Catechesis for Last Sunday November 18, 2026

Lutheran Confessions

Apology of the Augsburg Confession, Articles VII and VIII. The Church

If the Church, which is truly the kingdom of Christ, is distinguished from the kingdom of the devil, it follows necessarily that the wicked, since they are in the kingdom of the devil, are not the Church; although in this life, because the kingdom of Christ has not yet been revealed; they are mingled with the Church, and hold offices [as teachers, and other offices] in the Church. 18] Neither are the wicked the kingdom of Christ, for the reason that the revelation has not yet been made. For that is always the kingdom which He quickens by His Spirit, whether it be revealed or be covered by the cross; just as He who has now been glorified is the same Christ who was before afflicted. **19]** And with this clearly agree the parables of Christ, who says, Matt. 13, 38, that *the good seed are the children of the kingdom, but the tares are the children of the Wicked One*. *The field*, He says, *is the world, not the Church*. Thus John [Matt. 3, 12: *He will throughly purge His floor, and gather His wheat into the garner; but He will burn up the chaff*] speaks concerning the whole race of the Jews, and says that it will come to pass that the true Church will be separated from that people. Therefore, this passage is more against the adversaries than in favor of them, because it shows that the true and spiritual people is to be separated from the carnal people. **Christ also speaks of the outward appearance of the Church when He says,** Matt. 13, 47: *The kingdom of heaven is like unto a net***, likewise, *the ten virgins*[Matt 25:1];** and He teaches that the Church has been covered by a multitude of evils, in order that this stumbling-block may not offend the pious; likewise, in order that we may know that the Word and Sacraments are efficacious even when administered by the wicked. And meanwhile He teaches that these godless men, although they have the fellowship of outward signs, are nevertheless not the true kingdom of Christ and members of Christ; **20]** for they are members of the kingdom of the devil. Neither, indeed, are we dreaming of a Platonic state, as some wickedly charge, **but we say that this Church exists, namely, the truly believing and righteous men scattered throughout the whole world.** [We are speaking not of an imaginary Church, which is to be found nowhere; but we say and know certainly that this Church, wherein saints live, is and abides truly upon earth; namely, that some of God's children are here and there in all the world, in various kingdoms, islands, lands, and cities, from the rising of the sun to its setting, who have truly learned to know Christ and His Gospel.] **And we add the marks: the pure doctrine of the Gospel [the ministry or the Gospel] and the Sacraments.** And this Church is properly the pillar of the truth, 1 Tim. 3, 15. For it retains the pure Gospel, and, as Paul says, 1 Cor. 3, 11 [: "Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ"], *the foundation*, *i.e.*, the true knowledge of Christ and faith. Although among these [in the body which is built upon the true foundation, *i.e.*, upon Christ and faith] there are also many weak persons, *who build upon the foundation stubble that will perish*, *i.e.*, certain unprofitable opinions [some human thoughts and opinions], which, nevertheless, because they do not overthrow the foundation, are both forgiven them **21]** and also corrected.

(Bente, F., *Concordia Triglotta*, Milwaukee, Wisconsin: Northwestern Publishing House, 1997).

Put it into Practice

These questions have been put together to help you as you extend and apply tonight's Scripture to your life.

Prayer

Almighty God, give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness and put upon ourselves the armor of light, now in the fleeting time of this mortal life in which Your Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility, that in the Last Day, when He shall come again in His glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to life immortal; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, now and forever. **AMEN** *(Collect for Last Sunday)*

Word of God: Matthew 25:1-13 (on back)

Questions to Ponder in Prayer

Introduction: In Jewish custom the parents arrange the betrothal or marriage. This "engagement" unlike our engagement was the marriage itself and not simply the promise to marry at a future date. Some evening in the future, the groom and his friends would make a festive procession to the home of the bride, who was accompanied by her maiden companions. He would take her to the wedding banquet and his home.

1. "The kingdom of heaven," is God's church in His Son Jesus(Mt 3:2). We need to ask ourselves how does this parable describe the ways of God in His church?
2. There are ten virgins. Ten is a number that symbolized completeness. This parable is one of many which show that true believers and hypocrites (false believers) will exist side by side. Note the many ways in which all ten virgins were alike. A) All of them had lamps. (B) All of them went out to meet the bridegroom. (C) All of them became drowsy and fell asleep. (D) All of them wanted to go into the marriage feast.
3. What was the difference between the wise and the foolish?
4. How is their action foolish?
5. Why weren't they ready?
6. The five wise virgins wouldn't share. Why not? Are they being rude?
7. When does the separation of the virgins occur?
8. With what do we compare the finality of the phrase, "And the door was shut."? What do we find out concerning the relationship of the foolish virgins and the bridegroom?
9. What does "Keep watch." mean (in 24:42 and 25:13)? See Psalm 39:4-5,7-8

6:30 PM "Learn by Heart"

Through simple repetition those present will inwardly digest…

Hymn **"Forsake Us Not—O Lord, Be Near"** ASBH insert
Lord's Prayer, 5th Petition and Meaning
1 Thessalonians 5:8

7:00 PM "Catechesis"

+ Opening Verses
"O Lord, open Thou(†) my lips…" from the Psalter, p. 29-30

Reading
St. Matthew 25:1-13 *(back)*

Hymn
"Forsake Us Not—O Lord, Be Near"
(Augustana Service Book & Hymnal, insert)

Catechesis on… *(back)*
St. Matthew 25:1-13
Liturgy
Catechism

+ The Prayers..... p.36
Kyrie ("Lord, have mercy…")
Lord's Prayer
Salutation p.37
Collect for Sunday
--prayer based on reading
Special Prayers
Collect for Peace p.37
+ Benedicamus & Blessing p.38-39

Catechesis on St. Matthew 25:1-13

1“Then the kingdom of heaven shall be likened to ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2“Now five of them were wise, and five were foolish. 3“Those who were foolish took their lamps and took no oil with them, 4“but the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. 5“But while the bridegroom was delayed, they all slumbered and slept. 6“And at midnight a cry was heard: ‘Behold, the bridegroom is coming; go out to meet him!’ 7“Then all those virgins arose and trimmed their lamps. 8“And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’ 9“But the wise answered, saying, ‘No, lest there should not be enough for us and you; but go rather to those who sell, and buy for yourselves.’ 10“And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding; and the door was shut. 11“Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, Lord, open to us!’ 12“But he answered and said, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, I do not know you.’ 13“Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming. (NKJV)

End of the World

“The Seventeenth Article the adversaries receive without exception, in which we confess that at the consummation of the world Christ shall appear, and shall raise up all the dead, and shall give to the godly eternal life and, eternal joys, but shall condemn the ungodly to be punished with the devil without end (Apology Article XVII: Of Christ’s Return to Judgment, 66).

John 3:36, “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”

Mark 16:16, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Eternal Damnation

“They condemn the Anabaptists, who think that there will be an end to the punishments of condemned men and devils” (AC XVII, 4)

Matthew 25:41, “Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.”

Matthew 8:12, “But the sons of the kingdom will be cast out into outer darkness. There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

Mark 3:29, “he who blasphemes against the Holy Spirit never has forgiveness, but is subject to eternal condemnation.”

Romans 2:15, “…who show the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and between themselves **their thoughts accusing** or else excusing them).”

Eternal Life

“Meanwhile, however, while sanctification has begun and is growing daily, we expect that our flesh will be destroyed and buried with all its uncleanness, and will come forth gloriously, and arise to entire and perfect holiness in a new eternal life” (LC III, 57).

Matthew 25:34, 46, “Then the King will say to those on His right hand, ‘Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world….46“And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

John 17:24, “Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me….”

2 Timothy 4:18, “And the Lord will deliver me from every evil work and preserve me for His heavenly kingdom.

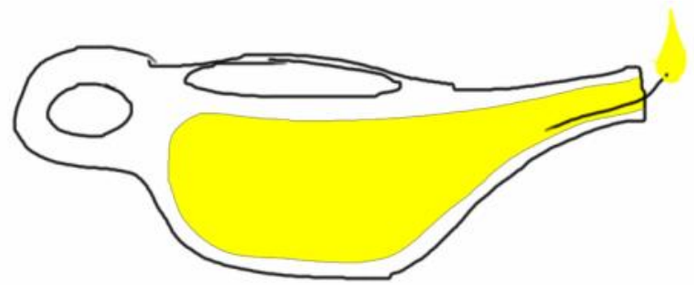
Ephesians 2:12, “…that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, **having no hope and without God in the world**.”

Degrees of Punishment or Glory(not bliss)

Matthew 11:22, “But I say to you, it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon in the day of judgment than for you.”

2 Corinthians 9:6, “He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.” (Also Dan 12:3)

CATECHESIS
ON
ST. MATTHEW 25:1-13



Only faith in Christ saves.



Works cannot save.

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