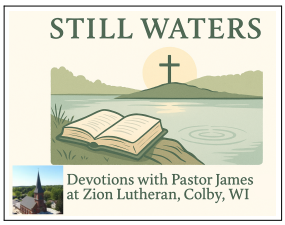
Date: November 8, 2026
Suggested Reading: Matthew 25:1–13
Text: Matthew 25:13
Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.



Waiting with Hope

We know what it's like to wait. We wait for a phone call from the doctor, for a loved one to arrive home, or for news about a decision we cannot control. At first, we may watch the clock. As the hours pass, our attention drifts to other things.

Jesus tells the parable of the ten virgins to teach us to watch for His coming. We can become so occupied with our plans and worries that we treat His return as though it hardly matters. At other times, the thought of meeting Him makes us afraid. We know our sins, and we cannot make ourselves ready by trying harder or collecting enough good deeds.

Our hope rests in the Bridegroom who comes for us. Jesus carried our sins to the cross and rose from the dead. For His sake, God forgives us and welcomes us as His own. In Holy Baptism, He joined us to Christ; through His Word, He continues to strengthen our faith and assure us of His promises.

While we wait, we can return to those promises again and again. We hear His Word, receive His gifts, pray, and care for the people He places around us. We don't know the day or the hour of His return, but we do know the Savior who is coming. He is faithful, and His mercy gives us hope today.

Prayer:
Lord Jesus, forgive us when we forget Your promises or trust in ourselves. Keep us in faith through Your Word, and fill us with hope as we wait for Your coming. Amen.

Thought for the Day:
We wait with hope because our crucified and risen Savior keeps His promises.

Hymn: LSB 516 – Wake, Awake, for Night Is Flying

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