

OUR SAVIOUR LUTHERAN CHURCH · FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

The Last Sunday of the Church Year

Middle School · Student Edition

For the student: Read along, fill in the blanks, and write your answers on the lines. Your parent has the answers.

Step 1 Understand the Collect

Most collects follow a five-part pattern: the **address** (the One to whom we pray), the **reason** (what God has done or promised), the **petition** (what we ask), the **purpose** (what we hope will result), and the **ending** (the closing that names the Trinity).

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

1. Mark each part of the collect. Which part is missing?

2. The collect calls the Church Christ's "bride." What does that picture say about how Christ regards His Church?

3. The collect asks the Father to "send forth" the Son. What are we asking for when we pray that?

Step 2 Understand the Gospel

Read the Gospel on your own.

Matthew 25:1-13

1 "Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. **2** Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. **3** For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, **4** but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. **5** As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept. **6** But at midnight there was a cry, 'Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.' **7** Then all those virgins rose 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, 'Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.' **10** 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. **11** Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, 'Lord, lord, open to us.' **12** But he answered, 'Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.' **13** Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour."

- 1.** All ten slept (v. 5). What, then, made the difference between the wise and the foolish?

- 2.** Why couldn't the wise share their oil (v. 9)? Were they being selfish?

- 3.** What does "I do not know you" (v. 12) mean?

- 4.** Jesus says, "Watch therefore" (v. 13). How do we watch, if even the wise fell asleep?

Step 3 Find the Collect in the Gospel

1. Find at least two places where the collect's words appear in the Gospel. Explain each one.

2. Today's Epistle says, "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... So then let us not sleep, as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober" (1 Thessalonians 5:4-6). How does Paul turn the warning into comfort?

Step 4 The Small Catechism

The Third Article. 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. **What does this mean?** I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. **On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.** This is most certainly true.

Cross-reference. "Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." (Revelation 19:9)

1. Luther says God will "give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ." How does the collect's phrase "all the company of the redeemed" say the same thing?

2. Compare Matthew 25:10 with Revelation 19:9. What is the "marriage feast"?

3. The foolish virgins had lamps but no oil. How does the Third Article explain where the "oil" of faith comes from?

Think about it. How can a Christian know he or she is ready for Jesus to come? Read Matthew 25:10 and Revelation 19:9 and be ready to talk about it.

Step 5 Wrap It All Up

1. Write a short collect of your own for this day. Use all five parts.

Pray today's collect together. Then answer:

2. What does Jesus do for you on the Last Day?
