42-43

***5. The Absolution** p. 43 *Form I*

***6. The Gloria in Excelsis Deo** p. 44-45

***7. The Salutation & *8. The Collect of the Day** p. 45

Let us pray: 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. ♪ **C: Amen.**

II. THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

10. Gradual *(PLS Choir: 5th-8th grade)*



The King's daughter shall be `brought to the King;/
The virgins, her companions who follow her,
shall `be brought to You.

With gladness and rejoicing `they shall be brought;/
They shall enter `the king's palace.

Then I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem,
coming down out of `heaven from God,/
Prepared as a bride adorned `for her husband.

Alleluia! Behold, I am `coming quickly./
Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus! ‘Alleluia!

11. The Epistle: 1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you have no need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves are fully aware that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. While people are saying, “There is peace and security,” then sudden destruction will come upon them as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

But you are not in darkness, brothers, for that day to surprise you like a thief. For you are all children of light, children of the day. We are not of the night or of the darkness. So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, are drunk at night. But 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.

For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with Him. Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing. (ESV)

P: This is the Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

***12. The Holy Gospel: St. Matthew 25:1–13**

[Jesus said:] “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. For when the foolish took their

lamps, they took no oil with them, but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’

“Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’

“But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’ And 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.

“Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’

"But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.'
"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour." (ESV)

P: This is the Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
🎵C: God be praised for His glad tidings.

***13. The Apostles' Creed** p. 46

14. The Chief Hymn
#537 - Day of Wrath
PLS Choir: *stanza 1*
Cong: *stanzas 3-4*
PLS Choir: *stanza 6*

15. The Sermon: Ezra 1:1-7
Rev. Steven Sparley

In the first year of Cyrus king of Persia, that the word of the Lord by the mouth of Jeremiah might be fulfilled, the Lord stirred up the spirit of Cyrus king of Persia, so that he made a proclamation throughout all his kingdom and also put it in writing:

"Thus says Cyrus king of Persia: The Lord, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and He has charged me to build Him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all His people, may his God be with him, and let him go up to Jerusalem, which is in Judah, and rebuild the house of the Lord, the God of Israel—He is the God who is in Jerusalem. And let each survivor, in whatever place he sojourns, be assisted by the men of his place with silver and gold, with goods and with beasts, besides freewill offerings for the house of God that is in Jerusalem."

Then rose up the heads of the fathers' houses of Judah and Benjamin, and the priests and the Levites, everyone whose spirit God had stirred to go up to rebuild the house of the Lord that is in Jerusalem. And all who were about them aided them with vessels of silver, with gold, with goods, with beasts, and with costly wares, besides all that was freely offered. Cyrus the king also brought out the vessels of the house of the Lord that Nebuchadnezzar had carried away from Jerusalem and placed in the house of his gods. (ESV)

The Chief Hymn
#544 - Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying
stanza 1

***16. The Prayer of the Church** p. 48-49

***17. The Apostolic Benediction** p. 49

18. The Offering & The Offering Hymn
God's Word is our great heritage,
And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way;
In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,
We keep its teachings pure,
Throughout all generations. (#583)

(The conclusion of the Service shall continue in the hymnary on page 57.)

***20. The Collect** p. 58 *Form III*

***21. The Benediction** p. 59

22. The Closing Hymn
#539 - Jerusalem, My Happy Home
stanzas 1-4, 8-9

23. The Closing Prayer p. 59

Catechism Review p. 38
Table of Duties: The Young - All Christians

✠ *The Light of Christ goes with us into the world to shine through our vocations.* ✠

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